

PUBLIC NOTICE

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The County of Berkeley has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding through the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) as a sub-grantee.

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 the proposed project and to provide public notice of any 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: Berkeley County

Project Title: Cane Bay High School Alternate Power Source

Location of Proposed Work: The area affected by this project consists of Berkeley County residents, the Cane Bay school district, and Cane Bay High School which is located within the community's wetland area:

- Cane Bay High School – 1624 State Road, Summerville, SC 29486

Proposed work and purpose: Berkeley County intends to install hurricane shutters and a permanent back-up power system (diesel) with fuel supplies capable of providing continuous power for an extended period of time for residents evacuating from their homes in an emergency situation. The installation will provide citizens with special needs the same right to services as other residents. Cane Bay High School will also provide a safe haven for residents and individuals with pets. The goal is to protect the lives of citizens from natural and man-made hazards. All new equipment will be installed at an elevation at least 2.0' above the Base Flood Elevation. Berkeley County will ensure that all applicable Codes and Regulations are adhered to during construction, providing documentation as required to SCEMD and FEMA.

Project Alternatives: The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are:

1. No action
2. Build an underground cellar

The alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because:

Alternative 1 - The facility would remain vulnerable to extended loss of power and the citizens would be exposed to the elements with no resources for evacuation or sheltering capabilities thus further straining limited resources and causing imminent danger to life.

Alternative 2 - The ability to build an underground cellar is greatly limited by the wetlands and high water table surrounding the school and community. An underground cellar is not conducive to residents with special medical needs. Ninety-two underground cellars would need to be constructed and maintained during and after an event in order for the County to serve the same number of residents. This alternative is not feasible and cost prohibitive.

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 South Carolina Emergency Management Division, 2779 Fish Hatchery Rd, West Columbia, SC 29172 by October 23, 2017. All comments are due within 15 days of this notice. 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:

South Carolina Emergency Management Division

mitigation@emd.sc.gov

To view maps and materials related to this project, visit https://www.berkeleycountysc.gov/drupal/?q=documents&field_department_value=Grant+Administration&sort_by=title&sort_order=ASC or visit the front desk at Berkeley County Administration Building, 1003 Highway 52 in Moncks Corner, 29461 until 4:00 p.m. on October 23, 2017.