Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Floodplain and Wetlands
Volusia County, Florida

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that Volusia County under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under the Volusia County Community Development Block Grant funding and B-23-UN-12-0005 is located in the FFRMS floodplain and wetlands, and Volusia County will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and wetlands and the potential impacts on the floodplain and wetlands from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990 and in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The proposed project is located along W French Avenue, N Lawton Avenue, Springbank Avenue, Niagra Avenue, Liskeard Avenue, Patlin Avenue, S Carpenter Avenue, W Blue Springs Avenue, E Blue Springs Avenue, Mill Lake Park, and S Thorpe Ave in Orange City, Volusia County. The proposed project includes installing approximately 2,800 feet of stormwater force main within South Thorpe Avenue to connect the Industrial Drive pump station system to Mill Lake. The existing Mill Lake pump station will be replaced with a larger stormwater pump station with an estimated capacity of 35 to 50 cubic feet per second. Stormwater from Mill Lake will then be conveyed through approximately 13,750 feet of 36-inch force main to a City owned 50 acre borrow pit that will function as a reservoir for stormwater from the Mill Lake and Industrial Park basins, providing substantial storage capacity and supporting regional flood mitigation. The project area includes a 20-foot buffer from the center point of the stormwater pipe locations to account for placement of these improvements.

The proposed project is within the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain. The horizontal extent of the FFRMS floodplain for the entire project was defined using the Freeboard Value Approach (FVA) in conjunction with the following FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps: Community Panels 12127C0605H and 12127C0610J effective on 2/19/2014, 12069C0300E effective on 12/18/2012, and 12127C0620K effective on 9/29/2017, which show a total of approximately 0.02 acres of the project footprint located within the Zone A 100-year floodplain. Additionally, 0.03 acres of the project footprint are located within National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Wetlands and 0.02 acres of the project footprint are located within National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) waterbodies. The project is considered a critical action. Floodplains provide flood risk reduction benefits by slowing runoff and storing floodwater. The floodplain provides drainage for surrounding areas as well as the opportunity for natural wetlands and habitats to thrive. Maintaining the floodplain is an invaluable service to the community. Wetlands provide numerous beneficial functions for humans, flora, and fauna including protecting and improving water quality, providing fish and wildlife habitats, storing floodwaters, and maintaining surface water flow during dry periods. The purpose of the project is to improve drainage and reduce flood risk, which will help support the natural benefits of the floodplain and wetland.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain and wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain

and wetlands. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts 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 floodplain/wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Volusia County at the following address on or before November 23, 2026: Volusia County Office of Recovery and Resiliency, 1578 N Woodland Blvd, Deland, FL 32720 and 386-736-5955, Attention: Mikel Branch, Special Projects Coordinator. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8 A.M to 5 P.M at the same address. Comments may also be submitted via email at transform386@volusia.gov.

Date: November 6, 2026