Shelby County Government
Office of Resilience

125 N. Main Street, Room 443, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103
Tel: (901) 636-7170 Fax: (901) 636-6603

Lee Harris
Mayor

September 11, 2019

DHS/FEMA R4
Attention: E0l 1988/NEPA Reviewer
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341-4112

Dear E011988/NEPA Reviewer:

Attached is a Public Notice which will run locally on September 12th, 13th, and 15th, 2019 for the 15-day review period in Shelby County, Tennessee. This is the second notice under the HUD 8-Step Review Process for the use of National Disaster Resilience (NDR) Grant funds. The Notice addresses activities under the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity Projects which includes Infrastructure and Construction; Earthwork, Utility Installation, Demolition, and Property Acquisition associated with the Big Creek Project.

Activities under the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity are part of the long-term resilience projects and activities identified under the NDR Competition and a subsequent NDR Grant awarded to Shelby County by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Notice is being forwarded to you to inform you of project activities and the review period associated with this project and to directly solicit any comments that FEMA may have on the activity.

This project is being carried out by the Shelby County Government and will improve overall resilience to Big Creek adjacent communities in Millington, Tennessee. Should you have any comments or questions, please contact Mr. Trevor Cropp, with Barge Design Solutions, Inc. at (901) 244-5520 or Trevor.Cropp@bargedesign.com Written comments can also be submitted to: Barge Design Solutions, Inc. Attention: Trevor Cropp, 60 Germantown Court, Suite 100, Cordova, TN 38018. I can also be reached at (901) 636-7170 or at Jim.Vazquez@memphistn.gov

Respectfully,

Jim Vazquez, Administrator
Office of Resilience

Attachment

FINAL NOTICE AND EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A WETLAND AND FLOODPLAIN WITHIN THE BIG CREEK WATERSHED IN SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Shelby County Government, under Part 58, has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, to determine the potential affect that its proposed activity in the floodplain and wetlands will have on the human environment for the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity - Millington, Shelby County, Tennessee, under United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) National Disaster Resilience Grant – Contract Number B-13-US-47-0002.

Activities specific to this project are proposed along Big Creek in Millington on the north side of Paul Barrett Parkway between US 51 and Sledge Road. The project area has been divided into three sections with varying degrees of development intensity. Area 1 is comprised of land between US 51 and Raleigh Millington Road, Area 2 continues from Raleigh Millington Road to Singleton Parkway, and Area 3 covers land from Singleton Parkway to the project's eastern boundary at Sledge Road.

The proposed project seeks to improve Millington's resilience to future flooding and alleviate current flooding conditions of surrounding communities by establishing a large floodway between the existing levee north of Big Creek and Paul Barrett Parkway. This would allow flood waters to bypass the community and provide flood protection for nearby neighborhoods and the Naval Support Activity Mid-South. The Big Creek Activity would also provide broader community benefits through connectivity of greenway trails, walking paths, multipurpose fields and other recreational amenities.

For this notice, the majority of proposed activities are located within or adjacent to the Big Creek Floodplain. The project area directly along Big Creek is within the regulatory floodway with a large portion of remaining project land falling within the 100-year floodplain and a small section appearing in the 500-year floodplain. The total project area is made up of approximately 1,400 acres with 1,100 acres within a floodplain.

Considering the conceptual alternatives covered in the Big Creek Basin-Wide Drainage Study, the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity concept has been developed and is designed to address flooding issues by improving the community's resilience to future flooding and alleviating current flooding conditions of adjacent communities. Although the primary purpose of the project is to alleviate current flooding conditions of adjacent communities, this project also intends to restore and enhance the existing floodplain and natural aquatic systems. Restoration and enhancement of the adjacent floodplain's natural conditions will include transitioning some of the currently drained (previously converted) wetland soils into native herbaceous wetlands. Grade controls, where appropriate, will be installed. These controls will lead to enhanced stabilization of the stream channels, reducing upgradient erosion and downstream sediment loading.

The proposed actions would include grading, filling and earth moving to lower land elevations and provide additional floodwater conveyance and storage. Recreational activities, including

multipurpose fields and trails, are planned throughout the project area. A mix of multipurpose greenways and natural trails have been proposed for the project area with boardwalks included to traverse and minimize disturbance of wetland areas. As part of the project, tree planting will occur for any cleared area to ensure no net loss of the tree canopy. The Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity is estimated to affect approximately 2.96 acres of wetlands and 121.51 acres of floodplain. The following describes the project locations and their proposed improvements:

Area 1

Area 1 focuses on recreational amenities, including a trail system, four (4) multipurpose fields, three (3) parking areas, one (1) amphitheater stage, three (3) shelters, one (1) playground and one (1) disc golf course. A pedestrian bridge crossing Big Creek with a trail connector to neighborhoods north of Big Creek is also included within Area 1. Levee improvements are also planned north of Big Creek. The project proposes to heighten approximately 1 mile of existing levee, north of Big Creek from US 51 to the rail line west of Raleigh Millington Road. A gate structure at Newport Ditch would also be replaced. A trail would run along the top of the levee to improve connectivity between neighborhoods in the areas north of Big Creek. The net result will be filling approximately 120,000 cubic yards in raising the area for multipurpose fields, parking and access roads. Other activities planned for Area 1, including trails and disc golf course, will remain at existing grades. Work associated with the development of Area 1 would impact approximately 25.98 acres within the floodplain and would not result in impacts to wetlands.

