

INITIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to fund Yakima County for the Shaw and Wide Hollow Creeks Flood Control Project (Project). Funding would be provided by the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program as authorized by §203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act, 42 U.S. Code.

Previous FEMA grant funding was used in 2015 to generate preliminary designs, project alternatives, an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Project. The EA and FONSI are available at FEMA NEPA Repository and at the project website listed at the end of this notice.

Yakima County has applied for BRIC grant funding from FEMA to help fund the Project completion; with matching funds provided by the Yakima County Flood Control Zone and the City of Yakima. The purpose of the project is to reduce flood losses for existing residences and remove approximately 550 acres and 1,000 existing and future residential lots from the floodplain and floodway. The project is needed in order to provide for the safety of the community and to alleviate losses due to flooding in the project area.

FEMA gives notice of its intent to reevaluate and validate the 2015 analysis and underlying assumptions. This public notice is issued in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplain Management; EO 11990, Wetlands Protection; and EO 12898, Environmental Justice.

The proposed action will include a Phase 1 action to finalize project designs, update permits, and to complete pre-existing landowner agreements, and purchase of 10 partial parcels for the proposed relocation of Shaw Creek.

Phase 2 will include the relocation of Shaw Creek to existing lands purchased in Phase 1. This would be done by the construction of a new channel approximately 3,500 feet in length. The action would include the planting of natural vegetation along the new creek, with the objective of improving water quality and fish habitat. In addition, a new bypass (overflow) channel would be constructed south of Wide Hollow Creek (west of South 88th Street). Other improvements of the proposed action along Wide Hollow Creek include an increase in channel capacity through channel excavation, , installation of a box culvert on South 88th Avenue and South 80th Avenue, acquisition of properties, and purchase of easements.

The project area is located in or affects the floodplain of Shaw and Wide Hollow Creeks, Lower Yakima Watershed. Wetlands may be present along Wide Hollow Creek and would be affected by the proposed bypass. Comments concerning the proposed action, alternatives, and preliminary identification of environmental issues; will be accepted from the affected public; local, state and federal agencies; Tribes; and other interested parties in order to inform FEMA's decision-making. Comments should be made in writing, sent to the FEMA contact listed below. Comments must be received by **July 25, 2024** to be considered.

Additional information about the project, including a project area map, conceptual design, and 2015 NEPA documents, can be obtained from the Yakima County Project Website (<https://www.yakimacounty.us/381/Shaw-Creek-Flood-Mitigation-Project>), at the Yakima County Flood Control District Office (128 N. 2nd Street, 4th Floor Courthouse, Yakima, WA), and by contacting the applicant contact below.

Responsible Official:	Applicant Contact:
Science Kilner Deputy Regional Environmental Officer FEMA Region 10 130 228th St SW Bothell, WA 98021-9796 fema-r10-ehp-comments@fema.dhs.gov	Troy Havens Water Resources Manager Yakima County 128 N 2nd Street, 4th Floor Courthouse Yakima, WA 98901 troy.havens@co.yakima.wa.us

Given the nature of the proposed action, if no public comments relating to floodplain development review are received, no further public notice will be issued for this project.