



## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management) and EO 11990 (Wetlands) and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 9, FEMA hereby provides final notice of its decision to provide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for an action located in a floodplain. Funding would be provided through the Maine Emergency Management Agency to the City of South Portland, ME for the Willard Beach ramp, stone walls, and stairs project.

The proposed action is located at the southern entrance to Willard Beach, at the end of Deake St. in South Portland, ME 04106. The project addresses beach erosion and replaces failing public infrastructure along Willard Beach. The City of South Portland would construct a new integrated cast-in-place concrete retaining wall, stairway, and ramp system in the same vicinity as the existing stairway, stone wall, and concrete ramp. The new system would form an integrated seawall system that guards against wave action and beach erosion. The riprap slope to the west of the seawall system will also be reconstructed as the existing concrete ramp forms an abutment. The riprap slope has also become destabilized and would be reconstructing using a sloped granite wall system or armored rock slope.

The project is within a mapped special flood hazard area (100-year floodplain). The existing seawall system has been degraded by continued erosion caused by wave action, especially during storm surge events. The stairs and ramp have become undermined, the riprap has become dislodged and has migrated to the beach, and the seawall is also becoming unstable. The new seawall system would guard against beach erosion and wave action and would be keyed 24 to 30 inches below the lowest beach elevation.

The project is replacing an existing damaged structure currently located in the floodplain and cannot be moved outside of the floodplain as the land directly inland is previously developed. Alternatives considered included the "no action" and an alternative that would repair the existing structure. The no action alternative was not considered a viable alternative as the seawall, stairs, ramp and riprap are already degraded due to erosion and wave action which has led to an undermining of the seawall system. Under the no action, the seawall system would continue to erode and could eventually fail, causing failing to part of the road above, as well as lead to the loss of the dunes. Similarly, repairing the existing structure would not fully fix the current erosion issues and would require continued maintenance and repair. The proposed action is the only option that would fully address the safety issues and meets ME DEP guidelines.

Map requests and comments about this project and potential floodplain impacts should be submitted within 15 days of the date of this publication to:

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