Area 2

The trail system would continue from Area 1, meandering through Area 2, occasionally splitting into multiple trails to offer differing paths for trail users. Additional amenities and observation and picnic areas are included within Area 2 of the proposed project. The construction of a pump station and supporting flood control elements, such as a floodwall to tie in to the existing levee, is also planned along North Fork Creek near Pitts Street and Brinkley Street. The net result will be excavation of approximately 120,000 cubic yards. Most of this material would come from the western edge of Area 2 (approximately 14 acres) and would be used as fill material in Area 1. The remainder of Area 2 will contain trails, boardwalks and other site amenities that will remain at or near existing grades. Approximately 0.08 acre of wetland and 18.96 acres of floodplains will be impacted by development within Area 2.

Area 3

For most of this section, the land will be kept in a natural state with a meandering trail. While activity and programming through Area 3 will focus on the natural environment, the proposed project includes a paved trail traveling along Big Creek with a primitive trail to the south following roughly along the Old Big Creek Channel. Sections of boardwalks are proposed to be built up throughout Area 3 to cross over wetland areas, minimizing impacts to these features. In addition to the trail system, a berm and Big Creek diversion channel are planned within Area 3 to provide additional flood storage. The net result will be fill of approximately 530,000 cubic yards used for the 70-acre berm outlining the majority of Area 3. This material will come from the excavation of the 15-acre diversion channel. The remainder of Area 3 will contain primitive trails, boardwalks and three trail heads that will remain at or near existing grades. Approximately 2.88 acres of wetlands and 76.57 acres of floodplain will be impacted by project development within Area 3.

Shelby County Government has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values:

The construction documents for the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity project will be reviewed and coordinated with the Shelby County Government and City of Millington Local Floodplain Administrators, to certify that these Phases will have no significant net effect on the designated wetland and floodplain.

Shelby County Government has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the wetland and floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

This activity will have no significant impact on the environment for the following reasons:

1. Earthwork operations in the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity area are balanced up to the 100-year flood elevation (for every cubic yard of fill material added, there is a separate cubic yard of excavation elsewhere on the site.) The public-use site features in Area 1 are being further raised above the floodplain, resulting in a net fill for the site.

2. A detailed wetland and waters delineation survey and report has been completed by a team of Tennessee Qualified Hydrologic Professionals to identify existing wetlands and water courses that would be impacted and affected by these improvements. The proposed site grading and location of features were altered to minimize impacts to the identified aquatic features. Prior to construction, appropriate permit authorization for alterations to aquatic features will be acquired from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

3. Personnel with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have reviewed the material provided regarding the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity in Millington, Shelby County, Tennessee. Although there appears to be suitable Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat roosting habitat on the site, the area is outside of any known occurrence buffers, and recent bat surveys in the general area have not indicated presence of either species. Based on this, adverse impacts to the Indiana or northern long-eared bat as a result of the project are not anticipated.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those with an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks 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 floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Additional information on the proposal may be obtained by contacting Trevor Cropp at (901) 244-5520.

Written comments must be received by the Shelby County Government Office of Resilience at the following address on or before October 7, 2019:

Barge Design Solutions, Inc.
Attention: Trevor Cropp
60 Germantown Court, Suite 100
Cordova, TN 38018

during the hours of 8:00 AM to 5 PM.

Comments may also be submitted via email at: Trevor.Cropp@bargedesign.com.

Date: September 12, 2019

Attest:

Mayor Lee Harris
Shelby County, Tennessee

AVISO FINAL Y EXPLICACIÓN PÚBLICA DE UNA ACTIVIDAD PROPUESTA EN UN HUMEDAL Y LLANURA DE INUNDACIÓN EN LA CUENCA DE BIG CREEK (BIG CREEK WATERSHED) EN EL CONDADO DE SHELBY, TENNESSEE

Para: Todas las agencias, grupos e individuos interesados.

Esto es para notificar que el Gobierno del Condado de Shelby, bajo la Parte 58, ha llevado a cabo una evaluación como lo requieren las Órdenes Ejecutivas 11988 y 11990 para determinar el efecto potencial que su actividad propuesta en la llanura de inundación y zona húmeda tendrá en el entorno humano al realizar el Proyecto de Restauración y Humedales de Big Creek (Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity) en Millington, Condado de Shelby, Tennessee, bajo la Subvención Nacional de Resiliencia ante Desastres del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de EE.UU. (HUD, por sus siglas en inglés), Número de Contrato B-13-US-470002.

Se proponen actividades específicas para este proyecto a lo largo de Big Creek en Millington, en el lado norte de Paul Barrett Parkway entre la US 51 y Sledge Road. El área del proyecto ha sido dividida en tres secciones con diferentes grados de intensidad de desarrollo. El Área 1 está compuesta de tierra entre la US 51 y Raleigh Millington Road, el Área 2 continúa desde Raleigh Millington Road hasta Singleton Parkway, y el Área 3 cubre un terreno que va desde Singleton Parkway hasta el límite este del proyecto en Sledge Road.

El proyecto propuesto busca mejorar la resiliencia de Millington ante futuras inundaciones y aliviar las condiciones actuales de inundación en las comunidades circundantes mediante el establecimiento de un gran vaso (o canal) de inundación (a large floodway, en inglés) entre el dique existente al norte de Big Creek y Paul Barrett Parkway. Esto permitiría que las aguas de inundación no pasen por la comunidad, brindando a su vez protección contra inundaciones para los vecindarios cercanos y la Base Naval de Apoyo del Medio Sur (The Naval Support Activity Mid-South). La Actividad de Big Creek también proporcionaría beneficios comunitarios más amplios a través de la conectividad de vías verdes, senderos para caminar, campos de usos múltiples y otras comodidades recreativas.

