

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 Infrastructure & Public Facilities Program, HUD grant B-23-UN-12-0004. The proposed project would be the footprint of the historic dam barrier that is being removed spanning from Start Point: 27.306387 North, -82.511738 West on one the northwest side of Phillippi Creek to End Point: 27.306203 North, -82.511417 West on the southeast side of the creek. The surrounding land use is Phillippi Creek to the northeast and southwest and single-family residential to the northwest and southeast. The proposed project area is approximately 600 meters of channel located 3.6 miles upstream of the mouth of Phillippi Creek between Tuttle Avenue and Webber Street bridges near the Southgate community in northwest Sarasota County. Phillippi Creek is part of the larger Phillippi Creek basin and Roberts Bay Watershed, with primarily urban commercial and residential land use along its channel. The extent of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain was determined using the freeboard value approach. The proposed Phillippi Creek Dam Removal project would consist of the removal of a dam barrier, built in the 1950s, in Phillippi Creek that was once used as a salinity gate to support local agriculture. This structure has since become obsolete. The remnants of the barrier, including a partial concrete structure extending from the northwest side of the creek, as well as six standalone support piles crossing the creek's profile, would be removed. The client would install temporary cofferdams in Phillippi Creek to complete this work. This effort would mitigate the risk of channel erosion and flooding, reduce the risk of future damage to structures along the creek, and promote the restoration of a healthier, more resilient river ecosystem. The proposed limits of disturbance (project site) is approximately 0.1 acres and would consist of the footprint of the existing dam barrier. The proposed project area (range of indirect impacts) is approximately 600 meters of stream channel located 3.6 miles upstream of the mouth of Phillippi Creek between Tuttle Avenue and Webber Street bridges near the Southgate community in northwest Sarasota County. Phillippi Creek is part of the larger Phillippi Creek Basin and Roberts Bay Watershed. The surrounding land use is primarily commercial and residential. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) panel #12115C0142G effective March 27, 2024, the project site is entirely within a regulatory floodway.

Alternative 1: (Preferred Alternative) Phillippi Creek Dam Removal:

As stated, under this alternative, the proposed project site is home to a dam barrier, built in the 1950s, that was first used as a salinity gate to support local agricultural practices. As the surrounding area and communities trended towards more single-family residential land uses, the dam barrier became obsolete, and the stop log gates were removed, leaving behind a partial

concrete structure extending from the northwest side of the creek, as well as six standalone support piles crossing the creek's profile. The proposed Phillippi Creek Dam Removal project would consist of the removal of a historic dam barrier in the Phillippi Creek. The remnants of the barrier, including a partial concrete structure extending from the northwest side of the creek, as well as six standalone support piles crossing the creek's profile, would be removed. This effort would mitigate the risk of channel erosion and flooding, reduce the risk of future damage to structures along the creek, and promote the restoration of a healthier, more resilient river ecosystem.

The proposed project would provide flood protection for the Phillippi Creek channel thereby reducing the risk of future damage, bodily injury, and even loss of life. In the past, flood hazards have had severe negative impacts, including flood claims totaling ~\$500,000 due to creek flooding of nearby homes. The proposed project would not only alleviate flooding in the area, but also upgrade the creek capacity by mitigating risk posed by the remaining dam barrier vulnerabilities of Phillippi Creek that would lead to damage of the immediate surrounding areas as well as both up and downstream. The primary aim of the dam removal project is to effectively manage stormwater by allowing natural flow patterns of the creek to be restored. This would help to reduce the risk of excessive water buildup during storms, mitigating the potential for riverine flooding downstream. In conclusion, by addressing these project aims, the dam removal project would work towards reducing stormwater riverine flooding while concurrently promoting the restoration of a healthier, more resilient river ecosystem. No other alternatives to the proposed project were considered other than the no action alternative, which is described below.

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

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed dam removal would not occur. Homes and commercial facilities would continue to be regularly flooded. Preliminary model simulations show the potential removal of 142 residential houses from the 100-year floodplain without the execution of this project. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would not achieve the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action.

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 October 22, 2025 at 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 ResilientSRQComments@scgov.net

Date: October 7, 2025