Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain and Riverine Wetland

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that Sarasota County Resilient SRQ under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following Proposed Action (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] grant No. B-23-UN-12-0004) under the Infrastructure and Public Facilities Program is within the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and riverine wetland. Resilient SRQ will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and wetland and the potential impacts on these areas from the Proposed Action, as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690 and Executive Order 11990, 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 site consists of a previously undeveloped approximately 495,632-square-foot (11.38-acre) lot in the City of North Port. It is located at 5400 Pan American Boulevard, North Port, FL 34287 (27.049710 North, -82.239992 West). The surrounding land use is Pan American Boulevard to the west, vacant undeveloped commercial land and Children's Way to the north, multi-family residential land and vacant undeveloped government land to the east, and multi-family residential land to the south. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the freeboard value approach. Zone AE, a 100-year floodplain and Zone X, a 500-year floodplain, was determined using the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Map Panel 12115C0386G effective March 27, 2024, and wetlands were identified using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory Mapper.

The proposed project would consist of the construction of a one, one story building with parking for staff and the public. This building will be comprised of office space, staff kitchen/break room, conference room, and some meeting/classroom spaces. Services provided from this building will be emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities, etc., case management, and life skills classes. The Social Services facility will provide an array of emergency services to families and individuals in need. The Emergency Financial Assistance Program will provide financial utility and rental assistance. Pathway of Hope provides intensive, long-term case management support to families to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and move toward a life of self-sustainability to include, increased education, income, employment and permanent housing. It will also have case management support through our Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs. It is envisioned that this facility will have shared community space to allow other partner agencies a space to conduct life skills workshops, ESL classes, etc. Additionally, if need dictates, they may reinstate a food pantry. This facility will also have space for temporary staff needed during times of disaster. The proposed project would be constructed using the latest design standards and resilient building materials.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains 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 floodplains 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 floodplains and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk of flood impacts.

Written comments must be received by Resilient SRQ at the following address on or before May 20, 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: May 5, 2025