Para esta notificación, la mayoría de las actividades propuestas están ubicadas dentro o están adyacentes a la llanura aluvial de "Big Creek". El área del proyecto, ubicada directamente a lo largo de Big Creek, está dentro del vaso regulador de inundaciones con una gran parte del terreno restante del proyecto que cae dentro de la llanura de inundación de 100 años y una pequeña sección que aparece en la llanura de inundación de 500 años. El área total del proyecto se compone de aproximadamente 1,400 acres con 1,100 acres dentro de una llanura de inundación.

Teniendo en cuenta las alternativas conceptuales cubiertas en el Estudio de Drenaje de toda la Cuenca de Big Creek, el concepto de Actividad de Restauración y Humedales de Big Creek se ha desarrollado y está diseñado para abordar los problemas de inundación mejorando la resiliencia de la comunidad a futuras inundaciones y aliviando así las condiciones actuales de inundación de las comunidades adyacentes. Aunque el propósito principal del proyecto es aliviar las condiciones actuales de inundación de las comunidades adyacentes, este proyecto también tiene la intención de restaurar y mejorar la llanura de inundación y los sistemas acuáticos naturales. La restauración y mejora de las condiciones naturales de la llanura aluvial adyacente incluirá la transición de algunos de los suelos de humedales actualmente drenados (previamente convertidos) a humedales herbáceos nativos. También se instalarán controles de pendiente, donde sea apropiado. Estos controles conducirán a una mayor estabilización de los canales de la corriente, reduciendo así la erosión mejorada y la carga de sedimentos en el agua.

Las acciones propuestas incluirían nivelación, relleno y movimiento de tierra para reducir las elevaciones del terreno y proporcionar transporte y almacenamiento de agua de inundación adicional. Las actividades recreativas, incluidos los senderos y campos de usos múltiples, están planificadas en toda el área del proyecto. Se ha propuesto una combinación de vías verdes multipropósito y senderos naturales para el área del proyecto con pasarelas incluidas para atravesar y minimizar así la perturbación de las áreas de humedales. Como parte del proyecto, la plantación de árboles ocurrirá en cualquier área despejada para asegurar que no haya pérdida neta de la copa de los árboles. Se estima que la actividad de restauración y humedales de Big Creek afecte aproximadamente 2.96 acres de humedales y 121.51 acres de llanuras de inundación. A continuación, se describen las ubicaciones del proyecto y sus mejoras propuestas:

Área 1
El Área 1 se enfoca en las comodidades recreativas, que incluyen un sistema de senderos, cuatro (4) campos de usos múltiples, tres (3) áreas de estacionamiento, un (1) escenario de anfiteatro, tres (3) refugios, un (1) parque infantil y un (1) campo de disc golf. Un puente peatonal que cruza Big Creek con un sendero que conecta con los vecindarios al norte de Big Creek también está incluido en el Área 1. También se planean mejoras en los diques al norte de Big Creek. El proyecto propone elevar aproximadamente 1 milla del dique existente, al norte de Big Creek desde la US 51 hasta la línea de ferrocarril al oeste de Raleigh Millington Road. Una estructura de puerta en Newport Ditch también sería reemplazada. Un sendero iría a lo largo de la parte superior del dique para mejorar la conectividad entre vecindarios en las áreas al norte de Big Creek. El resultado neto será llenar aproximadamente 120,000 yardas cúbicas al elevar el área para campos de usos múltiples, estacionamientos y caminos de acceso. Otras actividades planificadas para el Área 1, incluyendo senderos y campos de disc golf, permanecerán en los grados existentes. El trabajo asociado con el desarrollo del Área 1 impactaría aproximadamente 25.98 acres dentro de la llanura de inundación y no causaría impactos en los humedales.

Área 2
El sistema de senderos continuaría desde el Área 1, serpenteando por el Área 2, dividiéndose ocasionalmente en múltiples senderos para ofrecer diferentes caminos para los usuarios. Servicios adicionales y áreas de observación y picnic están incluidos dentro del Área 2 del proyecto propuesto. La construcción de una estación de bombeo y elementos de apoyo para el control de inundaciones, como un muro de contención para unir el dique existente, también está planificada a lo largo de North Fork Creek, cerca de Pitts Street y Brinkley Street. El resultado neto será una excavación de aproximadamente 120,000 yardas cúbicas. La mayor parte de este material provendría del borde occidental del Área 2 (aproximadamente 14 acres) y se usaría como material de relleno en el Área 1. El resto del Área 2 contendrá senderos, paseos marítimos y otros servicios del sitio que permanecerán en o cerca de los grados existentes. Aproximadamente 0.08 acres de humedal y 18.96 acres de llanuras de inundación se verán afectados por el desarrollo dentro del Área 2.

