

## **FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN**

January 10, 2024

City of San José  
200 E. Santa Clara Street  
San José, CA 95113

### **FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN**

The project site is the Guadalupe Washington neighborhood of San José. The proposed action aims to address illegal dumping issues experienced in an alleyway located approximately 100 feet west of Almaden Avenue, between W. Virginia Street and Oak Street. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map 06085C0234H, effective May 18, 2009, the entirety of the project site is within Zone AO, which is identified as a Special Flood Hazard Area.

The proposed action will expand existing street lighting infrastructure in the Guadalupe Washington neighborhood into the alleyway. Four (4) solar-powered street lighting infrastructure will be installed. The new solar-powered street lighting will provide adequate lighting throughout the alleyway, which in turn would aid in preventing illegal dumping activities which could result in the introduction of runoff that could contaminate soil and groundwater, and the accumulation of trash build up resulting in unsafe conditions for the neighborhood.

This section is included to give notice that the City of San José's planning, Building, and Code Enforcement Department has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management, to determine the potential affect that its activity in the floodplain and wetland will have on the human environment. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) 06085C0234H, effective May 18, 2009, the project site is within Zone AO, designated as a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

The development and evaluation of an alternative solution to the proposed action was undertaken to examine the feasibility of accomplishing the project goals without impacting the 100-year floodplain. In addition, a no-action alternative was also evaluated. In total, three alternatives were evaluated:

#### **1. No Action**

The no action alternative would see no change to existing conditions. The proposed solar powered lighting would not be built. This alternative would not meet the objective of eliminating unsafe conditions in the neighborhood.

#### **2. Proposed Action (Within 100-year Floodplain)**

The proposed action would expand existing lighting in the Guadalupe neighborhood by installing four additional (4) solar-powered lighting infrastructure in an alleyway. The ground would be excavated up to approximately 6 feet below grade to cast new concrete pole foundations that would

be approximately 2 feet in circular diameter. Concrete pavement directly adjacent to the proposed locations of new street light poles would be replaced. New street light poles will stand at approximately 27 feet in height with a 4-foot mast arm. Solar panels, power centers, and lighting fixtures will be mounted on the new street light poles. To minimize adverse impacts, all proposed light poles will be reinforced and strengthened to the ground. The street light pole will be made of high-grade aluminum or steel that is designed to withstand at a minimum wind speeds of 85mph. Additionally, the pole will be bolted down and anchored to a reinforced concrete foundation that is designed to withstand the static load of the pole and lateral loads exerted onto the pole. With implementation of the mitigation measure no significant adverse effects would occur. Therefore, the proposed project would comply with 44 CFR 60.3-c-10. The. The proposed action meets the objective of eliminating unsafe conditions in the neighborhood.

### **3. Non-Floodplain Action**

The non-flood plain action would involve attaching the solar street lighting system to an adjacent residential home or structure within the alleyway. The streetlight and its associated solar equipment would be drilled and mounted to a home or structure using metal mounting brackets and hardware. This alternative was determined to be infeasible because the City would require permission from private owners to install the lights and maintain the lights. There is no guarantee that private owners would grant the City permission to install the lights or access the lights for maintenance.

The City of San José re-evaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that a practicable alternative does not exist. Environmental files that document compliance of Executive Order 11988, 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. With implementation of the mitigation measures no adverse effects would occur to the environment.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains 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 about floodplains can facilitate and enhance federal efforts to reduce the risks 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, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Comments on this issue should be submitted to the City as outlined in the Public Comments section below.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the project to Charlotte Yuen, City of San José, Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement, T-3, 200 E. Santa Clara Street, San José, CA 95113, or via email at [charlotte.yuen@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:charlotte.yuen@sanjoseca.gov). All comments received by 5:00 p.m. on January 17, 2024 will be considered by the City of San José prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify that they are addressing the proposed activity in a floodplain for the Guadalupe-Washington neighborhood alleyway lighting project.