



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
ESTABLISHED 1830



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 28, 2020
RE: FEMA VOLUNTARY FLOODPLAIN BUY OUT

The St. Joseph County Division of Public Works, in partnership with the County Drainage Board and County Emergency Management Agency, received approval of pre-disaster mitigation grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the amount of \$2,162,080.49. This will fully fund Phase I of the County’s Voluntary Floodplain Home Buyout Program and will support the acquisition and demolition of specific residences along the Phillips and Laing Ditches. This program is in response to the devastating floods of 2016 and 2018 in the Jewel Woods neighborhood, as well as repeated flooding of a property near Ireland Road. The County will provide a 25% match of the federal funding, at approximately \$720,693.51, bringing the total project amount to \$2,882,774.00.

The goals of the program are to appraise, acquire, and demolish any and all structures within a potentially hazardous area and return the property to open greenspace in perpetuity in accordance with FEMA guidelines. Pre-disaster mitigation grants are deemed the most effective and viable long-term option to reduce the hazard of the loss of life and property from significant flood events. For taxpayers, buyouts reduce the future public costs to the County, State, and federal agencies that provide evacuation, emergency shelter, and debris removal services. In addition, buyouts provide the added benefit of improving local flood storage and conveyance, while enhancing habitats for plants and animals and improving water quality.

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|------------------------------|---------------|
| 20307 Garnet Road | 20320 Pearl |
| 60070 Garnet Road | 20325 Opal |
| 20264 and 20276 Jackson Road | 20315 Opal |
| 60116 Garnet Road | 20340 Opal |
| 20359 Jewell | 60200 Ruby |
| 20345 Pearl | 20237 Ritter |
| 20340 Pearl | 14684 Ireland |

The next steps include processing the necessary paperwork to initiate the buy-out process, schedule the land appraisals and acquire the properties. We anticipate appraising and acquisition to be on-going throughout 2020 with demolition possibly occurring later this fall and into 2021.

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FEMA

JAN 09 2020

Mr. Bryan Langley, Executive Director
Indiana Department of Homeland Security
Indiana Government Center South
302 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2767

Dear Mr. Langley:

Thank you for submitting an application to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the fiscal year 2018 Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program. It is my pleasure to inform you that the following sub-grant has been approved and awarded under grant agreement EMC-2019-PC-0003:

Sub-Recipient	Application	Federal Obligation
St. Joseph County	PDMC-PJ-05-IN-2018-001 St. Joseph County Acquisition	\$2,162,080.49

The period of performance is October 1, 2018 – June 18, 2022. The articles of agreement pertaining to this grant are enclosed, as well as important environmental documentation and a project location summary listing all approved properties. The project has been cleared under the National Environmental Policy Act and has been determined to be categorically excluded in accordance with CATEX N3 (acquisitions) as implemented under FEMA Instruction 108-1-1 and DHS Instruction 023-01-001-01, Rev. 1.

By accepting this award, the state agrees to certain administrative and financial responsibilities, including the timely submission of all quarterly financial and programmatic reports, resolution of all interim audit findings, and the maintenance of a minimal level of cash on hand. The above provisions are required in order to be in full compliance with the terms and conditions of this grant agreement. If you have any questions please contact Assistance Officer Cheryl Baldwin at 312-408-5507.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James K. Joseph".

James K. Joseph
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

cc: Torrey Glover, State Hazard Mitigation Officer