Área 3
Para la mayor parte de esta sección, la tierra se mantendrá en un estado natural con un sendero serpenteante. Si bien la actividad y la programación a través del Área 3 se centrarán en el entorno natural, el proyecto propuesto incluye un sendero pavimentado que va a lo largo de Big Creek con un sendero primitivo hacia el sur siguiendo aproximadamente a lo largo del Canal Old Big Creek. Se propone construir secciones de paseos marítimos en toda el Área 3 para cruzar áreas de humedales, minimizando así los impactos a estas características. Además del sistema de senderos, se planifica una berma y un canal de desvío en Big Creek dentro del Área 3 para proporcionar almacenamiento adicional de aguas de inundación. El resultado neto será el llenado de aproximadamente 530,000 yardas cúbicas utilizadas para la berma de 70 acres que rodea la mayor parte del Área 3. Este material provendrá de la excavación del canal de desvío de 15 acres. El resto del Área 3 contendrá senderos primitivos, paseos marítimos y tres senderos principales que permanecerán en o cerca de los grados existentes. Aproximadamente 2.88 acres de humedales y 76.57 acres de llanuras de inundación se verán afectados por el desarrollo del proyecto dentro del Área 3.

El Gobierno del Condado de Shelby ha considerado las siguientes alternativas y medidas de mitigación que deben tomarse para minimizar los impactos adversos y para restaurar y preservar los valores naturales y beneficiosos:
Los documentos de construcción para el proyecto de la Actividad de Restauración y Humedales de Big Creek (Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity) están siendo revisados y coordinados con el Gobierno del Condado de Shelby y los Administradores Locales de la Planta de Llanura Aluvial de la Ciudad de Millington, para certificar que estas fases propuestas no tendrán ningún efecto significativo en el humedal y la llanura inundable ya designados.

El Gobierno del Condado de Shelby ha reevaluado las alternativas para la construcción en el humedal y la llanura de inundación y ha determinado que no tiene una alternativa viable. Los expedientes ambientales que documentan el cumplimiento de los pasos 3 al 6 de la Orden Ejecutiva 11988 están disponibles para la inspección, revisión y copias a petición del público en el momento y lugar indicados en el último párrafo de este aviso para recibir los comentarios.

Esta actividad no tendrá un impacto significativo en el medio ambiente por las siguientes razones:

1. Las operaciones de movimiento de tierra en el área de la Actividad de Restauración y Humedales de Big Creek están equilibradas hasta la elevación de inundación de 100 años (por cada yarda cúbica de material de relleno agregado hay una yarda cúbica de excavación separada en cualquier otra parte del sitio). Las características del sitio de uso público en el Área 1 se están elevando aún más por encima de la llanura de inundación, lo que resulta en un relleno neto para el sitio.

2. Un equipo de Profesionales Hidrológicos Calificados de Tennessee ha completado una encuesta e informe detallado de delimitación de humedales y aguas para identificar cuáles serían los humedales y cursos de agua existentes que se verían impactados y afectados por estas mejoras. La clasificación propuesta del sitio y la ubicación de las características fueron alteradas para evitar impactos en humedales existentes y para minimizar el impacto en características naturales significativas. Antes de la construcción, se obtendrá la autorización del permiso apropiado para alteraciones de las características acuáticas por medio del Departamento de Medio Ambiente y Conservación de Tennessee y el Cuerpo de Ingenieros del Ejército de los EE.UU.

3. El personal del Servicio de Pesca y Vida Silvestre de los Estados Unidos ha revisado el material proporcionado con respecto a la Actividad de Restauración y Humedales de Big Creek en Millington, Condado de Shelby, Tennessee. Si bien parece haber hábitats adecuados de murciélagos de Indiana y murciélagos de orejas largas del norte en el sitio, el área está fuera de cualquier zona de influencia conocida, y los estudios recientes de murciélagos en el área general no han indicado la presencia de ninguna de las especies. En base a esto, no anticiparíamos impactos adversos en los murciélagos de Indiana y murciélagos de orejas largas del norte como resultado del proyecto.

Hay tres propósitos principales para esta notificación. En primer lugar, las personas que puedan verse afectadas por actividades en las llanuras de inundación y aquellas que tengan interés en la protección del medio ambiente natural deben tener la oportunidad de expresar sus preocupaciones y proporcionar información sobre estas áreas. Segundo, un programa adecuado de aviso público puede ser una herramienta educativa pública importante. La difusión de información sobre las llanuras de inundación puede facilitar y mejorar los esfuerzos federales para reducir los riesgos asociados con la ocupación y modificación de estas áreas especiales. Tercero, como cuestión de equidad, cuando el gobierno federal determine que participará en las acciones que se llevan a cabo en las llanuras de inundación, se debe informar a aquellos que puedan ser puestos en un riesgo mayor o continuo.

Se puede obtener información adicional sobre la propuesta comunicándose con Trevor Cropp, en el (901) 244-5520.

Los comentarios por escrito deben ser recibidos por el Condado de Shelby en la siguiente dirección antes del 7 de octubre del 2019:

Barge Design Solutions, Inc
Atención: Trevor Cropp
60 Germantown Court, Suite 100
Cordova, TN 38018

Durante el horario de 8:00 AM a 5:00 PM.

Los comentarios también pueden ser enviados por correo electrónico a: Trevor.Cropp@bargedesign.com

Fecha: 12 de septiembre del 2019

Da fe:
Lee Harris, Alcalde (Mayor)
Condado de Shelby, Tennessee

La Prensa 9-15-19

FINAL NOTICE AND EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A WETLAND AND FLOODPLAIN WITHIN THE BIG CREEK WATERSHED IN SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Shelby County Government, under Part 58, has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, to determine the potential affect that its proposed activity in the floodplain and wetlands will have on the human environment for the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity - Millington, Shelby County, Tennessee, under United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) National Disaster Resilience Grant - Contract Number B-13-US-47-0002.

