



FEMA

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
NORTH SHORELINE CHANNEL CAMERAS
PORT of CORPUS CHRISTI, CITY of CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
PSGP PROJECT # 2009-PU-T9-K049 IJ#7 (9133)**

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; FEMA's regulations for implementing NEPA at 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10; and the President's Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508; FEMA prepared a Tiered Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the environmental impacts that might result from the installation of security camera poles at the Port of Corpus Christi, City of Corpus Christi, Texas. The project has been proposed by the Port of Corpus Christi, under application number 2009-PU-T9-K049 IJ#7 (9133) of the Port Security Grant Program. FEMA provides funds under this program for activities which help to enhance the security and safety of ports in the United States.

This SEA was tiered from, and incorporates by reference, the findings of the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Grant Programs Directorate Programs dated July 2010, including the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the PEA which was issued on July 7, 2010. The SEA focused on the area of concern that required additional analysis and was beyond the scope of the PEA. FEMA found that all environmental areas of concern are accounted for in the PEA with the exception of floodplain impacts.

The Port of Corpus Christi is located adjacent to the Inner Harbor Channel and the associated Nueces Bay in Nueces County. FEMA determined that the site of the proposed security camera poles are located within an A21 and A24 zone, an area of 100-year flood; base flood elevations and flood hazards factors determined, as depicted on FIRM Community Panels 4854940284C and 4854940303, both with an effective date March 18, 1985.

Two project alternatives were considered in the SEA: 1) No Action and 2) Preferred Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed security cameras towers would not be constructed. As a result of this alternative, Port of Corpus Christi would be potentially vulnerable to Improvised Explosive Devices or Weapons of Mass Destruction. The Port of Corpus Christi would also not be able to maintain security of the daily port operations.

The Preferred Action Alternative is the construction of six new 60-foot high camera poles, each with 2-fixed view detection cameras and 1 Pan/Tilt/Zoom interrogation camera to provide 24-hour surveillance. All cameras will be color/thermal to provide 24-hour surveillance. Each camera pole foundations will be 36 inches in diameter and 35 feet deep. The power poles will be 2 feet in diameter and 6 feet deep. The fiber optic cable and power to serve the camera poles

from the paved roadway will be directional drill 3 feet deep and 6,400 feet in length. The fencing will be 410 linear feet, 12 inches wide, and 3 feet deep (maximum). The cameras will be connected to an existing security command center via a secure port owned fiber cable and integrated into an existing video analytics system for automatic target identification and tracking. An 8-foot high security fence will enclose each camera pole location. Overhead electrical power lines on power poles will be installed along an existing paved roadway to serve the cameras. The proposed six camera poles will be located Pole # 1 (27.844464, -97.517106); Pole # 2 (27.842208, -97.511069); Pole # 3 (27.835147, -97.501442); Pole # 4 (27.830514, -97.492681); Pole # 5 (27.823903, -97.483258); and Pole # 6 (27.820564, -97.474153).

The construction of the security cameras towers will improve the security along this remote, undeveloped, unfenced and unilluminated area.

In compliance with FEMA regulations implementing Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, FEMA is required to carry out the Eight-step decision-making process for actions that are proposed in the floodplain per 44 CFR 9.6. Executive Order 11988 requires federal agencies “to avoid to the extent possible the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of the floodplain and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative.”

This Eight-step process is applied to the proposed North Shoreline Channel Camera Towers Project. The entire project area is within the 100-year floodplain of the Port of Corpus Christi Inner Harbor Channel and the associated Nueces Bay.

A public notice was posted in The Corpus Christi Caller Times and on FEMA’s website (<http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm>) on April 26, 2012. Additionally, the draft SEA was available for review for a period of 15 days at the Port of Corpus Christi Authority and at the FEMA website. The public was invited to comment on the Preferred Action and the draft SEA. No comments were received from the public during the 15-day comment period.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Action as described in the EA will not impact land use, geology, groundwater, wetlands, threatened and endangered species or critical habitat, cultural resources, minority or low-income populations, or hazardous materials. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, surface water, traffic, air quality, noise, and public safety are anticipated. Long-term adverse impacts from flooding risk exist, but will be mitigated by adherence to construction codes and the floodplain ordinance. All adverse impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met as part of this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

1. In accordance with 44 CFR §9.12, The Port of Corpus Christi must publish a public notice 15 days prior to the start of construction activities. Documentation of the public notice is to be forwarded to FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.
2. This review does not address all federal, state and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding requires recipient to comply with all federal, state and local laws. Failure to obtain all appropriate federal, state and local environmental permits and clearances may jeopardize federal funding.
3. Excavated soil and waste materials will be managed and disposed in accordance with applicable local, state and federal regulations. If contaminated materials are discovered during the construction activities, the work could cease until appropriate procedures and permits can be implemented. Hazardous materials discovered, generated, or used during construction must be handled and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
4. If required by Texas Commission of Environmental Quality, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared by the Port of Corpus Christi which will include implementation of appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) at the construction location.
5. During construction, appropriate erosion control methods will be implemented to prevent erosion and sediment deposits into surface waters. Following construction, areas that were disturbed will be seeded, replanted, or receive an equivalent erosion control protection.
6. Construction contractors will be required to water down construction areas to control dust when necessary. Fuel-burning equipment running times will be kept to a minimum and engines will be properly maintained.
7. In the event that archeological deposits, including Native American pottery, stone tools, bones, or human remains, are uncovered, the project shall be halted and the Applicant shall stop work immediately in the vicinity of the discovery and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. All archeological findings will be secured by the Port of Corpus Christi and access to the sensitive area will be restricted by the Port of Corpus Christi. The Applicant will inform TDEM and FEMA immediately, and FEMA will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Work in sensitive areas shall not resume until consultation is completed and until FEMA determines that the appropriate measures have been taken to ensure the complete project is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations.

8. Construction activities will be performed using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of the appropriate equipment, including appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, activities will be conducted in a safe manner and in accordance with the standards specified in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. The appropriate signage and barriers will be in place prior to construction activities to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities.
9. Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other Laws and Executive Orders.

CONCLUSIONS

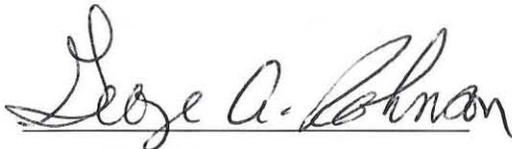
Based on the findings of the SEA, coordination with the appropriate agencies, and adherence to the project conditions set forth in this FONSI, FEMA has determined that the proposed project qualifies as a major federal action that will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment, nor does it have the potential for significant cumulative effects. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.9) and the proposed project as described in the attached EA may proceed.

APPROVAL



Kevin Jaynes, CHMM
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 6

Date 5/14/12



George A. Robinson
Acting Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 6

Date 5/14/12