



## Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland

### Executive Order 11990: Protection of Wetlands

This is to give notice that the City of Lancaster under Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by *Executive Order 11990* in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C *Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection*. The proposed activity is funded in part by a grant from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, CDBG grant #4-CI-20-011. Costs are estimated at \$750,000 in federal CDBG funds and \$500,000 in local non-federal funds.

The proposed project concerns upgrades to the sewer system in the Williams Estate Neighborhood in the City of Lancaster in Lancaster County, SC. A portion of the project area is located outside of the City limits. The project area includes portions of Woodlawn Avenue, Old Woodlawn Avenue, Elmwood Avenue, Yancey Street, Williams Estate Drive, and Brooklyn Avenue. Activities include the rehabilitation or replacement of at least 10,600 linear feet of sewer main, at least 11 existing manholes, and other appurtenances using the dig and replace method. It is anticipated that all work will occur in existing public rights of way or sewer easements, on previously-disturbed land with minimal new ground disturbance. No acquisition is anticipated. The project may disturb up to .25 acres of non-tidal marsh wetlands including two wetland areas totaling at least 4500 SF and five stream crossings totaling at least 850 SF. Non-tidal marsh wetlands provide plant and wildlife habitat, mitigate flood damage, and filter excess nutrients from surface runoff. These natural and beneficial values could potentially be adversely affected by the project.

The City of Lancaster considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: (1) Locate the project outside the wetland by using the Cured In Place (CIPP) method. This was rejected because the extremely poor condition of the Williams Estate Sewer does not allow for CIPP lining to be successfully implemented. (2) Utilize the no-action alternative. This was rejected as it would allow the already severely deteriorated pipes to continue deteriorating and would not propose a solution to the problem. (3) Locate the project in the wetland via the pipe bursting or spot repair methods. Pipe bursting was rejected as it cannot correct sags in the sewers, poor grade, or voids around the sewers. Spot repairs was rejected as it would not be a long-term solution to the problem. (4) Locate the project in the wetlands and streams by replacing the existing sewer system via the dig and replace method. This alternative was selected as it would achieve a comprehensive solution that addresses the problems with the existing sewer system and meet the needs of residents with minimal environmental impacts.

The City of Lancaster has reevaluated the alternatives to disturbing the wetlands and streams and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with Executive Order 11990: Protection of Wetlands are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location indicated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of written comments. The project was designed to minimize adverse impacts to the wetlands and to preserve its natural and beneficial values. It is anticipated that this activity will have no significant impact on the environment for the following reasons:

- The wetlands and streams are located within an existing maintained right of way or sewer easement
- The project entails temporary impacts to wetlands and streams. No permanent impacts are anticipated.

- The area will be returned to its original state at the conclusion of the project.
- This area was previously disturbed by the initial installation of the existing sewer line.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Lancaster at the following address on or before February 14, 2021: City of Lancaster, P. O. Box 1149, 216 South Catawba Street, Lancaster, SC 29721 and 803-283-2489, Attention: Tracy Rabon, City Clerk. A full description of the project may be reviewed at the same address during the hours of 9 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Friday. Comments may also be submitted via email at [cschwartz@catawbacog.org](mailto:cschwartz@catawbacog.org).

Date: January 27, 2021