Activities specific to this project are proposed along Big Creek in Millington on the north side of Paul Barrett Parkway between US 51 and Sledge Road. The project area has been divided into three sections with varying degrees of development intensity. Area 1 is comprised of land between US 51 and Raleigh Millington Road, Area 2 continues from Raleigh Millington Road to Singleton Parkway, and Area 3 covers land from Singleton Parkway to the project's eastern boundary at Sledge Road.

The proposed project seeks to improve Millington's resilience to future flooding and alleviate current flooding conditions of surrounding communities by establishing a large floodway between the existing levee north of Big Creek and Paul Barrett Parkway. This would allow flood waters to bypass the community and provide flood protection for nearby neighborhoods and the Naval Support Activity Mid-South. The Big Creek Activity would also provide broader community benefits through connectivity of greenway trails, walking paths, multupurpose fields and other recreational amenities.

For this notice, the majority of proposed activities are located within or adjacent to the Big Creek Floodplain. The project area directly along Big Creek is within the regulatory floodway with a large portion of remaining project land falling within the 100-year floodplain and a small section appearing in the 500-year floodplain. The total project area is made up of approximately 1,400 acres with 1,100 acres within a floodplain.

Considering the conceptual alternatives covered in the Big Creek Basin-Wide Drainage Study, the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity concept has been developed and is designed to address flooding issues by improving the community's resilience to future flooding and alleviating current flooding conditions of adjacent communities. Although the primary purpose of the project is to alleviate current flooding conditions of adjacent communities, this project also intends to restore and enhance the existing floodplain and natural aquatic systems. Restoration and enhancement of the adjacent floodplain's natural conditions will include transitioning some of the currently drained (previously converted) wetland soils into native herbaceous wetlands. Grade controls, where appropriate, will be installed. These controls will lead to enhanced stabilization of the stream channels, reducing upgradient erosion and downstream sediment loading.

The proposed actions would include grading, filling and earth moving to lower land elevations and provide additional floodwater conveyance and storage. Recreational activities, including multupurpose fields and trails, are planned throughout the project area. A mix of multipurpose greenways and natural trails have been proposed for the project area with boardwalks included to traverse and minimize disturbance of wetland areas. As part of the project, tree planting will occur for any cleared area to ensure no net loss of the tree canopy. The Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity is estimated to affect approximately 2.96 acres of wetlands and 121.51 acres of floodplain. The following describes the project locations and their proposed improvements:

Area 1

Area 1 focuses on recreational amenities, including a trail system, four (4) multipurpose fields, three (3) parking areas, one (1) amphitheater stage, three (3) shelters, one (1) playground and one (1) disc golf course. A pedestrian bridge crossing Big Creek with a trail connector to neighborhoods north of Big Creek is also included within Area 1. Levee improvements are also planned north of Big Creek. The project proposes to heighten approximately 1 mile of existing levee, north of Big Creek from US 51 to the rail line west of Raleigh Millington Road. A gate structure at Newport Ditch would also be replaced. A trail would run along the top of the levee to improve connectivity between neighborhoods in the areas north of Big Creek. The net result will be filling approximately 120,000 cubic yards in raising the area for multipurpose fields, parking and access roads. Other activities planned for Area 1, including trails and disc golf course, will remain at existing grades. Work associated with the development of Area 1 would impact approximately 25.86 acres within the floodplain and would not result in impacts to wetlands.

Area 2

The trail system would continue from Area 1, meandering through Area 2, occasionally splitting into multiple trails to offer differing paths for trail users. Additional amenities and observation and picnic areas are included within Area 2 of the proposed project. The construction of a pump station and supporting flood control elements, such as a floodwall to tie in to the existing levee, is also planned along North Fork Creek near Pete Street and Brinkley Street. The net result will be excavation of approximately 120,000 cubic yards. Most of this material would come from the western edge of Area 2 (approximately 14 acres) and would be used as fill material in Area 1. The remainder of Area 2 will contain trails, boardwalks and other site amenities that will remain at or near existing grades. Approximately 0.08 acre of wetland and 18.96 acres of floodplains will be impacted by development within Area 2.

Area 3

For most of this section, the land will be kept in a natural state with a meandering trail. While activity and programming through Area 3 will focus on the natural environment, the proposed project includes a paved trail traveling along Big Creek with a primitive trail to the south following roughly along the Old Big Creek Channel. Sections of boardwalks are proposed to be built up throughout Area 3 to cross over wetland areas, minimizing impacts to these features. In addition to the trail system, a berm and Big Creek diversion channel are planned within Area 3 to provide additional flood storage. The net result will be fill of approximately 590,000 cubic yards used for the 70-acre berm outlining the majority of Area 3. This material will come from the excavation of the 15-acre diversion channel. The remainder of Area 3 will contain primitive trails, boardwalks and three trail heads that will remain at or near existing grades. Approximately 2.88 acres of wetlands and 76.57 acres of floodplain will be impacted by project development within Area 3.

Shelby County Government has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values.

The construction documents for the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity project will be reviewed and coordinated with the Shelby County Government and City of Millington Local Floodplain Administrators, to certify that these Phases will have no significant net affect on the designated wetland and floodplain.

