The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Funds will be provided in accordance with Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

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. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

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.

Applicant:
Seminole County

Project Title:
HMGP-4283-92-R (Phase II), Seminole County, Mullet Lake Park Road (aka Retreat Road) Drainage Improvements

Location of Proposed Work:
The area affected by this project consists of homes in the following locations:
Retreat Road from its intersection with Mullet Lake Park Road to a point approximately 3,520 feet to the east.

Proposed Work and Purpose:
The scope of work of the project is to improve drainage along Retreat Road from its intersection with Mullet Lake Park Road eastward by re-grading the swales on the south side of Retreat Road, adding storm drain inlets and storm sewer pipe, and routing runoff using the proposed improvements to a new pond which will be constructed on the south side of the roadway at 1801 Retreat Road, Geneva, FL 32732. The roadway currently floods during even relatively minor rainfall events and experiences sustained inundation following major storms, making the roadway hazardous and contributing to flooding of homes and businesses along the corridor. The purpose of the project is to alleviate flooding along the roadway for the 10-year, 24-hour storm event.

Project Alternatives:
The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) relocate residents from the flood risk area and have Retreat Road continue to serve as an “overflow” for the existing ditch that runs parallel to Mullet Lake Park Road and crosses Retreat Road.

These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) The depth and duration of flooding over Retreat Road would continue to make the roadway hazardous or impassible, which will prevent vehicle access (including emergency vehicles) to homes along the roadway. Since Blue Fish Place floods when Retreat Road floods, there is no secondary access to the existing homes on Retreat Road during storm events. Under Alternative 2) along with the substantial cost to purchase 24 existing homes (on 36 parcels) on Retreat Road and 8 homes on Bandit Way (approx. $8.3 million). The acquisition of homes would most likely be met with significant public opposition from the unwilling home owners. Demolition of the existing residential structures has the potential to cause adverse pollutant-related impacts to Mullet Lake which sits downstream to the northeast.

Comment Period:
Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee,
FL 32399-2100. These are due within 15 days of this notice (or the actual date). The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

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