

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
March 3, 2022**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Funds will be provided in accordance with Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

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 to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

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.

Applicant:

Board of County Commissioners for Monroe County, FL

Project Title:

HMGP-4337-066-R Monroe County, FEMA 361 Emergency Operations Center, Safe Room

Location of Proposed Work:

The area affected by this project consists of the following locations:

The precise location of the work to be completed can be found at the following geo coordinates: (24.72094, -81.06241). More generally, the proposed facility will be constructed at the southwest corner of the Marathon Airport with a proposed physical address 7280 Overseas Highway Marathon, FL 33050. Neighboring streets, major intersections, businesses, and development areas impacted include, but are not necessarily limited the following:

- Intersection of Overseas Highway and Aviation Boulevard
- Gulf Terrace
- Aviation Boulevard
- Coconut Cay Resort and Marina
- Coconut Cay RV Park Marina
- 72nd, 73rd, 74th Street(s) Ocean
- The Marathon Airport
- Portions of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail

Proposed Work and Purpose:

Monroe County is proposing to construct a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and provide backup emergency power for the facility that will be located at the southwest corner of the Marathon Airport. The proposed EOC building will be approximately 28,321 square foot, two story building which will be elevated to meet local building code requirements. The building structure is designed to include precast concrete beams and columns with a site-cast panel system and the roof is designed as cast-in-place concrete that meets all standards for shelters. Storefront glazing tested for missile impact level compliant with Florida Building Codes is required. As designed, the building will provide near absolute life safety protection against hurricane wind speeds in order to serve the first responders, emergency managers, and other disaster staff that must remain behind in the event of a hurricane impacting Monroe County. Emergency back-up power for the facility will be provided by purchasing and installing a two (2) generator load-sharing arrangement, consisting of identical 500 kW 3-phase, 4-wire diesel fired generators, or the adequate size determined by the vendor and/or an electrical engineer during the bid process to appropriately

support the critical facility. This system will ensure full functionality of the EOC, and an uninterrupted power supply for the facility including the emergency (911) call system. Runtime for the generator system is calculated to be 96 hours at the designed electrical demand load. Each generator will be installed with a base day tank and further supported by a single 2,500-gallon main fuel tank. For safe room construction, the project shall be designed to provide protection against 220 MPH winds and by the criteria contained in the standards of the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency guidance manual FEMA P-361 Design and Construction for Community Safe Room, to provide “near-absolute protection.” The generator(s) shall be protected against a 500-year flood event by implementing specific activities or by locating the generator(s) outside the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and shall be protected against wind with a rated enclosure based on its location requirements. Activities shall be completed in strict compliance with Federal, State, and Local applicable Rules and Regulations. The project shall provide protection against 220 MPH winds, or the wind speed protection and impact requirements indicated by the effective Florida Building Code at the time permits are issued.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) to take additional actions to harden the current space that houses the EOC, being the Marathon Government Center (MGC) located at 2798 Overseas Highway Marathon, Florida, 33050, to better withstand the anticipated impacts of a landfalling hurricane. These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) the County’s First Responders, Emergency Managers, and Essential Personnel are still at risk from building failure during a major hurricane, and these personnel lack a dedicated space from which to manage and recover from a hurricane landfall. Experiences following Hurricane Irma demonstrated the difficulty and dangers from utilizing the MGC as an EOC. Alternative 2) is similarly rejected because the cost to retrofit the MGC to provide the sought-after level of protection would be cost-prohibitive, if not impractical due to the current layout and composition of the facility. Additionally, utilization of the MGC as an EOC prevents the County departments operating from that facility from coming back into service while the EOC is operational and occupied by the relevant staff.

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 Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 30 days of this notice. The State 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:

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