

## **Final Public Notice - Castlewood**

The City of Summerset, Meade County South Dakota (City) has applied for funding under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program. The purpose of FEMA's PDM program is to substantially reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss or suffering from natural disasters. The City has assessed the risk of flood damage in the Castlewood Drainage Channel and determined a need to protect the health and safety of residents, improved property and city infrastructure.

The proposed project is intended to mitigate future flood events by conveying storm water runoff and flood flows up to and including a 100-year flood event. Proposed activities include reshaping and defining approximately 3000 linear feet of the main channel and existing detention pond, replacing undersized culverts, installing storm water inlets and extending existing transmission pipe, adjusting and sealing manholes, installing riprap for erosion control, relocating easement obstructions, and reconstructing roadways and sidewalks. All disturbed areas will be re-vegetated with native grass species. An initial public notice was published October 16, 2010 in the Rapids City Journal. No comments were received.

The President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has developed regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These regulations require an investigation of the potential impacts of a proposed federal action to environmental and cultural resources and compliance with other environmental laws and regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management), EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and EO 12898 (Environmental Justice).

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared and as a result of the NEPA review process FEMA, in coordination with appropriate regulatory agencies, determined the potential for impacts to be minimal. The site has been heavily disturbed during construction of the original drainage channel. No historic properties, endangered species, wetlands or waters of the U.S. will be affected by the project. FEMA has not developed a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the City. However, according to recent hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) modeling; the proposed action will occur within the equivalent of the 100-year floodplain and is therefore subject to compliance with EO 11988. Executive Order 11988 requires federal agencies to avoid to the extent possible the long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of flood plains, and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative. If there are no practicable alternatives FEMA must ensure impacts are minimized to the extent possible and notify the public of its intent to fund the action.

Alternatives considered include taking no action and constructing an additional detention pond. Based the data gathered during preparation of the EA, FEMA has determined that the proposed alternative is the only practicable alternative that will meet the stated purpose and need of the project. The project is anticipated to have long-term positive impacts on the (preliminary) floodplain. The overall amount of storm water conveyed and released

downstream would not change, nor would flow velocities. By increasing the capacity of the channel and the temporary storage within the drainage, seven (7) residential properties are expected be removed from the modeled floodplain. In addition, on October 12, 2010, the City became an active participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and has enacted ordinances to prohibit future development within the preliminary floodplain.

This final public notice is intended to transmit FEMA's intent to fund this project and to comply with all responsibilities under NEPA and EO 11988. The applicant must obtain and comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations, permits, etc. A public comment period will remain open for 15 days following publication of this notice.

Interested parties may obtain more detailed information about the alternatives from the City of Summerset by calling Dirk Jablonski at 605.721.5553 or by email at [dirk.jablonski@kljeng.com](mailto:dirk.jablonski@kljeng.com). Additionally, comments or question regarding the NEPA process can be directed to Rick Myers, FEMA Region VIII Deputy Environmental Officer by calling 303.235.4926 or by email at [Richard.myers@dhs.gov](mailto:Richard.myers@dhs.gov).

Published three consecutive days at the approximate cost of \$\_\_\_\_\_.