Shelby County Government has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the wetland and floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

This activity will have no significant impact on the environment for the following reasons:

1. Earthwork operations in the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity area are balanced up to the 100-year flood elevation (for every cubic yard of fill material added, there is a separate cubic yard of excavation elsewhere on the site.) The public-use site features in Area 1 are being further raised above the floodplain, resulting in a net fill for the site.

2. A detailed wetland and waters delineation survey and report has been completed by a team of Tennessee Qualified Hydrologic Professionals to identify existing wetlands and watercourses that would be impacted and affected by these improvements. The proposed site grading and location of features were altered to minimize impacts to the identified aquatic features. Prior to construction, appropriate permit authorization for alterations to aquatic features will be acquired from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

3. Personnel with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have reviewed the material provided regarding the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity in Millington, Shelby County, Tennessee. Although there appears to be suitable Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat roosting habitat on the site, the area is outside of any known occurrence buffers, and recent bat surveys in the general area have not indicated presence of either species. Based on this, adverse impacts to the Indiana or northern long-eared bat as a result of the project are not anticipated.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those with an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks 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 floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Additional information on the proposal may be obtained by contacting Trevor Cropp at (901) 244-6520.

Written comments must be received by the Shelby County Government Office of Resilience at the following address on or before October 7, 2019.

Barge Design Solutions, Inc.
Attention: Trevor Cropp
60 Germantown Court, Suite 100
Cordova, TN 38018

during the hours of 8:00 AM to 5 PM.

Comments may also be submitted via email at: Trevor.Cropp@bargedesign.com.

Date: September 12, 2019

Attest:
Mayor Lee Harris
Shelby County, Tennessee

361 lines

Tri-State Defender 9-12-19

FINAL NOTICE AND EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A WETLAND AND FLOODPLAIN WITHIN THE BIG CREEK WATERSHED IN SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Shelby County Government, under Part 58, has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, to determine the potential affect that its proposed activity in the floodplain and wetlands will have on the human environment for the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity - Millington, Shelby County, Tennessee, under United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) National Disaster Resilience Grant – Contract Number B-13-US-47-0002.

Activities specific to this project are proposed along Big Creek in Millington on the north side of Paul Barrett Parkway between US 51 and Sledge Road. The project area has been divided into three sections with varying degrees of development intensity. Area 1 is comprised of land between US 51 and Raleigh Millington Road, Area 2 continues from Raleigh Millington Road to Singleton Parkway, and Area 3 covers land from Singleton Parkway to the project's eastern boundary at Sledge Road.

The proposed project seeks to improve Millington's resilience to future flooding and alleviate current flooding conditions of surrounding communities by establishing a large floodway between the existing levee north of Big Creek and Paul Barrett Parkway. This would allow flood waters to bypass the community and provide flood protection for nearby neighborhoods and the Naval Support Activity Mid-South. The Big Creek Activity would also provide broader community benefits through connectivity of greenway trails, walking paths, multipurpose fields and other recreational amenities.

For this notice, the majority of proposed activities are located within or adjacent to the Big Creek Floodplain. The project area directly along Big Creek is within the regulatory floodway with a large portion of remaining project land falling within the 100-year floodplain and a small section appearing in the 500-year floodplain. The total project area is made up of approximately 1,400 acres with 1,100 acres within a floodplain.

Considering the conceptual alternatives covered in the Big Creek Basin-Wide Drainage Study, the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity concept has been developed and is designed to address flooding issues by improving the community's resilience to future flooding and alleviating current flooding conditions of adjacent communities. Although the primary purpose of the project is to alleviate current flooding conditions of adjacent communities, this project also intends to restore and enhance the existing floodplain and natural aquatic systems. Restoration and enhancement of the adjacent floodplain's natural conditions will include transitioning some of the currently drained (previously converted) wetland soils into native herbaceous wetlands. Grade controls, where appropriate, will be installed. These controls will lead to enhanced stabilization of the stream channels, reducing upgradient erosion and downstream sediment loading.

The proposed actions would include grading, filling and earth moving to lower land elevations and provide additional floodwater conveyance and storage. Recreational activities, including multipurpose fields and trails, are planned throughout the project area. A mix of multipurpose greenways and natural trails have been proposed for the project area with boardwalks included to traverse and minimize disturbance of wetland areas. As part of the project, tree planting will occur for any cleared area to ensure no net loss of the tree canopy. The Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity is estimated to affect approximately 2.96 acres of wetlands and 121.51 acres of floodplain. The following describes the project locations and their proposed improvements:

Area 1
Area 1 focuses on recreational amenities, including a trail system, four (4) multipurpose fields, three (3) parking areas, one (1) amphitheater stage, three (3) shelters, one (1) playground and one (1) disc golf course. A pedestrian bridge crossing Big Creek with a trail connector to neighborhoods north of Big Creek is also included within Area 1. Levee improvements are also planned north of Big Creek. The project proposes to heighten approximately 1 mile of existing levee, north of Big Creek from US 51 to the rail line west of Raleigh Millington Road. A gate structure at Newport Ditch would also be replaced. A trail would run along the top of the levee to improve connectivity between neighborhoods in the areas north of Big Creek. The net result will be filling approximately 120,000 cubic yards in raising the area for multipurpose fields, parking and access roads. Other activities planned for Area 1, including trails and disc golf course, will remain at existing grades. Work associated with the development of Area 1 would impact approximately 25.98 acres within the floodplain and would not result in impacts to wetlands.

