DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FLOODPLAIN

Pursuant to Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*, the United States Department of the Navy (Navy) gives notice that the Navy is conducting an evaluation of a proposed action which may involve construction in a floodplain to determine the potential effects that its activity in the floodplain would have on the human environment. The Navy will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988.

Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola has been recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sally since landfall occurred on September 16, 2020. The proposed action is to complete repairs on various interior and exterior components of hurricane damaged buildings throughout the NAS Pensacola complex. This notice includes the repairs on 17 buildings located in the floodplain at NAS Pensacola. As required by EO 11988, a more detailed description of the proposed action is available below.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain and wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Interested parties may submit written comments no later than 5:00 PM Central Time on June 8, 2021 by email to joelle.odaniellopez@navy.mil or by mail postmarked no later than June 8, 2021 to:

Naval Air Station Pensacola
Joelle O’Daniel-Lopez, NEPA Program Manager
310 John Towers Road, Building 3560
Pensacola, FL 32508
Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola has been recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sally since landfall occurred on September 16, 2020. The proposed action is to complete repairs on various interior and exterior components of hurricane damaged buildings throughout the NAS Pensacola complex. This notice includes the repairs on 17 buildings located in the floodplain at NAS Pensacola. See project maps below.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide safe facilities needed for training, housing, recreation, and office space to support the military and training missions at NAS Pensacola. This project will include repairs to NAS Pensacola Buildings 16, 38, 40, 74, 470, 602, 606, 625, 626, 635, 746, 3904, 3907, 3908, 3911, 3937, and 625B. The proposed action is needed because these facilities sustained substantial damage from Hurricane Sally.

This project includes, but is not limited to, the repair or replacement of interior ceilings, interior flooring, interior and exterior walls, interior and exterior doors, windows, fire protection systems, electrical systems, interior and exterior lighting, HVAC systems, plumbing systems, roofing systems, exterior fencing, structural systems, and exterior canopies, handrails, and ladders. The project also includes mold, lead, and asbestos abatement, removal or pruning of storm damaged trees, site restoration, landscaping, and storm pipe infrastructure repair and cleanout. Restoring facilities to fully functional conditions is essential to meeting military mission requirements for NAS Pensacola.

The Navy is proposing the action in a floodplain because repair of existing buildings is the most cost-efficient and least destructive alternative for restoring these facilities to fully functional conditions. Alternatives to repair actions include new construction and no action. New construction outside of the floodplain would allow for new modern facilities but at much greater economic and environmental costs than repair. If no action is provided, the facilities would continue to deteriorate and eventually become inoperable. This will incur extra costs and negatively affect military and training missions. Most importantly, the mold impacts present in some buildings due to water intrusion will increase, posing life, health, and safety hazards to military trainees and personnel. Repair of damaged buildings is the most cost-efficient alternative, will ensure that short and long-term military mission requirements are met, and allow for minimal effects to the floodplain and the natural environment.

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