FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Columbia has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program funding through the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) as a sub-recipient.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990, FEMA is required to consider alternatives, and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Sub-Applicant: City of Columbia

Project Title: Riverfront Park Repairs

Location of Proposed Work:

Facility	Address	Latitude	Longitude	Date of Construction
Riverfront Park	Three Rivers Greenway, Columbia, SC 29201	34.003687	-81.055973	1983

Special Flood Hazard Area Zone: The Riverfront Park proposed gabion wall site is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) – Zone AE (Floodway). Confirmation of location in a Special Flood Hazard Area was determined by the effective Richland County Flood Insurance Rate Map, Panel Number: 45079C0243L, dated 12/21/2017. The proposed work conforms to all applicable State of South Carolina and local floodplain regulations. Additionally, the project is located within or adjacent to Riverine (R2UBH) wetland as identified by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) mapper.

Proposed Work and Purpose: The applicant proposes to install approximately 120 linear feet (LF) of gabion basket retaining wall within the Riverfront Park. The proposed gabion wall will extend from approximately (GPS: 34.003687, -81.055973 to 34.003504, -81.055733). The applicant stated that the proposed work will result in approximately 1 acre of new ground disturbance. The proposed work includes delivery and installation of 160 tons of surge stone to fill the gabion baskets and 60 tons of #57 stone for backfill behind the gabion wall. Additionally, the Subrecipient proposed placing 5,740 cubic yards (CY) of fill, including 585 CY of sandy loam topsoil.

The project's purpose is to repair and stabilize the riverbank along the Riverfront Park. The gabion retaining wall, stone backfill, and associated fill would protect the adjacent public park infrastructure from continued erosion and reduce the potential for damage during future flooding events.

Project Alternatives:

Alternative #1 (No action): Under the No Action Alternative, the flood-damaged and eroded riverbank would remain unrepaired, and the proposed gabion retaining wall and associated fill would not be installed. Continued erosion could further threaten Riverfront Park, adjacent public infrastructure, and public safety during future flooding events.

Alternative #2 (Relocation) Under the Relocation Alternative, it would not practicable because the project is located within Riverfront Park and directly supports public open-space use along the riverfront. The proposed gabion retaining wall and associated stabilization measures are functionally dependent on their riverfront location, and relocating the project would not address the existing erosion or protect the damaged infrastructure.

Comment Period: Comments are solicited from the public, local, state or federal agencies, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the City of Columbia. All comments are due within 15 days of this notice. The City of Columbia will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed.

Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency – Region IV - EHP, 3005 Chamblee Tucker Rd – Office #255, Atlanta, GA 30341-4112 or by email at FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Please include in the subject line of the email "DR-4241-SC EHP FIT." Comments should be sent in writing at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.

POSTED ON: August 25, 2026

Floodplain/Wetland Map