Area 2
The trail system would continue from Area 1, meandering through Area 2, occasionally splitting into multiple trails to offer differing paths for trail users. Additional amenities and observation and picnic areas are included within Area 2 of the proposed project. The construction of a pump station and supporting flood control elements, such as a floodwall to tie in to the existing levee, is also planned along North Fork Creek near Pitts Street and Brinkley Street. The net result will be excavation of approximately 120,000 cubic yards. Most of this material would come from the western edge of Area 2 (approximately 14 acres) and would be used as fill material in Area 1. The remainder of Area 2 will contain trails, boardwalks and other site amenities that will remain at or near existing grades. Approximately 0.08 acre of wetland and 18.96 acres of floodplains will be impacted by development within Area 2.

Area 3
For most of this section, the land will be kept in a natural state with a meandering trail. While activity and programming through Area 3 will focus on the natural environment, the proposed project includes a paved trail traveling along Big Creek with a primitive trail to the south following roughly along the Old Big Creek Channel. Sections of boardwalks are proposed to be built up throughout Area 3 to cross over wetland areas, minimizing impacts to these features. In addition to the trail system, a berm and Big Creek diversion channel are planned within Area 3 to provide additional flood storage. The net result will be fill of approximately 530,000 cubic yards used for the 70-acre berm outlining the majority of Area 3. This material will come from the excavation of the 15-acre diversion channel. The remainder of Area 3 will contain primitive trails, boardwalks and three trail heads that will remain at or near existing grades. Approximately 2.88 acres of wetlands and 76.57 acres of floodplain will be impacted by project development within Area 3.

Shelby County Government has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values:

The construction documents for the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity project will be reviewed and coordinated with the Shelby County Government and City of Millington Local Floodplain Administrators, to certify that these Phases will have no significant net effect on the designated wetland and floodplain.

Shelby County Government has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the wetland and floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

This activity will have no significant impact on the environment for the following reasons:

1. Earthwork operations in the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity area are balanced up to the 100-year flood elevation (for every cubic yard of fill material added, there is a separate cubic yard of excavation elsewhere on the site.) The public-use site features in Area 1 are being further raised above the floodplain, resulting in a net fill for the site.

2. A detailed wetland and waters delineation survey and report has been completed by a team of Tennessee Qualified Hydrologic Professionals to identify existing wetlands and water courses that would be impacted and affected by these improvements. The proposed site grading and location of features were altered to minimize impacts to the identified aquatic features. Prior to construction, appropriate permit authorization for alterations to aquatic features will be acquired from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

3. Personnel with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have reviewed the material provided regarding the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity in Millington, Shelby County, Tennessee. Although there appears to be suitable Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat roosting habitat on the site, the area is outside of any known occurrence buffers, and recent bat surveys in the general area have not indicated presence of either species. Based on this, adverse impacts to the Indiana or northern long-eared bat as a result of the project are not anticipated.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those with an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks 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 floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Additional information on the proposal may be obtained by contacting Trevor Cropp at (901) 244-5520.

Written comments must be received by the Shelby County Government Office of Resilience at the following address on or before October 7, 2019:

Barge Design Solutions, Inc.
Attention: Trevor Cropp
60 Germantown Court, Suite 100
Cordova, TN 38018

during the hours of 8:00 AM to 5 PM.

Comments may also be submitted via email at: Trevor.Cropp@bargedesign.com.

Date: September 12, 2019

Attest:
Mayor Lee Harris
Shelby County, Tennessee

Memphis Flyer 9-12-19

Daily News 9-13-19

FINAL NOTICE AND EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A WETLAND AND FLOODPLAIN WITHIN THE BIG CREEK WATERSHED IN SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Shelby County Government, under Part 58, has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, to determine the potential affect that its proposed activity in the floodplain and wetlands will have on the human environment for the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity - Millington, Shelby County, Tennessee, under United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) National Disaster Resilience Grant – Contract Number B-13-US-47-0002.

Activities specific to this project are proposed along Big Creek in Millington on the north side of Paul Barrett Parkway between US 51 and Sledge Road. The project area has been divided into three sections with varying degrees of development intensity. Area 1 is comprised of land between US 51 and Raleigh Millington Road, Area 2 continues from Raleigh Millington Road to Singleton Parkway, and Area 3 covers land from Singleton Parkway to the project's eastern boundary at Sledge Road.

The proposed project seeks to improve Millington's resilience to future flooding and alleviate current flooding conditions of surrounding communities by establishing a large floodway between the existing levee north of Big Creek and Paul Barrett Parkway. This would allow flood waters to bypass the community and provide flood protection for nearby neighborhoods and the Naval Support Activity Mid-South. The Big Creek Activity would also provide broader community benefits through connectivity of greenway trails, walking paths, multipurpose fields and other recreational amenities.

For this notice, the majority of proposed activities are located within or adjacent to the Big Creek Floodplain. The project area directly along Big Creek is within the regulatory floodway with a large portion of remaining project land falling within the 100-year floodplain and a small section appearing in the 500-year floodplain. The total project area is made up of approximately 1,400 acres with 1,100 acres within a floodplain.

