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

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners under 24 CFR Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990 and in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under Hurricane Milton Disaster Relief (DR4834) Agreement Number: Z4326 The proposed project is located in the City of Gulfport in Pinellas County, Florida. The proposed project location is between the intersections of Dolphin Boulevard South and Royal Palm Drive South, and Dolphin Boulevard South and Fairway View Boulevard South. The project area consists of the failed section of seawall southeast of Dolphin Boulevard South at approximately (27.752743, -82.728511). The proposed activities involve removing approximately 70 feet of failed concrete seawall panels down to the mudline, while leaving the intact wall in place. The seawall will be replaced with a new steel sheet pile seawall system along the seaward side of the existing structure. Accumulated sediment which resulted from the failure of the seawall will be redistributed using pressure washing methods to reestablish the design mudline elevation. The project area of effect is approximately 1 acre, entirely within the 100-year floodplain (Zones VE & AE), and adjacent to Estuarine and Marine Deepwater wetlands.

Pinellas County has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain/wetland: The action must take place within the floodplain and wetland because the failed seawall, and the segment of Dolphin Boulevard South it supports, are fixed shoreline infrastructure along Boca Ciega Bay that cannot function or be restored at any location outside the floodplain. Dolphin Boulevard South is the sole point of ingress and egress for the Pasadena Golf Club Estates neighborhood, and its stabilization is essential to preserve neighborhood accessibility, emergency access, and public safety, as well as to protect the adjacent roadway, sidewalk, utilities, and the water quality of Boca Ciega Bay, an Outstanding Florida Water. Pinellas County considered the following alternatives: (1) the No Action alternative, which was rejected because continued deterioration of the seawall would result in further collapse of the roadway and loss of the neighborhood's only access route, as well as continued sedimentation and water-quality impacts to Boca Ciega Bay; (2) relocation of the roadway and shoreline protection outside the floodplain, which was determined to be impracticable because the built-out residential peninsula provides no alternative alignment outside the floodplain; and (3) alternative wall designs and construction methods, from which installation of a steel sheet pile wall with a reinforced concrete cap along the seaward face of the existing wall, with abandonment-in-place of the intact wall, was selected as the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative because it minimizes in-water work and shoreline disturbance. To minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial functions and values of the floodplain and wetland, Pinellas County will implement the following mitigation measures: the seawall will be replaced in-kind along the existing alignment so that floodplain storage volume is not altered; all sheet pile installation will be performed from a barge to minimize upland and shoreline disturbance; erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMPs), including silt fencing and turbidity barriers, will be installed before and maintained throughout construction; construction will comply with Rule 62-4.242, F.A.C., to protect the water quality of Boca Ciega Bay as an Outstanding Florida Water; standard manatee, sea turtle, smalltooth sawfish, and eastern indigo snake construction protection measures will be implemented; only temporary impacts to estuarine surface waters will occur, with no permanent surface water impacts proposed; and accumulated sediment will be redistributed by

pressure washing to reestablish the previously existing mudline elevation**.** No final or conditional Letters of Map Revision (LOMR) or Letters of Map Amendment (LOMA) have been issued by FEMA for the project area, which lies within FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas (Zones VE and AE) as shown on Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel 12103C0213H, effective August 24, 2021. The project will comply with all applicable State and local floodplain and wetland protection procedures, including a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Environmental Resource Permit exemption under s. 62-330.051(12)(b), F.A.C., authorization under State Programmatic General Permit VI (SPGP VI), and Pinellas County right-of-way and construction permitting, and has been submitted to the Florida State Clearinghouse for federal consistency review under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)**.**

Pinellas County has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain and wetland development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990 and 24 CFR 55, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain and wetland 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 the floodplain and wetland 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 the floodplain and wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Pinellas County at the following address on or before [November 27th, 2026]: Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, 14 S. Ft. Harrison Avenue, Clearwater, FL 33756 and (727) 464-4880, Attention: Kameron Thomas-Gonzalez, Project Manager. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 7:00AM to 3:30PM at 14 S. Ft Harrison Ave., Clearwater, FL 33756. Comments may also be submitted via email at kthomasgonzalez@pinellas.gov.

Date: [November 19, 2026]