NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN THE FFRMS FLOODPLAIN HAMPTON PARK

Date of Publication: March 18, 2025

Responsible Entity (RE): Louisiana Housing Corporation ("LHC")

Address: 2415 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808 Contact: Kevin J. Delahoussaye, LHC Executive Director

(225) 763-8700

This notice shall satisfy three separate but related procedural notification requirements for activities to be undertaken by LHC, as well as satisfy three comment periods between LHC and HUD.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS. On or about **April 4, 2025** the LHC will submit a request to HUD for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds under the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-43) and the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-180) for major disasters occurring in 2020 and 2021, detailed in Federal Register Docket No. FR-6303-N-01, FR-6326-N-01, and FR-6368-N-01, for the following project:

<u>2023 Piggyback Resilience Initiative – Mixed-Income (PRIME 3)</u>

New construction one hundred forty-four (144) units of affordable housing within six buildings on undeveloped land located at 9614 Florida Blvd, Walker, Livingston Parish, LA 70785. The total amount of funding requested is \$16,700,000.00 in CDBG-DR funds.

PROJECT ISSUES: 1) Floodplain Management – The project is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) Floodplain. 2) Historic Preservation – The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma requested an inadvertent discovery clause be added to the project contracts.

MITIGATION: 1) The buildings will be elevated to the FFRMS floodplain, design plans will have the least effect on the floodplain, and a stormwater drainage system will preserve the natural direction of water flow. 2) If significant archaeological materials (i.e., stone arrowheads, ceramics, and early building foundations) or should human burials/remains be unearthed, site activities would cease immediately, all agency officials contacted, and any discoveries shall be kept private and confidential.

FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FEDERAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARD DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN: This is to give notice that LHC has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2 percent flood approach.

LHC has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain. Alternative site locations outside of the FFRMS floodplain were considered, however, there were no

suitable sites outside of the FFRMS floodplain that met the requirements for the project. The no action alternative would not provide affordable housing in the disaster-affected area. Mitigation measures include designing the project to have the least effect on the floodplain, having drainage plans approved locally, using a stormwater drainage system that preserve the natural direction of the flow of water, and building all structures to the FFRMS floodplain.

LHC has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the Public Comments section of this notice for receipt of comments.

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 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.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: LHC has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at LHC, 2415 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 763-8700 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination, or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to this office by mail to the LHC Environmental Department or by email to Amber Lavergne at alavergne@lhc.la.gov. All comments received by **April 2**, **2025** will be considered by this office prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenters should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS: LHC certifies to HUD that Kevin J. Delahoussaye, in his capacity as LHC's Executive Director, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows LHC to use HUD Program Funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS. HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and LHC's certification received for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of LHC approved by HUD; (b) LHC has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting

pursuant to 40 CFR part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR part 58, sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to:

Tennille Parker

Director Disaster Recovery & Special Issues, Office of Community Planning and Development Department of Housing and Urban Development 451 Seventh Street SW, Room 7-272 Washington DC 20410

Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Kevin J. Delahoussaye, LHC Executive Director Louisiana Housing Corporation