

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
8/27/2020**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Funds will be provided in accordance with Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

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 FEMA 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 FEMA 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.

Applicant:

Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU)

Project Title:

HMGP-4337-331-R (SOWC) Gainesville Regional Utilities, Pole Hardening 36 Neighborhoods, Utility Mitigation

Location of Proposed Work:

Neighborhoods in the City of Gainesville (city-wide) across the GRU distribution area.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

GRU proposes to harden the electrical distribution system for 36 neighborhoods in Gainesville, Florida. The proposal is to upgrade select corner, dead-end and mid-run tangent wooden utility poles with new, higher-rated wooden utility poles (in most cases, two classes stronger). In addition, GRU will install guys and anchors, where appropriate, to provide lateral support for poles supporting pole-mounted transformers or other electrical distribution equipment. This utility mitigation project intends to minimize the loss of electrical service caused by storms.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) *install an underground conduit system in front of each residence and remove the existing distribution system.* These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) *the needs of the community would not be served if we take no action since power interruptions caused by storms are prevalent in our area;* and Alternative 2), *the undergrounding of the existing distribution system does not retain fabric of the community and is cost prohibitive, and therefore not practicable.*

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 Emergency Management, Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 15 days of this notice (*September 10, 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:

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