



## St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Housing & Community Development

### **PUBLIC NOTICE Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland**

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that St. Johns County has determined that the following proposed action under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Alpha Omega Miracle Home (AOMH) GROW program will affect a palustrine wetland. St. Johns County has determined that there is no practicable alternative to locating the action in the identified wetland and the impacts on the wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands, are unavoidable.

The project consists of construction of twenty-nine (29) housing units to be used for AOMH's G.R.O.W. program and affordable housing units for homeless and/or at risk of being homeless; low to moderate income (LMI) residents of St. Johns County; single and single expectant mothers, their children, and senior women 60+ years of age. Included will be addition and update to sewer facilities to accommodate the additional housing. The project also includes the construction of a 2-story Community Care Center. The 1st floor will serve as a reception area, a Blessing Closet that provides access to diapers, wipes, formula, baby food, and necessary baby items for residents and the local community, as well as an area for the facilitation of Case Management, Mental Health Counseling, and Life Skills Classes. This will also be where the community can come for vouchers for clothing and household items from the AOMH Thrift Store, located off-campus. AOMH's goal is for the Center to serve as temporary emergency/natural disaster shelter, so that the residents can remain on property during an emergency and alleviating the additional burden of homeless on other emergency/natural disaster shelters.

There are three primary purposes for this notice:

1) People who may be affected by activities in 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 wetland, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts.

2) An adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas.

3) As a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by St Johns County at the following address on or before September 18, 2021: St. Johns County, Housing & Community Development Division, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL 32084 and (904) 827-6897, Attention: Kym D. Johnson, Housing Program Specialist CDBG. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the above address. Comments may also be submitted via email at [kdjohnson@sjcfl.us](mailto:kdjohnson@sjcfl.us).

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in the CDBG program or in public meetings should contact the ADA Coordinator at 904-209-0650. Deaf and/or hard-of hearing individuals may use Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD): 904-209-0650, or the Florida Relay Service: 800-955-8770. CDBG information is provided in English; the Board of County Commissioners meeting will also be conducted in English. If you require a translator, please call 904-209-0650. To request services, please notify the County at least five business days prior to need for services.

