

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
2/28/2020**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Funds will be provided in accordance with Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

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. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

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.

Applicant:

Florida Keys Electric Cooperative Assoc. Inc

Project Title:

HMGP 4337-302- Sea Oats Beach Transmission Pole Relocation Project

Location of Proposed Work:

The area affected by this project consists of the following locations:
Upper Matecumbe Key- Mile Marker 75.4 to 73.5

Proposed Work and Purpose:

FKEC's transmission infrastructure located on Lower Matecumbe Key, specifically the "Sea Oats Beach" area, is highly vulnerable to wave action, erosion and avulsion associated with tropical systems and high on-shore winds and waves. FKEC will be installing 35 new transmission poles along the "Bayside" of Overseas Hwy. The new poles will be fitted with new electrical conductor and equipment. The old poles along the "Ocean side" of Overseas Hwy will be removed.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) *Construct some form of hard stabilization solution surrounding, or seaward of the poles to protect against erosion and prevent their failure.* These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) *it is inevitable that one or more of the 35 transmission poles will fail due to either imperceptible erosion or an avulsive event. When, not if, this occurs, electrical transmission for 48,000 connections will be disrupted, likely for many days and possibly weeks, depending on the surrounding conditions and circumstances.* and Alternative 2) *The FDOT and village of Islamorada have interests in the current location of the transmission poles. There would be additional environmental issues encountered by hardening the shoreline at this location.*

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 15 days of this notice March 14, 2020. The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

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