

Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)
for the St. Clare Elementary School Relocation Project,
Hancock County, Mississippi
FEMA-1604-DR-MS

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to assist the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi in the funding of a flood mitigation project for the St. Clare Elementary School (SCES) in Hancock County, Mississippi.

The former SCES campus, located at 234 South Beach Boulevard in Waveland, Mississippi, consisted of five buildings totaling approximately 29,300 square feet. The school provided private education for up to 261 students per year, kindergarten through sixth grade. SCES was located within the 100-year floodplain (Flood Zones A9 and V13), and within the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) and surge inundation zone, receiving 25 to 30 feet of water. Damages to the school exceeded the 50% repair/replacement ratio, meeting FEMA's criteria for the demolition and replacement of the campus.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Catholic Diocese of Biloxi proposes to relocate SCES to the Bay Catholic Elementary School (BCES) campus. The BCES campus is located approximately 3.6 miles northeast of the former SCES campus. BCES provides private education for 468 students from kindergarten through sixth grade. The BCES campus is located outside the ABFE and 100-year floodplain (Flood Zone C).

The Proposed Action Alternative would combine SCES and BCES to create Holy Trinity Catholic School, which would be designed for a capacity of 732 students, pre-kindergarten through sixth grade. The proposed project would include the new construction of a 12,500-square-foot building on the BCES campus (as the replacement for SCES), reconfiguration of BCES through interior renovations to increase student capacity, and upgrades of BCES to meet or exceed current codes and standards

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environmental, and potential environmental consequences for the proposed action. The Draft EA is available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region4.shtm> or viewed and copied at the following locations:

- Holy Trinity Catholic School
301 South Second Street
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520
- Hancock County Public Library
Bay St. Louis Branch
312 Highway 90
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

The comment period will conclude 15 days after the initial notice publication date of Thursday, January 3, 2008. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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