FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

LOWER SPRUCE WASH CHANNEL RESILIENCY
COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA
HMGP-5284-01-02

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) intends to provide federal financial assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to the City of Flagstaff in Coconino County, Arizona, for flood mitigation improvements. The proposed action would mitigate impacts from flood hazards by grading the channel banks of lower Spruce Avenue Wash to increase channel capacity and reduce erosion potential, adding channel grade control structures to protect utility and trail crossings, and creating stream energy dissipation devices to slow flood flows. Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives that were considered.

The purpose of the proposed action is to reduce flood hazards. The proposed action consists of: 1) sloping the channel banks back with an excavator working from the top of the bank; 2) constructing three rock cross vane weirs to protect utility and trail crossings and help maintain the desired width to depth ratio; 3) installing natural rock structures to correct channel dimensions and energy gradients created by road and trail crossings; 4) installing brush revetments at five areas and toe rock at two areas along channel curves to reduce erosion; and 6) revegetating slope banks with native grasses and shrubs.

The project area is in the 100-year floodplain as depicted on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Numbers 04005C6828G, effective date September 3, 2010. The FIRM shows that the project area lies within Zone AE, an area that has a 1-percent probability of flooding every year and where predicted floodwater elevations have been established, and much of the project area is also within a regulatory floodway.

A map of the project area and its location within the floodplain is available for public inspection. Parties interested in receiving a copy of the map should contact the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer using contact information provided in this notice.

Two alternatives to the proposed action were considered: Alternative 1, No Action, and Alternative 2, Second Action Alternative. Alternative 1 would leave the bank severely eroded, with the banks scoured and the channel with large amounts of fill. This alternative would leave the road grade, trail, and several utility crossings at risk. This Alternative is not recommended because the flood risk would remain unchanged, and there would be a high potential for catastrophic loss of the roadway and utility services. Alternative 2 included constructing an off-channel detention basin to reduce stream power, peak flow, and to generally attenuate flood flows. This Alternative is not recommended due to the amount of land that would be needed to detain anticipated flood flows and the lack of available City-owned land. FEMA has determined that the proposed project is the only practicable alternative available; therefore, the proposed action must be located in the floodplain. The proposed action would have no significant adverse impact on the floodplain and would benefit the area by reducing the risk of flooding and flood damage. Therefore, measures to minimize impacts on the floodplain are not necessary. The City of Flagstaff has declared that the proposed action conforms to local floodplain standards, and would be responsible for the management, construction, and maintenance of the proposed action.

Additional information about FEMA's proposed action may be requested by writing the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607, or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov, or calling (510) 627-7027. All requests should be received no later than 15 days after publication of this notice. No action will be taken before this date.