

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain or Wetland

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Columbus, Georgia, Responsible Entity under 24 CFR Part 58, has determined that the following proposed action under the Moving to Work Block Grant (Grant Number GA04P00450124) is located in an area containing streams, and the City of Columbus, Georgia, will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the area containing streams and the potential impacts on the streams from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690 and/or Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project location is 7600 Moon Road in Columbus, Muscogee County. An on-site wetland/stream delineation was performed at the project location by Terracon Consultants in April/May 2024. Approximately 423.58 linear feet (0.042 acres) of ephemeral stream will be permanently impacted by the proposed project.

The City of Columbus, Georgia 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/wetland: The selection of an alternative project location was considered and subsequently rejected. The applicant, the Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia (HACG), previously acquired 7600 Moon Road with the intention of developing the property for residential use in 2005. Growth within this area of Columbus has created a need for safe and affordable housing, particularly for older, vulnerable populations. The identification and purchase of an alternative property for the proposed project would require additional funds outside of the budgetary scope of the project. Additionally, a no-action alternative was considered and rejected for the proposed project. Under this alternative, the goal of the project to expand access to much-needed safe and affordable housing for elderly Columbus residents would remain unmet. To minimize adverse impacts, the proposed project will proceed at 7600 Moon Road with the installation of culverts to aid in site drainage as well as the installation of an on-site detention pond to aid in the management of stormwater. The proposed project is in compliance with state and local floodplain procedures.

The City of Columbus, Georgia has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain/wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain/wetland development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, and/or Executive Order 11990, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the area of the impacted floodplain/wetland 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/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 Columbus, Georgia at the following address on or before July 8, 2026 **[a minimum 7 calendar day comment period will begin the day after the publication and end on the 8th day after the publication]**: Robert Scott, Director of Community Reinvestment Department, 420 E 10th Street, Columbus, GA and 706-225-3918, Attention: Mayor Skip Henderson, Mayor. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 AM through 5:00 PM at the address stated above. Comments may also be submitted via email at scott.robert@columbusga.gov.

Date: **June 30, 2026**