

**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed
Activity in a 100-Year/500-year Floodplain or Wetland**

March 10, 2023

Riviera Beach Utility Special District
600 W. Blue Heron Blvd
Riviera Beach, FL 33404
(561) 845-4185

To: All interested Agencies Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Riviera Beach (Responsible Entity under Part 58) has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and/or 11990, under HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management, to determine the potential effect that its activity in the floodplain will have on the human environment for the following activities:

Project Name: Aerial Force Main Replacement Project, C-17 and M Canals

- **Purpose:** The proposed Riviera Beach C-17 Canal and M-Canal Force Main Crossings Replacement Project addresses two significantly damaged force mains, by replacing the damaged pipelines with new buried pipelines. This project is utilizing Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CBDG-MIT) funds. Burial of the currently exposed pipelines is an investment for Utility resilience due to damage from storms, by removing these pipelines from exposure to the devastating effects of a Hurricane with its damaging winds, or a significant rainstorm event that could result in high stormwater flows which could potentially impact the aerial crossings if left aboveground. The force mains, until they are replaced with buried pipelines, are continuously exposed to damage from any future wind or storm event; and due to their location over two canals, these mains could also suffer from debris impacts, which could result in a catastrophic failure, public health emergencies and environmental disaster for Riviera Beach and its surrounding communities. The replacement and burial of these large-diameter sewer force mains are a critical element to the City's mitigation and resilience plan by removing a potentially disastrous hazard. Note: Replacement and reconstruction shall occur within the existing disturbed footprint as much as possible. The total area affected at each site is less than $\frac{1}{4}$ acre.

The proposed projects are located (1) east of Garden Road between MLK Blvd and W. Blue Heron Blvd (at the canal crossing) in Riviera Beach, FL 33404 and (2) west of Haverhill Road (at the M-Canal Crossing), in Riviera Beach, FL 33407 (at the canal crossing) leading into the East Central Regional WWTF.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains/wetlands 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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain/wetland, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains/wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks

and impacts 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/wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District at the following address on or before March 27, 2023: City of Riviera Beach Utility Special District, 600 West Blue Heron Blvd, Riviera Beach, FL 33404, Attention: Michael Low, Utility Special District Executive Director. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the address identified previously. Comments may also be submitted via email at Utilities@RivieraBeach.org.

The Americans with Disabilities Act

Under Title II of the ADA, the City of Riviera Beach does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in providing or conducting its services, programs, or activities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of county policies to participate in a meeting or other event, should contact the Utility Special District at (561) 845-4185 no later than 2 business days before the event or meeting.