

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
December 11, 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*

**Project Title:**

*HMGP 4673-310-R (706) – Looping of the distribution system feeding the barrier islands (Pine Island/Matlacha & Sanibel*

**Location of Proposed Work:**

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

- *Approximately 5.3 linear miles of underground disturbance beneath Pine Island Sound between Captiva Island and Pine Island*
- *Approximately 2.08 linear miles of underground disturbance beneath San Carlos Bay between Pine Island and Sanibel.*
- *Approximately 25 miles of existing utility right-of-way on Pine Island, Sanibel, and Captiva for new electrical distribution poles.*

**Proposed Work and Purpose:**

*The proposed consists of designing and constructing a distribution “loop” to provide the ability to backfeed the island substations when one the impacted substations loses the ability to function. This project will be accomplished with a combination of upgrades and enhancements to LCEC’s Pine Island Substation which will be used with new distribution line to create looping connections with Sanibel and Captiva Island. The looping will be accomplished with overhead distribution pole circuits on the islands and a combination of directional bores and underwater plowing to connect the relevant LCEC substations and feeders. This project will benefit over 10,000 LCEC member meters.*

**Project Alternatives:**

*The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the “No Action” alternative and 2) connect several substations together by designing and constructing 20 miles of new transmission line to provide the desired redundancy. The “No Action” alternative has been reviewed and rejected, as it is important to establish a second path for LCEC’s Lee County barrier island populations. The new transmission loop was originally considered as an alternative, but would require a significant number of new transmission poles to be installed in water-covered environments, which would represent a significant increase in ground disturbance, exposure of transmission lines to damage, and a significant increase in total construction costs. For these reasons, the proposed alternative 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 (**December 27, 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:

*Karen Vivian*  
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