

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Publication Dates: October 23, 2025 – November 7, 2025

City of New Orleans Office of Community Development
1340 Poydras Street, 10th floor.
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-658-4200

These notice shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by The City of New Orleans.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about November 10, 2025, The City of New Orleans Office of Community Development will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC) grant funds under Public Law 113-2 of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, to undertake a project known as the NDR006 Dillard Wetlands..

Established by the City of New Orleans using grants awarded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) National Disaster Resilience (NDR) Competition, the Gentilly Resilience District (GRD) represents a combination of innovative solutions to manage storm water in an area with some of the lowest elevations in the City resulting in persistent flooding and property damage. As part of the GRD overall objectives, the Dillards Wetlands project proposes to establish a reduction in flood risk, slow land subsidence, spur economic opportunity, improve health, encourage neighborhood revitalization, and adapt the City of New Orleans to a changing natural environment.

The Dillards Wetlands site is approximately 27+ acres of dense, undeveloped woodland to the west of the London Avenue Canal and Dillard University's campus. The Dillards Wetlands project has been designed with input from the community toward the following goals and beneficial expectations:

- * Stormwater management and flooding mitigation
- * Water quality improvement
- * Support and restoration of the local ecosystem and biodiversity
- * Creation of community space with educational, recreational, and social opportunities

Elements of the proposed Dillards Wetlands project includes the establishment of an access road into the Dillards Wetlands site, installation of drainage infrastructure and stormwater pump station/building, surface parking for vehicular, bus, and bicycle traffic, a nature playground, walking trails and boardwalks with shaded areas, wildlife observation areas, seating areas for reflection, outdoor classroom for nature-based educational purposes. Buffer areas and a site perimeter will be maintained to preserve the natural character of the site. With these improvements the existing low-lying wooded land will be fed with an influx of stormwater from the surrounding neighborhoods that will support a healthy forested wetland ecosystem while reducing flooding on adjacent properties and streets. The forested wetland will be further enhanced through the targeted removal of invasive species followed by the replanting of native vegetation that supports wildlife, increases plant/water metabolism, and reduces runoff by reinforcing the tree canopy. Trails, walkways, and raised boardwalks will be constructed as well as an outdoor classroom and recreational space to encourage overall community engagement and promote environmentally

based outreach. Acquisition of private property may be needed for additional site drainage purposes.

The project as described above will use approximately \$6,793,561.00 of the City of New Orleans' CDBG-DR federal funding under grant number B-13-MS-22-0002. The total cost for the complete project is approximately \$13,293,561.00.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of New Orleans has determined that the project will not have a significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City of New Orleans, Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 10th floor, New Orleans, LA 70112, and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To view the full, ERR call 658-4365 or e-mail cafoundas@nola.gov for an appointment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development. All comments received by November 7, 2025, will be considered by this office prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which Notice they are addressing. Comments can also be emailed to cafoundas@nola.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of New Orleans certifies to HUD that Tyra Johnson Brown, Director of Housing Policy and Community Development in her capacity as Certifying Officer for Environmental Review for the City of New Orleans consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of New Orleans to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of New Orleans' certification received by November 25, 2025, or a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of New Orleans; (b) the City of New Orleans has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to:

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
Attn: Marlet Cox, Acting Regional Director, Region 6
Office of Community Planning and Development

Hale Boggs Building
500 Poydras Street, 9th floor
New Orleans, LA 70130

Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period regarding the federal funds. Objections can be emailed to CPDRROFNOR@hud.gov

| LaToya Cantrell,
Mayor

| Tyra Johnson Brown₁,
Executive Director of Housing Policy and Community Development/Environmental Certifying
Officer