

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that **Town of Ridgeland** has determined that the following proposed action under CDBG #4-CI-24-009 is located in wetlands, and **Town of Ridgeland** will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the wetland and the potential impacts on the wetland from the proposed action, as required by **Executive Order 11990**, in accordance with HUD regulations at **24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands**. The proposed project location is within the southeast quadrant of the Town of Ridgeland, Jasper County, SC. Water lines on Eleanor Avenue, Augusta Avenue and Purdy Street will be upgraded from 2 inches to 6 inches and two hydrants will be added. The sewer portion of the project includes replacing a line on Woodlawn Street as well as manhole rehabilitation on Eleanor, Purdy and Augusta. The modifications should improve the water service and sewer service to this area, as well as keeping stormwater from infiltrating the water treatment system. The type of wetland within the project area is riverine. The existing natural and beneficial functions of the wetland include water filtration, erosion prevention, flood control, and providing a habitat for flora and fauna. The riverine wetlands are west of Eleanor Avenue/Purdy Street Bend, crossing Eleanor Avenue west of Wise Street, crossing Augusta Avenue west of Purdy Street, and on the east side of Purdy Street north of Augusta Avenue.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in 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 wetland, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the wetland. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about wetland 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 wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by **Town of Ridgeland** at the following address on or before **Friday, March 28, 2025: Town of Ridgeland, 1 Town Square, Ridgeland, SC 29936** and **(843)726-7500**, Attention: **Dennis Averkin, Town Administrator**. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from **9 A.M. to 4 P.M.** at same address above. Comments may also be submitted via email at jdailey@lowcountrycog.org.

Date: March 12, 2025

Assistance will be provided to accommodate the special needs of disabled and/or limited English proficient persons upon request.

Se proporcionará asistencia para acomodar las necesidades especiales de personas discapacitadas y / o con dominio limitado del inglés a pedido.