

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF NAHANT SHORT BEACH DUNE RESTORATION ESSEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS HMGP DR-4496-MA

Pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management) and 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementing regulations in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides initial notice of its intent to provide funding through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to the Town of Nahant (Subapplicant) in Essex County, Massachusetts, to mitigate impacts from coastal storms by stabilizing and restoring a section of shoreline dune adjacent to Nahant Road named Short Beach to 18 feet NAVD88 using native soils (proposed action).

A Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) Compliance Memo, tiered off of the FEMA Coastal Flood and Erosion Mitigation Projects in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts PEA, was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and FEMA's Implementing Instruction. The PEA will evaluate the proposed action and alternatives for potential effects to historic, cultural and archeological resources, low-income and minority populations, floodplains, wetlands, and threatened and endangered species.

The purpose of the proposed action is to reduce flooding from coastal storm hazards. The proposed action consists of the following: 1) raise approximately 2,860 feet of dunes along 1,400 feet of shoreline from 14 or 15 NAVD88 to 18 feet NAVD88 using native soils; 2) raise and restore three access points in order to preserve dune height and volume; 3) move memorial benches for the duration of construction and replace once construction is completed; 4) leave trees in place and plant disturbed soils with native forbs and grasses.

The project area is located within a floodplain, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory shows estuarine and marine wetland within the project area. A map of the project area and its location within the floodplain and wetlands is available upon request.

Two alternatives to the proposed action were considered: Alternative 1: No Action alternative; and Alternative 2: the hard armor stone revetment alternative. The proposed alternative is the only alternative that fulfills the purpose and need of the project while meeting state regulatory requirements. The proposed action would have no significant adverse impact on the floodplain and would benefit the area by reducing the risk of flooding and flood damage. The Town of Nahant has declared that the proposed action conforms to local floodplain standards and would be responsible for the management, construction, and maintenance of the proposed action.

Map requests and comments about this project and potential floodplain and wetland impacts are encouraged to be submitted within 15 days of the date of this publication to:

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