



PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release – October 9, 2017

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Funds will be provided in accordance with Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Applicant:

Indian River County Board of County Commissioners

Project Title:

HMGP-4283-56 – Indian River County, Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area, Wildfire

Location of Proposed Work:

The area affected by this project consists of homes in the following locations:

- Forest Park Subdivision
- Oslo Shopping Center

Proposed Work and Purpose:

Indian River County has prepared a grant application for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program issued by FEMA and administered by the State of Florida in response to Hurricane Matthew (2016). This project would provide fire protection to approximately 72 homes in the Forest Park Subdivision adjacent to the Oslo Riverfront Conservation Area located east of US Highway 1 and North of Oslo Road. The project area is 508 acres which has areas that may be subject to uncontrolled wildfire via lightning strikes or man-induced events. Creation of an average 125' wide firebreak will provide a defensible space to control the spread of wildfire, and will also provide access for firetrucks and other equipment that may be required to defend homes and the spread of wildfire. The firebreak will be created utilizing specialized equipment that will mow vegetation in place to the ground level. No plowing or ground disturbance is anticipated. Removing vegetation provides vehicular access and the ability to maintain defensible space, providing long-term protection to the residents adjacent to the preserve. The project is anticipated to take 65 days. A start date has not been determined at this time.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) installing a smaller, 10' wide firebreak. These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because Alternative 1) does not provide any protection to homes or access during a wildfire; and Alternative 2) would not provide a substantial fire break to protect homes in the event of a wildfire and still poses access issues for emergency response.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 30 days of this notice (November 8, 2017). The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

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