

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has received a subgrant application for Tulare County Office of Education, Tulare 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 the repair and relocation of the Rainbow and Make-A-Wish Bridge. Mitigation for the Make-A-Wish included relocating the bridge 15 feet upstream from the original location. This action complies with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. There is a potential for the facilities to be impacted by future flooding events due to its location within the Riverine Wetland. 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: Tulare County Office of Education

Project Title: PW 481; PN 723535; Campus Pedestrian Walkways and Wooden Passes

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

Facility	GPS	FIRM Panels	FIRM Date
Rainbow Bridge	36.19440, -118.77472	06107C1360E	6/16/2009
Make-A-Wish (Original location)	36.20219, -118.76115 to 36.20262, -118.761110	06107C1360E	6/16/2009
Make-A-Wish (New location)	36.202350, -118.761185 to 36.202292-118.761114	06107C1360E	6/16/2009

Proposed Work and Purpose: The Subrecipient proposes to make repairs to two pedestrian footbridges, Rainbow footbridge and Make-a-Wish footbridge, which crosses over Bear Creek within the SCICON campus located in Springville, CA. Work to be completed at the Rainbow Bridge (36.19440, -118.77472) includes removing the damaged bridge and replacing it with a fully reconstructed footbridge with the following; two (2) 30 foot (FT) long x 3.5 inch (IN) wide x 5 IN high steel angle metal arches, thirty two (32) 2 IN x 4 IN x 4 FT long pressure treated wood decks, ten (10) 4 IN x 4 IN x 44 IN high pressure treated stanchions, fourteen (14) 6 FT long x 12 IN diameter local logs that will be cut to shape to form step approach, eighteen (18) 2 IN x 4 IN x 50 IN long pressure treated wood braces, four (4) 2 IN x 4 IN x 24.5 FT long wood handrail boards (2 per side), and five (5) 4 IN x 4 IN x 88 IN long wood support beam bases. The Applicant intends to add mitigation when reconstructing the Rainbow footbridge by elevating it. This elevation will be achieved by adding to the existing concrete support foundations, adding additional bolts and brackets, and reattaching the original arches to the bridge 8" higher while maintaining the same length of the bridge (30 ft long). The Applicant will also lengthening the wooden approach to the bridge. The approach to the bridge will be 25 FT long by 4 feet wide made up of two (2) 25 FT long 4x8 wooden beams and 4 FT long/wide 2x4's wooden planks. Completed work at the Make-a-Wish Bridge included the removal and replacement of the pedestrian bridge. Work to be completed at the Make-a-Wish foot bridge includes replacing five (5) 95 FT long barbed wire fencing strands. Mitigation for the Make-a-Wish bridge included relocating the bridge 15 FT upstream (36.202350, -118.761185) to (36.202292-118.761114 - corrected) from the original location (36.20219, -118.76115 to 36.20262, -118.761110) as it provided a more stable level base. Additional mitigation to be completed includes adding additional fencing to connect the existing fence at the bridge in its new location.

Project Alternatives:

- (1) *(No Action)* This alternative would result in a disruption of services and risk of additional damages. If the damage is 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)* Wetland avoidance by relocating the facilities is not a practicable alternative as the bridges provide the public safe access over the wetlands.

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 . Comments should be sent in writing with the subject line "PW 481; PN 723535; Campus Pedestrian Walkways and Wooden Passes " at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice.

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

NOTICE WAS POSTED ON the 9th DAY OF June 2025

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