

September 8, 2021

The Honorable Larry Harvey, Chairman
Putnam County Board of County Commissioners
2509 Crill Avenue
Palatka, FL 32177

SUBJECT: Environmental Review
Hurricane Matthew Infrastructure – St. Johns Avenue Drainage Improvements
Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR)
HUD/State Identification Number: B-16-DM-12-0001
DEO Agreement Number: HM007

Dear Chairman Harvey,

The initial environmental review conducted by the County concluded a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) determination related to the St. Johns Avenue Drainage Improvements project. As required under 24 CFR 58.47, the responsible entity (the County) is to conduct a re-evaluation of the project's environmental standing when new activities, not previously covered in the initial review, are added and the County must determine whether the original FONSI status will remain valid.

On July 30, 2021, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) received an updated environmental review record (ERR) in which an additional \$1,845,069.70 in CDBG-DR funds will be used to complete "Segment 3" of the stormwater drainage improvement plan, from east of Kay Larkin Road to College Road in Palatka, Florida. The additional activities not covered by the initial environmental review will include 1,110 linear feet of road widening and box culverts, side drain and swale grading improvements, additional storm water pond storage and improved outfall structure.

Based on the review from the County dated July 30, 2021, and associated ERR documents received in August 2021, the County completed the required re-evaluation process and concluded there were no changes to the original FONSI status. Therefore, the County may continue with the additional project under the Authority to Use Grant funds issued October 20, 2020 with the following special conditions:

- *Perform a 100% coverage gopher tortoise survey for areas impacted by the additional activities, obtain a relocation permit from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for any active burrows located in proximity to the project and relocate the tortoises in accordance with the permit. Provide copies of all correspondence, permits and other documentation required by FWC to DEO prior to beginning Segment 3 construction.*
- *Provide copies of additional required permits to DEO prior to beginning Segment 3 construction.*

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Melissa Recks, Environmental Program Manager, at (850) 921-3267 or by email at Melissa.Recks@deo.myflorida.com.

Sincerely,

Ryan Butler
Chief of Administration
Office of Long-Term Resiliency