

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 500-year Floodplain

This is to give notice of the Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) proposed activity within a 500-year Floodplain. The LHC intends to carry out actions which may affect or be affected by the 500-year flood plain and seeks to involve the public in the decision-making process.

The LHC is proposing to utilize United State Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for the adaptive reuse of a former 1920's fire station located at 2312-16 Louisiana Avenue, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA 70115 for mixed use. All exterior historic architectural features will be persevered and restored on the facade of the fire station. The site will have a childcare facility on the ground floor and residential occupancy on the second floor. The site will be redeveloped to serve the Central City community with a Type III early childhood education (ECE) center serving up to 65 students on the building's ground floor and ancillary structure. The ECE will include four classrooms, three restrooms, a food prep and storage area, the electrical and plumbing room, and two stairwells that serve the upstairs residential component (one of these stairwells will be for emergency egress only). The ancillary structure behind the fire station will be converted into two classrooms with a shared restroom in the existing tack room. The second floor of the former fire station will be rehabilitated that will house seven permanently affordable apartments. The vacant parcel addressed at 2316 Louisiana Avenue is proposed for outdoor space to serve both the early childhood education facility, residents, and to create storm water management drainage system that will serve both lots. Approximate center coordinates for the site are Latitude 29° 56' 05.55" North (29.934875) and Longitude 90° 05' 42.24" West (90.095067).

In accordance with the Executive Order 11988, the LHC has identified that the proposed project site will be within the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain, which is an expanded area both horizontally and vertically from the established 100-year floodplain based on future flood risk. The LHC will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locate the action within the floodplain, as required by EO 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

In accordance with the Executive Order 11990, the LHC has determined that the project is not likely to impact wetlands, as the activities will be restricted to the existing project site.

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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplains, 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 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, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by LHC at the following address on or before July 31, 2024: Louisiana Housing Corporation, 4000 S Sherwood Forest Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70816, Attn: Derek A. Galose – Environmental Impact Manager or by email at Dgalose@lhc.la.gov

A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at 4000 S Sherwood Forest Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70816.

Date of Publication: July 16, 2024