

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has received a subgrant application for Santa Cruz County, CA. Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 11988 and 44 CFR Part 9.12, final notice is hereby given of FEMA's intent to provide funding for this project under the Public Assistance Grant Program (PA).

An initial disaster-wide Public Notice for DR-4683-CA was published September 11th, 2023. Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. EO 11988 and EO 11990 requires FEMA to consider alternatives and provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

This notice serves as a project-specific final notice for FEMA's funding action located within a Special Flood Hazard Area. FEMA has determined the only practicable alternative is to fund the debris removal and hazard mitigation addition of a gabion basket retaining wall. This action complies with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. There is a potential for the facility to be impacted by future flooding events due to its location within the VE Flood Zone. The proposed work will not take place in wetlands per the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory and will have little potential to impact or affect wetland values.

Applicant: Santa Cruz County

Project Title: PW 00901; PN 718845; Sunny Cove Beach Access

Location of Proposed Work and Floodplain Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panels:

Facility	GPS	FIRM Panels	FIRM Date
Sunny Cove Beach Stairs	36.96079, - 121.98964	06087C0353F	9/29/2017

Proposed Work and Purpose: As a result of the storms, heavy rains and surface runoff caused a mudslide along Geoffroy Drive, which deposited soil and debris into the cove. To bring the beach staircase back to pre-disaster condition, debris will be removed. To improve resiliency, a gabion basket retaining wall will be installed. The purpose of these repairs is to restore use and services.

Project Alternatives:

- (1) *(No Action)* This alternative would result in deterioration of this functionally dependent structure, which could take away direct beach access, likely causing damage to the natural and fragile ecosystem located within the floodplain/wetland. If the damage is not repaired, then adverse economic and social impacts may occur and continued negative impacts may be experienced.
- (2) *(Repair in-kind)* Repairs made in kind may result in similar damages from future flood events.
- (3) *(Relocation)* Floodplain avoidance by relocating the facility is not a practicable alternative as the staircase and supporting gabion basket retaining wall facilitate open space use.

Comments: This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA Public Assistance program. Interested persons may submit comments, questions, or request a map of this specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 9, 1111 Broadway #1200, Oakland, CA 94607, or by emailing FEMA-RIX-EHP-Documents@fema.dhs.gov . Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line "*PW 00901; PN 718845; Sunny Cove Beach Access*" at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.

THIS NOTICE MAY BE REMOVED FROM PUBLIC VIEW ON THE 15th DAY FROM ORIGINAL DATE OF POSTING.

NOTICE WAS POSTED ON 21ST DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024

*****END OF NOTICE*****