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 location is along West Highbanks Road in DeBary, Volusia County, FL. The proposed project will upgrade approximately 6,340 linear feet of West Highbanks Road by using open trench excavation to replace the existing open ditch system with a closed drainage system. The storm pipe sizes will range in size from 18 inches to 66 inches. The road section stretches generally from High Palm Lane at Highbanks Marina & Camp Resort at the west end to Dutchmans Bend Road at the east end. This upgrade will improve stormwater conveyance, increase drainage capacity, and reduce flooding frequency and severity. A key component of the project includes redirecting stormwater away from the Highbanks Marina Mobile Home Park pond through a new closed drainage system that will connect to an existing piped outfall discharging directly to the St. Johns River. This modification will provide a more efficient and reliable outflow path while reducing hydraulic pressure on the existing pond system. Additional project features include the construction of a dry retention pond, approximately 290 feet by 120 feet in size with a 20-foot buffer, and installation of a hydrodynamic separator structure to improve stormwater treatment and water quality prior to discharge.

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 0.2 Percent-Annual-Chance Floodplain Approach (0.2PFA) in conjunction with the following FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps: Community Panels 12117C0015F effective on 9/28/2007, 12127C0615J effective on 2/19/2014, and 12069C0300E effective on 12/18/2012, which show a total of approximately 0.69 acres of the project footprint located within the Zone A 100-year floodplain. Additionally, 0.37 acres of the project footprint are located within National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Wetlands and 0.56 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 Ave, 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