

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Executive Order 11990 (Wetlands) and Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides final notice of its decision to provide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for an action located in a wetland. Funding would be provided through Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to the Town of Palmer to replace an undersized stone culvert and improve stormwater infrastructure.

The project is located over Scott's Brook, just north of the intersection of Route 181 and Thorndike Road. The stone box and its two corroded metal pipes would be replaced with a larger concrete box culvert, wingwalls, stormwater spillways and water quality detention basins. The new culvert would address problems with clogging, flooding, reduction in water quality, increased flow velocity (barrier to fish passage), and scouring. The stormwater detention basins would mitigate discharges to the stream through infiltration. Approximately 120SF of ground disturbance would take place, with some tree removal, land grading, top soiling, and plantings.

The project is within a mapped riverine wetland and near freshwater forested wetland. Temporary disturbance to ground, vegetation, and stream flow would be mitigated through best management practices for erosion and siltation control and a design that conforms to current MA Stream Crossing Standards. A map of the area is available upon request.

The action must be in a wetland to provide stream crossing for an existing road. Alternatives considered included "no action" and three culvert designs. The preferred alternative can carry a 100-year flood event, treat stormwater, and increase fish passage. It's cost-effective and meets project objectives and current standards except for openness ratio. However, it's a significant improvement compared to the "no action" alternative. Grant conditions will require compliance with all federal, state, and local laws including permitting from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and MassDEP.

Map requests and comments about this project and potential wetland impacts should be submitted within 15 days of the date of this publication to:

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