

INITIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to fund Yakima County for the Shaw and Wide Hollow Creeks Flood Control Project (Project). Funding would be provided by the Pre-Disaster Mitigation–Competitive (PDM-C) grant program as authorized by §203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act, 42 U.S. Code.

FEMA gives notice of the intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Shaw and Wide Hollow Creeks Flood Control Project (Project). This public notice is issued in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplain Management; EO 11990, Wetlands Protection; and EO 12898, Environmental Justice.

Yakima County has applied for PDM-C grant funding from FEMA to help fund the Project; with matching funds provided by the Yakima County Flood Control Zone and the City of Yakima. The purpose of the project is to reduce flood losses for existing residences and remove approximately 550 acres and 1,000 existing and future residential lots from the floodplain and floodway. The project is needed in order to provide for the safety of the community and to alleviate losses due to flooding in the project area. The proposed action includes the relocation of Shaw Creek to existing undeveloped lands. This would be done by the construction of a new channel approximately 3,500 feet in length. The action would include the planting of natural vegetation along the new creek, with the objective of improving water quality and fish habitat.

In addition, a new bypass (overflow) channel would be constructed south of Wide Hollow Creek (west of South 88th Street). Other improvements of the proposed action along Wide Hollow Creek include an increase in channel capacity through channel excavation, replacement of the South 80th Avenue Bridge, installation of a box culvert on South 88th Avenue, replacement of the bridge on Wide Hollow Road, acquisition of properties, and purchase of easements. The project area is located in or affects the floodplain of Shaw and Wide Hollow Creeks, Lower Yakima Watershed. Wetlands may be present along Wide Hollow Creek and would be affected by the proposed bypass. Comments concerning the proposed action, alternatives, and preliminary identification of environmental issues; will be accepted from the affected public; local, state and federal agencies; Tribes; and other interested parties in order to scope the EA and inform decision-making. Comments should be made in writing, sent to the FEMA contact listed below. Comments must be received by July 8, 2014 to be considered.

Additional information about the project, including a project area map, conceptual design, and scoping information, can be obtained from the Yakima County Project Website (<http://www.yakimacounty.us/surfacewater/SCFMP/index.php>), at the Yakima County Flood Control District Office (128 N. 2nd Street, 4th Floor Courthouse, Yakima, WA), and by contacting the applicant contact below. Once complete, the draft EA will be made available for public comment.

Responsible Official:	Applicant Contact:
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