



Shelby County Government

Office of Resilience

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Response to comments received on combined notice for South Cypress Creek (FONSI) Finding of No Significant Impact and (RROF) Request for Release of Funds:

Environment:

- Is the South Cypress Creek Project violating the Environmental Act of 1969 by removing the berms and levy that protect the health, safety, and environment?
(a) Presently there are not any levees or berms along South Cypress Creek used to protect homes and residents in the West Junction neighborhood; (b) the proposed project does not remove berms and/or a levee; (c) the proposed project includes the installation of a new protective berm along South Cypress Creek intended to protect homes and residents in the West Junction neighborhood.
- Will an Environmental Impact Statement be done?
An Environmental Impact Statement is not required due to the “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI) determination based on the Environmental Assessment.

Housing:

- Was Title VI of the Fair Housing Act considered with regards to the elderly in the study area?
No persons or households will be forcibly removed because of the County’s proposed project. Any buyout conducted will be voluntary and is intended to assist the residents to move out of the flood prone areas.
- If you do not buyout, you will not get a new home.
The National Disaster Resilience grant awarded to Shelby County is not a home ownership, home repair, or home replacement program. This federal grant program is intended for awarded

jurisdictions to build back areas affected by natural disasters more resiliently. Funds awarded for the South Cypress Creek are focused on restoring and repairing the South Cypress Creek watershed to reduce future flood impacts in accordance with the grant.

- Is the county/city building new expensive/luxurious homes in the study area?
No. Building new homes for prospective buyers is not within the scope of the grant.

Communication:

- Not informing community of the environmental review results.
There were two public notice advertisements published as part of the HUD 8 step notification of work in a floodplain. Further, the Environmental Assessment was made available for public review, and its availability for public review during the public comment period was widely advertised.
- Was there an incorrect/misprint of address of Roads & Bridges at 6449 Haley Road in the public notice?
The address has been verified and was advertised correctly.
- Were there improper notices sent out to residents for community meeting?
A small percentage of courtesy postcards inadvertently had the wrong date for the public meeting held on December 5th, 2017. However, the newspaper/publication advertisement was correct. Furthermore, the meeting was well attended and two additional public meetings have taken place since.
- Was the advertisement for the public notice publicized for the appropriate length of time?
Shelby County Government does not observe Columbus Day holiday and was open for business on October 14, 2019. HUD regulations require publication for 15 calendar days. Advertisement ran for 22 calendar days depending on publication viewed.

Publication:	Published:
Tri-State Defender	September 19, 2019
Memphis Flyer	September 19, 2019
Daily News	September 20, 2019
LaPrensa Latina	September 22, 2019

Design:

- Were the ideas, comments, input and suggestions that the community requested for the unmet recovery needs ignored?
The National Disaster Resilience grant program is intended for awarded jurisdictions to build back areas affected by natural disasters more resiliently. Funds awarded for the South Cypress Creek are focused on restoring and repairing the South Cypress Creek watershed to reduce future flood impacts in accordance with the grant. The presence of unmet recovery needs was criteria to

qualify for the grant. All community input has been considered within the limitations of the grant requirements.

- How are you going to help the unmet needs for the 2011 flood victims that will not buyout?
The National Disaster Resilience grant program is intended for awarded jurisdictions to build back areas affected by natural disasters more resiliently. Funds awarded for the South Cypress Creek are focused on restoring and repairing the South Cypress Creek watershed to reduce future flood impacts in accordance with the grant. The presence of unmet recovery needs was criteria to qualify for the grant. The proposed improvements will not increase the current flood risk for those who choose not to take the buyout offer.
- Will there be negative impacts for the community and for the 2011 flood victims?
The National Disaster Resilience grant program is intended for awarded jurisdictions to build back areas affected by natural disasters more resiliently. Funds awarded for the South Cypress Creek are focused on restoring and repairing the South Cypress Creek watershed to reduce future flood impacts in accordance with the grant. Flood risk reduction is the primary purpose of the project.
- Will there be trails associated with the grant?
Parks, open spaces, and trail connectivity are part of the grant scope. The improvements will be constructed with the resilience improvements to South Cypress Creek.