

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby provides final notice of its decision to provide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for an action located in a special flood hazard area (100-year floodplain) and bordering vegetative wetlands. Funding will be provided through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to the City of Leominster to stabilize a portion of the western bank of the North Nashua River. The project area is located north of the Leominster Connector in Leominster, Massachusetts (extending from 42.52150, -71.73442 to 42.52207, 71.73567). A map of the location and other details are available upon request by email to Karen.ValeVasilev@fema.dhs.gov or by phone at (202) 699-0650.

The project is to stabilize a 380 linear foot section of the North Nashua Riverbank to protect the Fall Brook Interceptor Sewer line, which runs parallel to the proposed project location. The sewer line conveys sewage from approximately 25% of Leominster's population to the nearby Leominster Wastewater Treatment Facility. Damage to the sewer line could pose a threat to public health, contaminate the North Nashua River with sewage, and threaten the Central Nashua River Valley Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

The project will create a stabilized bank slope that is approximately 30 feet wide and 12 feet high from the toe of the bank slope. The project involves dredging approximately 7,000 square yards of eroded organic debris and sediment, shoreline replacement of dredged materials, and placement of approximately 11,400 square feet of stabilized bank with replicated wetlands.

Alternatives analyzed were to relocate the sewer line, to construct a retaining wall, and the no action alternative. FEMA has concluded that these options are not practicable. The alternative to stabilize the bank was selected because it provided the highest level of protection to both the sewer line and the environment. Minimization of impacts will be achieved through compliance with permit conditions. Pre-construction permitting and approval required by federal, state, and local agencies, including compliance with state and local floodplain and wetlands protection standards are conditions of the federal award of financial assistance.

Comments about this project and floodplain and wetlands impacts may be submitted in writing within 15 days of the date of this publication to the following:

Eric Kuns, Senior Environmental Protection Specialist
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Boston, MA
eric.kuns@fema.dhs.gov; (202) 805-9089

If FEMA receives substantive comments, it will evaluate and address the comments as part of the environmental review documentation for this project.