

# DR-4576-MS – The City of Ocean Springs

## FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Date of Notice: 08/6/2021

**Project Title(s):** FEMA-DR-4576-MS, Multiple Project Worksheets involving Category “A” Debris, “B” Emergency Protective Measures, “C” Road Repairs, “E” Building Repairs (roof / siding / interior), “F” Utility Repairs (electric and water lines), “G” Miscellaneous Repairs (fencing / gates / piers/ etc.) back to Pre-Disaster condition for similar, and minor repairs.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives this Final Public Notice to the public of its intent to reimburse The City of Ocean Springs Public Assistance federal grant funds to restore and repair storm surge / flood damaged facilities in the City for the propose of repair or replacement of facilities damaged by severe storm surge and flooding that occurred during the incident period of October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, and under the major disaster declaration FEMA-4576-DR-MS (Hurricane Zeta), signed by the President on 12/31/2020.

An initial disaster-wide Public Notice was published Thursday, January 7, 2021 for DR-4576 Hurricane Zeta; Comments and other information received were fully evaluated by FEMA along with evaluation of social, economic, environmental, and safety considerations. This notice serves as a “Cumulative Public Notice” for projects – involving Category “A” Debris, “B” Emergency Protective Measures, “C” Road Repairs, “E” Building Repairs (roof / siding / interior), “F” Utility Repairs (electric and water lines), “G” Miscellaneous Repairs (fencing / gates / piers/ etc.) back to Pre-Disaster condition; for similar, and minor repairs with possible minor mitigation for FEMA’s funding action located within the floodplain. FEMA has determined that the only practicable alternative is to fund the repairs of the above-mentioned facilities, already located within the floodplain prior to the event. Much of this work will be done in an identified Coastal High Hazard Area (VE Zone) as identified by multiple Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM): 28059C0287G; 28059C0289G; 28059C0293G; 28059C0385G dated 03/16/2009. This work is “Functionally Dependent” upon its location.

Funding for the proposed work project (s) will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions. This action complies with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements.

This Final Public Notice concerns activities involving “like in kind” or similar, and minor repairs which are in the floodplain prior the event, that may affect floodplain and or wetland areas. FEMA intends to provide public assistance for the restoration to their pre-disaster condition of these facilities already located within floodplain prior to the event, except that certain measures to mitigate the effect of future flooding, other hazards, and accessibility requirements may be included in the work. For example, to elevate damaged electrical outlets 4’ above the floor of a structure.

For covered actions, this will be the Final Public Notice provided. Other activities and those involving facilities that do not meet the criteria are required to undergo more detailed review, including study of alternate locations. Subsequent Project Specific Final Public Notice(s) regarding such projects will be published if necessary, as more specific information becomes available.

In many cases, the applicant may have started facility restoration before federal involvement. Even if the facility must undergo detailed review and analysis of alternate locations, FEMA will fund eligible restoration at the original location if the facility is functionally dependent on its floodplain location (e.g., bridges and flood control facilities), or the project that facilitates an open space use, or the facility is an integral part of a larger network that is impractical or uneconomical to relocate, such as a Pier Facility. In such cases, FEMA must also examine the possible effects of not restoring the facility, minimizing floodplain or wetland impacts, and determining both that an overriding public need for the facility clearly outweighs the Executive Order requirements to avoid the floodplain or wetland, and that the site is the only practicable alternative. The State of Mississippi and local officials will confirm to FEMA that proposed actions comply with all applicable state and local floodplain management and wetland protection requirements.

The National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of their undertakings on historic properties. Such as actions or activities affecting buildings, structures, districts, or objects 50 years or older or that affect archeological sites or undisturbed ground will require further review.

**Proposed Work and Purpose:**

The proposed action scopes of work (SOW) includes the repair / replacement of involving Category “A” Debris, “B” Emergency Protective Measures, “E” Building Repairs (roof / siding / interior), “F” Utility Repairs (electric and water lines), “G” Miscellaneous Repairs (fencing / gates / piers, etc.) back to Pre-Disaster condition; for similar, and minor repairs with possible minor mitigation to reduce damage from future flood hazards. As these Repairs / Restoration activities are located citywide, they may or may not be located within a Special Flood Hazard Area.

**Comments:**

This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action(s) funded by the FEMA PA program. Interested persons may submit comments, questions, or request a map of specific project (s) by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4, 3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30341, or by emailing FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE FEMA- 4576-DR-MS, involving for similar, and minor repairs., at the above addresses within 15 days of the date of this notice.