

**Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity
in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that Sarasota County Resilient SRQ under 24 CFR Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management. The activity is funded under Resilient SRQ's Workforce Development & Training Program HUD grant B-23-UN-12-0004. The proposed project would be located at 4445 Career Lane, North Port, FL 34289 (27.09581 North, -82.15819 West). The extent of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain was determined using the freeboard value approach. The proposed project, Suncoast Technical College - North Port Expansion, involves an expansion that will include the construction of a new building to offer more career and technical education programs, renovate the student services area to meet the needs of the expanded enrollment, increase the safety and security through a single point of entry, and install an awning to provide a covered area for the trades programs to expand their lab space. The proposed site consists of a previously developed lot totaling 1,026,786 square-feet (23.572-acres) in the City of North Port. Mapped Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland covers a majority of the eastern portion of the site, Mapped Freshwater Emergent Wetland located on the central northern portion of the site, and a drainage ditch mapped as Riverine Wetland runs along the western edge of the site.

Sarasota County Resilient SRQ has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain:

Alternative 1: (Preferred Alternative) Suncoast Technical College - North Port Expansion:

This Alternative would involve the expansion of the North Port branch to meet the needs of the community as it is one of the fastest growing cities in the country. The expansion will include the construction of a new building to offer more career and technical education programs, renovate the student services area to meet the needs of the expanded enrollment, increase the safety and security through a single point of entry, and install an awning to provide a covered area for the trades programs to expand their lab space. The Preferred Alternative (Proposed Action) would cause impacts in an area between the 100-year and 500-year floodplains, since the project site is located in "Zone X (shaded)" and would require ground disturbance. Resilient SRQ would ensure that the proper mitigation and/or minimization measures are taken. For example, if located in the floodplain, the structures would be floodproofed and/or elevated at least two feet above Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Additionally, best management practices (BMPs) for soil erosion and stormwater management would be applied through minimum construction standards. For work adjacent to the floodway, silt fencing and/or hay bales would be installed to prevent impacts from soil erosion and stormwater runoff into waterways.

No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]:

Under the No Action Alternative, no work would occur at the project site and operations would continue as-is. The college would remain in its present state and expanded enrollment opportunities would be lost.

Sarasota County Resilient SRQ has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, 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.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain 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. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains 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 a floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Resilient SRQ at the following address on or before April 13, 2025: Resilient SRQ, 301 N. Cattlemen Rd. Suite 200 Sarasota, FL 34232 Attention Steve Hyatt, MBA, CPM, Program Management Division Manager, or by phone by calling 311 or 941-861-5000 or TTY: 7-1-1 or 1-800-955-8771 during the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Comments may also be submitted via email at shyatt@scgov.net.

Date: March 28, 2025