

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has received a subgrant application for City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz 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 DR-4683-CA was published September 11, 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 repairs of the lifeguard tower (tower enclosure and metal support) and a chain link fence skirting, wood posts, handrails and signage. Mitigation such as replacing wood posts with steel posts and placing the posts 3 feet deeper than the original depth with cement reinforcement have been included for repairs. 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 VE Flood Zone. The proposed work will not 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: City of Santa Cruz

Project Title: PW 1294; GM 713353; Parks & Rec Dept: City beach lifeguard tower ladders & beach welcome signs

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

Facility	GPS	FIRM Panels	FIRM Date
Lifeguard Tower	36.962264, - 122.023964	06087C0334F	9/29/2017
Welcome Sign	36.962267, - 122.023716	06087C0334F	9/29/2017

Handrails	36.962354, - 122.023825	06087C0334F	9/29/2017
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Proposed Work and Purpose: Ocean swell washed onto Cowell Beach and damaged a lifeguard tower and a chain link fence skirting, signs, and wooden posts. Applicant will remove and replace four (4) beach welcome signs (5 ft l x 4 ft w), four (4) treated wood posts (8ft l x 4in w x 4in h), one (1) lifeguard tower enclosure (12ft l x 12ft w x 8ft h), one (1) lifeguard tower metal support (15ft l x 15ft w x 6ft h), one (1) chain link fence (60ft l x 6ft h) and two (2) metal pipe handrails (38ft l x 2in diameter). All work will be done to restore the facility back to its pre-disaster function and capacity. The Applicant will replace the wood posts with 11ft l x 3in diameter steel posts and set them in concrete to protect against future damages. They will be placed back into the existing holes but 3 feet deeper than they were originally placed.

Project Alternatives:

- (1) *(No Action)* This alternative would result in a continued disruption of services and risk of additional damages. If the damage is not repaired, then adverse economic and social impacts may occur and continued negative impacts may be experienced.
- (2) *(Repair in-kind and Repair with Minimization)* Repairs made in kind to wood posts may result in similar damages from future flood events. Minimization measures to lifeguard tower and components and handrails were not practicable as mitigation efforts would be more costly.
- (3) *(Relocation)* Floodplain avoidance by relocating the facility is not a practicable alternative as the lifeguard tower and components, wood posts, handrails, and signage are located on a beach used for recreational purposes and safety to prevent loss of life.

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 . Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line "PW 1294; GM 713353; Parks & Rec Dept: City beach lifeguard tower ladders & beach welcome signs " at the above address within 30 days of the date of this notice.

THIS NOTICE MAY BE REMOVED FROM PUBLIC VIEW ON THE 30th DAY FROM ORIGINAL DATE OF POSTING.

NOTICE WAS POSTED ON THE 12TH DAY OF JULY 2024

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