

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetland

To: All interested Agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Otero County, Department Local Affairs), the City of La Junta and its Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of La Junta under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under Community Development Block Grant #20-513 is located in the 100-year floodplain/wetland, and the City of La Junta will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain/wetland and the potential impacts on the floodplain/wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The project would involve transforming vacant city land into a park by adding a parking lot with safety cameras, fencing, lighting, a restroom building, two bridges over an arroyo, two shelters, tables and chairs, bike racks, and benches. The entire property is within the 100-year floodplain, and the arroyo is classified as a R4SBC wetland. Impacts from the proposed improvements will be minimal and total less than 1.0 acre. The proposed project(s) is located northeast of the intersection of Barnes Avenue and West 10th Street in La Junta, Otero County.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain/wetland and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain/wetland, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains/wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of La Junta at the following address on or before June 30, 2021: City of La Junta, 601 Colorado Avenue, PO Box 489, La Junta, CO 81050; (719) 384-5991. Attention: Rick Klein, City Manager. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00am noon and 1:00pm to 5pm at the same address as above and <https://lajuntacolorado.org/index.htm>. Comments may also be submitted via email at paula.mahoney@lajuntacolorado.org.

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