

# FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has received a subgrant application for **Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, Nicoll Head Repair, Onyx, Kern County, CA**. Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 11988 and 44 CFR Part 9.12, final notice is hereby given of FEMA's intent to provide funding for this project under the Public Assistance Grant Program (PA).

An initial disaster-wide Public Notice for DR-4699-CA was published November 1, 2023. 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.

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. EO 11988 and EO 11990 requires FEMA to consider alternatives and provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

This notice serves as a project-specific final notice for FEMA's funding action located within a Special Flood Hazard Area. FEMA has determined the only practicable alternative is to fund repair to the ditch. This action complies with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. There is a potential for the irrigation ditch to be impacted by future flooding events due to its location within the Floodway/AE-zone. The proposed work will take place in wetlands per the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory and will have little potential to impact or affect wetland values.

**Applicant: Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District**

**Project Title: PW 00029; GM Project Number 726878; Nicoll Head Repair**

**Location of Proposed Work and Floodplain Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panels:**

Facility	GPS	FIRM Panels	FIRM Date
Nicoll Head	35.36608, -119.14601	06029C0928E	9/26/2008

**Proposed Work and Purpose:** Severe storms caused erosion at the Nicoll Head ditch. The Applicant utilized contracts for repairs to the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District Nicoll Head to restore the facility back to pre-disaster function and capacity. The Undertaking included excavating 600 cubic yards (CY) of soil deposited by flood waters from the waterway and redepositing that soil to backfill portions of the Nicoll Ditch that were breached during the storms (35.694798, -118.226417). A standard backhoe bucket was used to clear debris and move and

compact the soil to fill the breaches within the ditch banks. Repair is in-kind with a minor upgrade of adding additional riprap for slope stabilization.

**Project Alternatives:**

- (1) *(No Action)* This alternative would result in a risk of additional damages to the ditch bank. If the damage was not repaired, then adverse economic and social impacts may occur and continued negative impacts may be experienced.
- (2) *(Repair in-kind)* Repairs made in kind may result in similar damages from future flood events.
- (3) *(Relocation)* Floodplain avoidance by relocating the structure is not a practicable alternative because it is part of a larger irrigation system and moving the entire system is not practicable.

**Comments:** This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by the FEMA Public Assistance program. Interested persons may submit comments, questions, or request a map of this specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 9, 1111 Broadway #1200, Oakland, CA 94607, or by emailing [FEMA-RIX-EHP-Documents@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-RIX-EHP-Documents@fema.dhs.gov) . Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line "*PW 00029; GM Project Number 726878; Nicoll Head Repair*" at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.

THIS NOTICE MAY BE REMOVED FROM PUBLIC VIEW ON THE 15<sup>th</sup> DAY FROM ORIGINAL DATE OF POSTING.

NOTICE WAS POSTED ON 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2024

\*\*\*END OF NOTICE\*\*\*