NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

AGENCIES: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Infrastructure

ACTION: Notice is hereby given that changes to the Community Development Block Grant - Infrastructure program were published May 28, 2015, and are available for public review and comment.

SUMMARY: North Carolina General Assembly Session Law 2013-360 allocated a substantial portion of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Grant to the Infrastructure category of the Community Development Block Grant Program for fiscal years 2013 through 2015. These funds are administered by the Division of Water Infrastructure in the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. In 2009, a study of water and sewer funding programs conducted by the General Assembly’s Program Evaluation Division recommended that all critical needs water and sewer funding be consolidated into one agency, and that applications be harmonized to allow funding agencies to match grant and loan dollars more easily. The Division of Water Infrastructure staff restructured priority point criteria for all programs – Clean Water State Revolving Fund, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and the Community Development Block Grant-Infrastructure Program, and presented them to the State Water Infrastructure Authority for approval to publicize and accept public comment. The new priority points criteria harmonize the three programs, but they are a departure from the previous priority points criteria used previously by the CDBG-Infrastructure program.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES: Critical public water and wastewater needs in areas of low to moderate income population, as defined by HUD. Water and sewer extensions to new lowmod income housing or the rehabilitation of lines leading to rehabilitated lowmod income housing, and water and sewer connections to lowmod housing as a stand-alone activity are proposed as new project types for the CDBG-Infrastructure program. Other activities included are the resolution of infrastructure problems causing water/wastewater moratoria and special orders by consent; rehabilitation of water distribution systems having excess (>30 percent) water loss; rehabilitation of wastewater collection systems having excess inflow and infiltration; water and wastewater treatment plant rehabilitation; the extension of public water lines to residential areas with dry or contaminated wells; the extension of public sewer lines to residential areas with failing septic systems or pit privies; and the rehabilitation of pumping stations and lift stations. Similar activities may be proposed for funding.

AVAILABILITY OF REVIEW MATERIALS: A copy of the changes to the CDBG-Infrastructure program is on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Infrastructure website, at http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wi/cdbg. Copies are also available upon request from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Infrastructure, and have been distributed to local government, consultants, and other interest groups via email. Contact Julie Cubeta at 919-707-9189, or at julie.cubeta@ncdenr.gov to receive a copy.
**PUBLIC HEARING:** The public hearing will be held on **June 15, 2015, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, 4021 Carya Drive, Raleigh, NC, 27610. A call-in option will be available for people who are unable to attend the meeting. To register for the call-in option, please email Stacey Starkey at stacey.starkey@ncdenr.gov. Persons wanting additional information on the public hearing may contact Julie Cubeta at 919-707-9189 or at julie.cubeta@ncdenr.gov. Persons with disabilities or who otherwise need assistance should contact Stacey Starkey at 919-707-9193, or email her at stacey.starkey@ncdenr.gov in advance of the hearing. Accommodations will be made for all who request assistance with participating in the public hearing.

**COMMENT PERIOD:** Comments concerning the changes stated in this notice should be made during the required comment period. The comment period for changes is from May 28, 2015 to close of business June 26, 2015. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., June 26, 2015. Written comments may be made via email to julie.cubeta@ncdenr.gov, or mailed to Julie Cubeta, Division of Water Infrastructure, 1633 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1633. All mailed comments must be postmarked no later than June 26, 2015. Comments may also be faxed to 919-715-6229, attention: Julie Cubeta.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact Julie Cubeta at 919-707-9189 or email julie.cubeta@ncdenr.gov.

Esta información está disponible en español, por favor póngase en contacto con Julie Cubeta 919-707-9189 para su solicitud.