

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Village of Walnut Creek has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program funding through the North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) as a sub-recipient.

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, and to provide a 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 and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

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.

Sub-Applicant: Village of Walnut Creek

Project Title: Lake Wackena Gearbox Repairs

Location of Proposed Work:

| Facility and Address | Latitude, Longitude | Construction Date |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Lake Wackena, Village of Walnut Creek, Goldsboro NC 27534 | (35.303646, -77.865288) | Approximately 1987 |

Special Flood Hazard Area Zone: This project is for the removal and replacement of the Village of Walnut Creek’s water control gearboxes at Lake Wackena, which is located in a Floodway and AE zone. Confirmation of location in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) was determined by the latest Flood Insurance Rate Map, Panel Number: 3720353600K, dated 6/20/2018. The proposed work conforms to all applicable State of North Carolina and local floodplain regulations. The proposed work will take place in wetlands L1UBHh per the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory and will have little potential to impact or affect wetland values. There is a potential for the facility to be impacted by similar flooding events due to its location within the Floodway and AE zone.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

The Village of Walnut Creek will remove and replace two gearboxes at Lake Wackena. These gearboxes are functionally dependent on the floodplain and surrounding water. They help control lake levels during normal operations and protect property during flooding events. Minimizations measures have been put in place via the use of waterproof submersible gearboxes. As such, the useful life of this structure should increase and no adverse impacts to the floodplain or wetland should occur.

Project Alternatives:

Alternative #1 (no action alternative): The 'no action' alternative would ultimately result in a negative impact on the Village of Walnut Creek. If the damaged gearboxes are not repaired, the Village would not be able to lower the lake for flooding events or homeowner seawall maintenance. Therefore, the 'no action' alternative could result in adverse impacts to the communities that use these facilities.

Alternative #2: The Village has considered elevating the gearboxes, however this would result in the replacement of the Gate Stem and considerably lowering lake levels which is usually done only for emergencies. As such, this alternative is not cost effective nor viable for the community.

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:

FEMA Internal 11988 Reviewer
FEMA Region 4
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, Georgia, 30341

Alternatively, comments may be emailed to: FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Please send comments with the subject line [DR-4393-NC-00539 11988 COMMENT].

All comments are due by no later than 15 days of the posted date of this notice.

POSTED ON: (*insert posted date*)

End of Notice