

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has received a subgrant application for Northwest Kern Resource Conservation District, Kern County CA. Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 11988 and 44 CFR Part 9.12, final notice is hereby given of FEMA's intent to provide funding for this project under the Public Assistance Grant Program (PA).

An initial disaster-wide Public Notice for DR-4699-CA was published November 1, 2023. 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.

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. EO 11988 and EO 11990 requires FEMA to consider alternatives and provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

This notice serves as a project-specific final notice for FEMA's funding action located within a Special Flood Hazard Area. FEMA has determined the only practicable alternative is to fund exterior repairs to the damaged Poso Creek Canal to restore it and the impacted area back to pre-disaster design, function, and capacity including mitigation (installation of K-rail support) within the existing footprint per applicable codes and standards. This action complies with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. There is a potential for the facility to be impacted by future flooding events due to its location within the Flood Zone A. The proposed work will take place in wetlands per the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory and will have little potential to impact or affect wetland values.

Applicant: Northwest Kern Resource Conservation District

Project Title: PW 00033; GM 723577 Canal Embankment Erosion

Location of Proposed Work and Floodplain Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panels:

Facility	GPS	FIRM Panels	FIRM Date
Bell Rd	35.680992, -119.490923 to 35.680985, -119.489700	06029C0700E	9/26/2008
Wildwood Rd	35.680919, -119.437360 to 35.681088, -119.428135	06029C0700E	9/26/2008
Scofield Rd	35.68114, -119.402795 to 35.681144, -119.400668	06029C0700E	9/26/2008
Leonard Ave	35.68118, -119.39291 to 35.68120, -119.38858	06029C0700E	9/26/2008
Blankenship Ave	35.68139, -119.35738 to 35.66597, -119.33746	06029C0725E	9/26/2008

Proposed Work and Purpose: Northwest Kern Resource Conservation District incurred damage to the berms of the Poso Creek Channel when severe storm driven flooding overtopped the berms of the irrigation canal, causing multiple segments of the channel to erode. Applicant utilized contracts with nearby Landowners and Semitropic Water Storage District engaging labor, equipment, materials to conduct emergency repairs to the Poso Creek Irrigation Canal embankments to restore this facility back to pre-disaster function, use, and capacity.

Work was completed within the right of way and within the existing footprint. The fill materials used for the repairs were native materials of adjacent landowner properties, which have been previously and continuously disturbed. Staging of equipment or materials was not required. Equipment was only used within the Poso Creek area, and any equipment used daily was left on drivable roads adjacent to Poso Creek. K-rails were installed in locations where potential and existing breaches formed to prevent any further damages to the Poso Creek and nearby properties as part of the Method of Repair.

Project Alternatives:

- (1) *(No Action)* This alternative would result in a continued disruption of services afforded by the canal with concomitant risk of additional damages to personal and public property in future flood events. Further, it would increase a risk of excluding water supply to facilities and farms supported by the canal. If the damage is not repaired and service is not restored, then adverse economic and social impacts may occur and continued negative impacts may be experienced.
- (2) *(Repair in-kind)* Repairs made in kind may result in similar damages from future flood events.
- (3) *(Relocation)* Floodplain avoidance by relocating the facility is not a practicable alternative as relocation of the facility outside the floodplain is neither feasible nor practicable; additionally, relocating the canal could adversely impact the communities serviced by these routes.

Comments: This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA Public Assistance program. Interested persons may submit comments, questions, or request a map of this specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 9, 1111 Broadway #1200, Oakland, CA 94607, or by emailing FEMA-RIX-EHP-Documents@fema.dhs.gov . Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line “PW 00033; GM 723577; Northwest Kern Resource Conservation District Poso Creek Channel Repair” at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.

THIS NOTICE MAY BE REMOVED FROM PUBLIC VIEW ON THE 15th DAY FROM ORIGINAL DATE OF POSTING.

NOTICE WAS POSTED ON 30th DAY OF October 2024

*****END OF NOTICE*****