

GRU Backyard Sewer Relocation

JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL PUBLIC NOTICE

August 27, 2020

The Federal Housing and Urban Development Agency and Florida Department of Economic Opportunity have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) consideration to provide funding in the form of mitigation from Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation Program (CDBG-MIT) in response to Hurricanes Hermine (2016), Matthew (2016), and Irma (2017). Funds will be provided in accordance with Federal Registry / Vol. 84, No.169 / Friday August 30, 2019 / Notices pages 45838 – 45871. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) allocation as described in Public Law 115-123.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 HUD is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires HUD to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

With a total allocation of \$475,000, the Rebuild Florida Mitigation General Infrastructure Program will be implemented in three competitive application cycles, with \$150 million in funding available for the first round.

Applicant:

Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU)

Project Title:

GRU Backyard Sewer Relocation

Location of Proposed Work:

The areas affected by this project consists of the following locations:

1. SE 13th Pl, Gainesville
2. SE 14th Ave, Gainesville
3. SE 15th Ave, Gainesville

Proposed Work and Purpose:

GRU is proposing to relocate backyard sewers to accessible points on SE 13th Pl, SE 14th Ave, and SE 15th Ave. Replacement of these older sewer lines will reduce inflow and infiltration of storm water into the sewer system, which will reduce the risk of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

GRU's wastewater infrastructure transports sewage waste to treatment facilities, which is crucial in preventing waterborne illnesses, maintaining community health and sanitation, and ensuring environmental safety. When sewers are regularly inspected and maintained, blockages can be avoided and the risk of SSOs is reduced. Due to the inconvenient location of backyard sewers, it is currently difficult to maintain wastewater mains, putting them at greater risk of experiencing overflows during inflow and infiltration of storm water. An SSO can back-up into homes, causing property damage, as well as contaminate waterways and jeopardize public health. This project would serve the Food, Water, Shelter community lifeline by relocating backyard sewers to public streets where GRU can regularly maintain wastewater mains to prevent SSOs.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Economic Opportunity, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 15 days of this notice (Friday, September 11, 2020). The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

Rick Hutton, PE

(352)-393-1218

Gainesville Regional Utilities

HuttonRH@gru.com

DEO will take comments via USPS mail or email at:

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Attention: Office of Disaster Recovery

107 East Madison Street

The Caldwell Building, MSC 160

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com