

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
9221 Ward Parkway, Suite 300  
Kansas City, Missouri, 64114-3372



# FEMA

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**IOWA CITY ANIMAL CARE AND ADOPTION CENTER**  
**IOWA CITY, IOWA**  
**FEMA-1763-DR-IA**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is working with local, state and other federal agencies to coordinate the response to the Midwest storms of 2008, a federally declared disaster in Iowa. Beginning on June 11, 2008, the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center on Kirkwood Boulevard experienced extensive damage from the flooding of the Iowa River and its tributaries which flooded portions of Iowa City and the surrounding area. The current flood damaged location of the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center is 111 Kirkwood Avenue and the temporary location is 4852 Sand Road SE in Iowa City, Iowa. The Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center serves the populations of the Johnson County area with an estimated 2008 population of 128,094 which is projected to continue to rise over the next couple decades. Despite the increase in human population, the shelter has tracked a consistent number of animal populations served. There was an unsurprising spike in animal intake in 2008 resulting from families who had to relocate and needed temporary shelter for their pets during the flooding event. The Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center serves additional purposes beyond housing and adoption of strays and unwanted pets, including licensing and tagging animals, free education programs, investigation of animal cruelty complaints, and a public lending library of animal care books, magazines, and videos.

The principal criterion, established by the Animal Shelter Location Study Committee, and which guided the site selection process, was a location outside of the 100-year floodplain, access to open space and proximity to existing infrastructure. Equally important was compatibility with the surrounding neighborhood and proximity away from high-frequency or random noise sources. The Proposed Action would involve the construction of a 7200 square-foot building with an additional 85 square-feet devoted to codes and standards upgrades along with space necessary to accommodate the needs for animal adoption, licensing and tagging animals, free education programs, and a public library devoted to animal care books, magazines, and videos. The proposed site of the new Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center is located next to the existing Napoleon Park north of McCollister Blvd and adjacent to existing public works facilities. These parcels are part of the planned Terry Trueblood Park, and are identified by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as being located in Zone X, an area determined to be outside the 100-and 500-year floodplains and thus be consistent with EO 11988.

FEMA was authorized under Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-DR-1763-IA, to provide federal disaster assistance to Johnson County, Iowa, as a result of damages during the incident period beginning May 25, 2008 and ending August 13, 2008. (Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121-5206, as amended (Stafford Act, Public Law 93-288). The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires that FEMA evaluate the potential environmental effects of the agency's proposed and alternative actions prior to obligating disaster assistance funds. The President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has developed a series of regulations for implementing the NEPA. These regulations are included in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 1500-1508.

The CFR requires that a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) include an evaluation of alternative means of addressing damages caused in declared disasters, and a discussion of the potential environmental effects of the proposed Federal Action. In accordance with both CEQ and FEMA regulations implementing NEPA in 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives presented in the EA and to determine whether the potential effects of the Proposed Action will require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The EA contains an evaluation of the potential impacts associated with constructing the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center at its new location. Alternatives evaluated in the EA include: 1) no action, i.e. continued termination of the Adoption Center resources. 2) Construction of the new Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center (proposed). Other alternatives were considered but not carried forth and are described in the EA. The proposed action is the preferred alternative due to the site being situated outside of the 100-year floodplain. The Draft EA was made available for public review and comment from June 14 to July 14, 2011. FEMA did not receive substantive comments on the Draft EA.

#### **FINDING**

Based upon the project scope of work, site design, and EA; and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 for environmental consideration, including Executive Orders (EO) addressing floodplains (EO 11988), wetlands (EO 11990), and environmental justice (EO 12898), FEMA determined the Proposed Action will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment and to the best of our knowledge, does not have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in accordance with 44 CFR Part 10.8 (d)(3)(x). As a result of the information and analysis contained in the environmental assessment, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared. An Environmental Impact Statement will not, therefore, be prepared based on the fact that there will be no long-term adverse impacts to the natural or human environment as a result of this project and therefore, based upon the findings above, the project may proceed.

#### **APPROVAL**

  
Kenneth Sessa  
Regional Environmental Officer  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VII

7/14/2011