

# **FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has received a subgrant application for Buena Vista Water Storage 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 insert 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 the permanent installation of concrete slurry over the sand plug at the Kern River weir for the Buena Vista Water Storage District to allow the temporary installation of additional siphons. 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 Floodway (Zone AE). 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: Buena Vista Water Storage District**

**Project Title: PW00135; GM 726243; Emergency Protective Measures Siphons**

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

<b>Facility</b>	<b>GPS</b>	<b>FIRM Panels</b>	<b>FIRM Date</b>
Coffee Road Weir on Kern River	35.36389, - 119.09119	06029C2277F	10/21/2021

**Proposed Work and Purpose:** The applicant utilized materials, rental equipment, and contracts in taking emergency protective measures to preserve lives and property in the Buena Vista Water Storage District. The applicant poured concrete slurry on top of an existing sand plug adjacent to the existing Coffee Road weir at the bottleneck point in the Kern River

(35.36389, -119.09119). The slurry was necessary to temporarily install 35- IN diameter and 36- IN diameter, ductile iron pipe siphons to manage the overflow of water.

**Project Alternatives:**

- (1) *(No Action)* This alternative would result in risk of water overflow at the project point in the Kern River. If the service was 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 the weir is functionally dependent at the current location to manage the flow of water in the Kern River.

**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](mailto:FEMA-RIX-EHP-Documents@fema.dhs.gov) . Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line “PW00135; GM 726243; Emergency Protective Measures Siphons” at the above address within 30 days of the date of this notice.

**THIS NOTICE MAY BE REMOVED FROM PUBLIC VIEW ON THE 30<sup>th</sup> DAY FROM ORIGINAL DATE OF POSTING.**

NOTICE WAS POSTED ON 3rd DAY OF April 2024

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