Considering the conceptual alternatives covered in the Big Creek Basin-Wide Drainage Study, the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity concept has been developed and is designed to address flooding issues by improving the community's resilience to future flooding and alleviating current flooding conditions of adjacent communities. Although the primary purpose of the project is to alleviate current flooding conditions of adjacent communities, this project also intends to restore and enhance the existing floodplain and natural aquatic systems. Restoration and enhancement of the adjacent floodplain's natural conditions will include transitioning some of the currently drained (previously converted) wetland soils into native herbaceous wetlands. Grade controls, where appropriate, will be installed. These controls will lead to enhanced stabilization of the stream channels, reducing upgradient erosion and downstream sediment loading.

The proposed actions would include grading, filling and earth moving to lower land elevations and provide additional floodwater conveyance and storage. Recreational activities, including multipurpose fields and trails, are planned throughout the project area. A mix of multipurpose greenways and natural trails have been proposed for the project area with boardwalks included to traverse and minimize disturbance of wetland areas. As part of the project, tree planting will occur for any cleared area to ensure no net loss of the tree canopy. The Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity is estimated to affect approximately 2.96 acres of wetlands and 121.51 acres of floodplain. The following describes the project locations and their proposed improvements:

Area 1

Area 1 focuses on recreational amenities, including a trail system, four (4) multipurpose fields, three (3) parking areas, one (1) amphitheater stage, three (3) shelters, one (1) playground and one (1) disc golf course. A pedestrian bridge crossing Big Creek with a trail connector to neighborhoods north of Big Creek is also included within Area 1. Levee improvements are also planned north of Big Creek. The project proposes to heighten approximately 1 mile of existing levee, north of Big Creek from US 51 to the rail line west of Raleigh Millington Road. A gate structure at Newport Ditch would also be replaced. A trail would run along the top of the levee to improve connectivity between neighborhoods in the areas north of Big Creek. The net result will be filling approximately 120,000 cubic yards in raising the area for multipurpose fields, parking and access roads. Other activities planned for Area 1, including trails and disc golf course, will remain at existing grades. Work associated with the development of Area 1 would impact approximately 25.98 acres within the floodplain and would not result in impacts to wetlands.

Area 2

The trail system would continue from Area 1, meandering through Area 2, occasionally splitting into multiple trails to offer differing paths for trail users. Additional amenities and observation and picnic areas are included within Area 2 of the proposed project. The construction of a pump station and supporting flood control elements, such as a floodwall to tie in to the existing levee, is also planned along North Fork Creek near Pitts Street and Brinkley Street. The net result will be excavation of approximately 120,000 cubic yards. Most of this material would come from the western edge of Area 2 (approximately 14 acres) and would be used as fill material in Area 1. The remainder of Area 2 will contain trails, boardwalks and other site amenities that will remain at or near existing grades. Approximately 0.08 acre of wetland and 18.96 acres of floodplains will be impacted by development within Area 2.

Area 3

For most of this section, the land will be kept in a natural state with a meandering trail. While activity and programming through Area 3 will focus on the natural environment, the proposed project includes a paved trail traveling along Big Creek with a primitive trail to the south following roughly along the Old Big Creek Channel. Sections of boardwalks are proposed to be built up throughout Area 3 to cross over wetland areas, minimizing impacts to these features. In addition to the trail system, a berm and Big Creek diversion channel are planned within Area 3 to provide additional flood storage. The net result will be fill of approximately 530,000 cubic yards used for the 70-acre berm outlining the majority of Area 3. This material will come from the excavation of the 15-acre diversion channel. The remainder of Area 3 will contain primitive trails, boardwalks and three trail heads that will remain at or near existing grades. Approximately 2.88 acres of wetlands and 76.57 acres of floodplain will be impacted by project development within Area 3.

Shelby County Government has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values:

The construction documents for the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity project will be reviewed and coordinated with the Shelby County Government and City of Millington Local Floodplain Administrators, to certify that these Phases will have no significant net effect on the designated wetland and floodplain.

Shelby County Government has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the wetland and floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

This activity will have no significant impact on the environment for the following reasons:

1. Earthwork operations in the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity area are balanced up to the 100-year flood elevation (for every cubic yard of fill material added, there is a separate cubic yard of excavation elsewhere on the site.) The public-use site features in Area 1 are being further raised above the floodplain, resulting in a net fill for the site.
2. A detailed wetland and waters delineation survey and report

has been completed by a team of Tennessee Qualified Hydrologic Professionals to identify existing wetlands and water courses that would be impacted and affected by these improvements. The proposed site grading and location of features were altered to minimize impacts to the identified aquatic features. Prior to construction, appropriate permit authorization for alterations to aquatic features will be acquired from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

3. Personnel with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have reviewed the material provided regarding the Big Creek Wetland and Restoration Activity in Millington, Shelby County, Tennessee. Although there appears to be suitable Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat roosting habitat on the site, the area is outside of any known occurrence buffers, and recent bat surveys in the general area have not indicated presence of either species. Based on this, adverse impacts to the Indiana or northern long-eared bat as a result of the project are not anticipated.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those with an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information ab out floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks 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 floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Additional information on the proposal may be obtained by contacting Trevor Cropp at (901) 244-5520.

Written comments must be received by the Shelby County Government Office of Resilience at the following address on or before October 7, 2019:

Barge Design Solutions, Inc.
Attention: Trevor Cropp
60 Germantown Court, Suite 100
Cordova, TN 38018

during the hours of 8:00 AM to 5 PM. Comments may also be submitted via email at: Trevor.Cropp@bargedesign.com.

Date: September 12, 2019
Attest:
Mayor Lee Harris
Shelby County, Tennessee
Sept. 13, 2019 Mod71474