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 a Flood Mitigation Assistance Program Grant.

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:
City of St. Petersburg, Florida (sub-applicant)

Project Title: City of St. Petersburg FMA Elevation #15

Location of Proposed Work:
The area affected by this project consists of one single-family home located within the Shore Acres community.

Proposed Work and Purpose:
The City of St. Petersburg proposes to elevate one single-family residence located in the Special Flood Hazard Area. The property has been repeatedly inundated by flood waters and has received significant amounts of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) payments, qualifying it as a Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) property. The structure to be elevated is located within the coastal AE flood zone, which has a Base Flood Elevation (BFE) of 9 feet (NAVD88). In compliance with St. Petersburg’s standards for development in flood hazard areas, the structure’s finished floor will be raised approximately 6.4 ft and after elevation will rest at two foot above the BFE (11 feet). The elevation will be achieved through a slab elevation and construction of a new foundation and foundation walls to support the elevated slab and structure. The purpose of the elevation project is to increase the level of protection for the property and reduce future damages from flood events.

Project Alternatives:
The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative, 2) mitigation reconstruction, and 3) acquisition/demolition. These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because: under Alternative 1) the property will remain vulnerable to flooding, including high-risk of property damage and health hazards, and continued negative impacts on the property, residents, and community may be experienced; Alternative 2) the estimated cost per square foot for a mitigation reconstruction project is higher than that for an elevation project and thus cost-prohibitive, and the property owners desire to elevate their home rather than demolish and rebuild it; and, Alternative 3) the property owners do not wish to sell their home, and City acquisition of the land in question would result in an undesirable patchwork pattern of open space that doesn’t retain the fabric of that section of the Shore Acres 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 the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 30 days of this notice. 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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