



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Office of Recovery and Resiliency

Roy Cooper, Governor
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

Laura H. Hogshead, Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (NOI-RROF)

TOWN OF FAIRMONT WWTP IMPROVEMENTS 133 WOODROW ROAD, ORRUM, ROBESON COUNTY, NC 28369

APRIL 22, 2024

Name of Responsible Entity and Recipient: North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR), P.O. Box 110465, Durham, NC 27709. Contact: Chief Recovery Officer Matthew Arlyn (984) 833-5350.

On or after May 3, 2024, the NCORR Certifying Officer will submit a request and certification to HUD for the release of United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) program funds appropriated under Public Laws 115-123 and 116-20, as amended, and as authorized by related laws and policies to undertake a project known as the Town of Fairmont Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Improvements Project under the North Carolina CDBG-MIT Infrastructure Recovery Program.

Project Description: NCORR is responsible for the direct administration of the HUD CDBG-MIT program in North Carolina. NCORR proposes to provide CDBG-MIT funding from the Infrastructure Recovery Program of \$575,000.00 for the Town of Fairmont WWTP Improvements Project (“Proposed Project”) located at 133 Woodrow Road, Orrum, Robeson County, NC 28369. The Proposed Project is anticipated to have a total cost of \$575,000.00. The Proposed Project involves rehabilitation, repairs and improvements to the effluent pump station, mechanical bar screen, blower control panels, elevated access walkway, and hydraulic power pack unit. The only ground disturbance will occur at the effluent pump station but is limited to the elevation of the existing wet well and electrical control panel which would add approximately 400 cubic yards of fill at the wet well and make a smooth transition back to existing grade. The State of North Carolina was adversely impacted by the landfall of Hurricanes Matthew (October 8, 2016) and Hurricane Florence (September 14, 2018). During the Hurricane Matthew storm event, the Town of Fairmont was negatively impacted by severe rains and subsequent flooding of critical infrastructure, which hindered the operation of the Fairmont WWTP. The objective is to make the plant more durable

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and more capable of handling excess waste water during future storm events. The elevation of the effluent pump station will ensure that it can continue to pump during future storm events.

The Proposed Project activities are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file and available for public review.

Public Review: Public viewing of the ERR is available online at <https://www.rebuild.nc.gov/about/plans-policies-reports/environmental-reviews>. Documents may be viewed in person by appointment only at: NCORR, 200 Park Offices Drive, Durham, NC 27709; call (984) 833-5350 to make an appointment.

Further information or a copy of the ERR may be requested by writing to the above address, emailing publiccomments@rebuild.nc.gov or calling (984) 833-5350. This notice is being sent to individuals and groups known to be interested in these activities, local news media, appropriate local, state and federal agencies, the regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency having jurisdiction, and the HUD Field Office, and is being posted for a minimum comment period of ten days in the affected community following the posting date (24 CFR 58.45[b]).

Public Comments on NOI-RROF: Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the Proposed Project's ERR. The public is hereby advised to specify in their comments which "notice" their comments address. Comments should be submitted via email, in the proper format, on or before May 2, 2024, at publiccomments@rebuild.nc.gov. Written comments may also be submitted by mail, in the proper format, to be received on or before May 2, 2024, and addressed to: NCORR – Public Comments, P.O. Box 110465, Durham, NC 27709. All comments must be received on or before May 2, 2024 or they will not be considered. If modifications result from public comment, these will be made prior to proceeding with the submission of a request for release of funds.

Environmental Certification: NCORR certifies to HUD that Matthew Arlyn, in his capacity as Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the U.S. federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows NCORR to use CDBG-MIT program funds.

Objection to Release of Funds: HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and NCORR's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later). Potential objectors should contact HUD or the NCORR Certifying Officer to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

The only permissible grounds for objections claiming a responsible entity's non-compliance with 24 CFR Part 58 are: (a) certification was not executed by NCORR's Certifying Officer; (b) the responsible entity has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR

Part 58 before HUD's release of funds and approval of environmental certification; or (d) another federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR 58.76) and shall be addressed to Tennille Smith Parker, Director, Office of Disaster Recovery, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410, Phone: (202) 402-4649, or emailed to disaster_recovery@hud.gov.

Matthew Arlyn
Certifying Officer
April 22, 2024