

## FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

### **Honolulu Fire Department – Fire Station Door Hardening Project LPDM-09-PJ-HI-2023-001**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide federal financial assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to the Honolulu Fire Department, (Sub-applicant) in Honolulu County, Hawaii, to replace the apparatus (fire engine garage doors) on eleven of its stations (proposed action) to harden them against storm damage. Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides interested parties with a notice of its final decision and an explanation of the alternatives that were considered.

The current fiberglass apparatus doors were installed between 1969 and 1994 and are subject to damage from flying debris in a storm. Denting or breakage can delay the door opening, preventing the fire engine and staff from responding to calls quickly. The new aluminum assemblies will be designed to adhere to wind load testing requirements specific to each building's location while keeping with relevant building codes. They will have improved resistance to breaking, vandalism, and wear. The doors would be designed to tolerate Risk Category IV wind speeds as identified by the American Society of Civil Engineers and the 2018 edition of the IBC. Slight building modifications may be needed to strengthen the opening around the new doors.

The project area consists of eleven fire stations depicted on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRMs) as follows: Waiiau Fire Station, Pearl City, map number 15003C0243H, effective date 11/5/2014; Mokulele Fire Station in Honolulu, map number 15003C0334G, effective date 1/19/2011; Hawaii Kai Station in Honolulu, map number 15003C0391G, effective 1/19/2011; Kailua Station in Kailua, map number 15003C0290H, effective date 11/05/2014; Manoa Station in Honolulu, map number 15003C0243H, effective date 11/5/2014; Pawaa Station in Honolulu, map number 15003C0362G, effective date 1/19/2011; Mililani Station in Mililani, map number 15003C0228F, effective date 9/30/2004; Waipahu Station in Waipahu, map number 15003C0238G, effective date 1/19/2011; Aiea Station in Aiea, map number 15003C0243H, effective date 11/5/2014; Moanalua Station in Honolulu, map number 15003C0332H, effective 11/5/2014, and Sunset Beach Station in Haleiwa, map number 15003C0020F, effective date 9/30/2004.

Of the eleven stations, five are in FIRM map zones requiring a more stringent review of the alternatives to performing this work in a potential flood zone: Sunset Beach Fire Station shows the proposed action lies within Zone VE, a Coastal Area with a 1% or greater chance of flooding and an additional hazard associated with storm waves. Waipahu, Hawaii Kai, Mililani, and Mokulele are in Zone D, a zone of indeterminate flood hazard which has also been evaluated with the more stringent review of alternatives and effects. All other stations lie in Zone X, an area of minimal flood hazard. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory Map show none of the project locations is located within wetlands.

Floodplain and wetland maps for each location are available for public inspection. Parties interested in receiving a copy of either map should contact the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer using contact information provided in this notice.

One alternative to the proposed action was considered, replacing the fire stations with new construction. This alternative is not recommended because of the length of time needed for the planning, permitting, and building of such an undertaking in addition to the prohibitive cost of a new fire station given current

market conditions. Therefore, the alternative is not advisable. FEMA has determined that the proposed project is the only practicable alternative available; therefore, the proposed action must be taken at this location for the fire stations to serve their designed purpose.

The proposed action would have no impact on the floodplain and would benefit the area by minimizing the impact other disasters have on human health, safety, or welfare, and results in an increase to the useful life of the facilities. The Honolulu Fire Department has declared that the proposed action conforms to local floodplain standards and would be responsible for the management, construction, and maintenance of the proposed action.

Additional information about FEMA's proposed action may be requested by writing the FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer at FEMA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, California 94607, or [fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov). All requests should be received no later than 15 days after publication of this notice. No action will be taken before this date.