

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
November 7, 2025**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Funds will be provided in accordance with Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

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. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

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.

Applicant:

Lee County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Project Title:

HMGP 4673-307-R (635) – Looping Transmission System Project-Carnestown to City of Marco Island

Location of Proposed Work:

The area affected by this project consists of various water-based and land-based areas in the following locations:

- *New construction would occur in the right of way beginning at LCEC's substation at Carnestown, FL [the intersection of US 41/90 and US 29] continuing west along 41 until reaching San Marco Road (US 92) heading southwest until entering Marco Island. Within Marco Island, construction would north on Barfield Drive to the intersection with N. Collier Blvd, heading south and then west until reaching San Marco Road, turning east until reaching the Fred Smith Substation at approximately Lily Court, Marco Island, FL 34145.*

Proposed Work and Purpose:

The proposed consists of designing and constructing a transmission "loop" to provide the ability to back-feed the [LCEC's] Fred Smith distribution substation on Marco Island when that substation loses primary transmission or the ability to function. This project will be accomplished by creating a 26-mile, 138kv transmission line with up to 370 transmission poles. This project will benefit the entire Marco Island community, as well as any developments between Marco and Carnestown.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the "No Action" alternative and 2) investigating tunneling the new transmission line under-ground. The "No Action" alternative has been reviewed and rejected, as it is important to establish a second method of electrical transmission for Marco Island and surrounding Collier County communities. The underground transmission loop has not been studied in detail, but presents numerous challenges and drawbacks relative to an overhead transmission line in this instance. The sensitive environment along the proposed route would make for poor conditions to bore or trench this transmission line. Additionally, underground transmission line can exceed the cost of overhead transmission lines by a factor of five or six. For these reasons, the primary alternative, the overhead transmission line, will be pursued through the HMGP.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed

to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 15 days of this notice November 24, 2025. The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

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State Environmental Specialist Team
Florida Division of Emergency Management

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