



**FEMA**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office  
1250 Poydras St  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

**DRAFT**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**for**  
**ST. BERNARD ANIMAL SHELTER**  
**ST. BERNARD PARISH, LOUISIANA**

BACKGROUND

On August 29, 2005, the tidal surge and high velocity winds from Hurricane Katrina caused extensive damage to the St. Bernard Animal Shelter located at 115 Agriculture Street, Chalmette, Louisiana. The St. Bernard Parish Government, which owns and operates the shelter, would like to demolish the existing 3,700-square foot shelter and construct a new 6,200-square foot animal shelter at an undeveloped site, approximately six miles from the original location. The purpose of the proposed action is to return the St. Bernard Animal Shelter to its pre-disaster function, increase its capacity and make it less susceptible to storm surge and flooding.

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared. The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the relocation and construction of the St. Bernard Animal Shelter and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The need for the proposed action is to adequately support the animal control and shelter needs of St. Bernard Parish. The alternatives considered include 1) No Action and 2) Relocation of St. Bernard Animal Shelter (Proposed Action).

The proposed action would construct a new animal shelter facility near the intersection of Louisiana Highway 39/ East Judge Perez Drive and Angelique Drive in Violet, Louisiana (29.9156 N, -89.8987 W). The new facility would include a 6,200-square foot structure, an access driveway, parking spaces and utility infrastructure.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

A legal notice will be posted in the local newspaper. The Draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at [www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm) and will be available for public review at the St. Bernard Parish Government Complex, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, 8201 W. Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, Louisiana, 70043. If no substantive comments are

received, the Draft EA will become final and the initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.

## FINDINGS

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to geology, soils, water resources (surface water, groundwater, wetlands and floodplains), coastal resources, biological resources, cultural resources, air quality, noise, traffic, safety, hazardous materials and socioeconomics. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, water quality, transportation, air quality, and noise are anticipated. Also during the construction period, cultural resources impacts could occur during ground disturbing activities; however, Section 106 consultation would be on-going to limit any potential impacts which could occur. Minor, but insignificant floodplain impacts could occur with the construction of the cottages. All short-term 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 the implementation of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize federal funds:

- To minimize soil impacts, St. Bernard Parish should implement BMPs such as using silt fencing, covering stockpiled soils, mulching cleared areas and revegetating.
- A Storm Water Management Plan should be prepared and BMP's for storm water management should be implemented to minimize any detrimental effects to water quality during project implementation.
- St. Bernard Parish is required to coordinate construction activities with the local floodplain administrator and comply with the local floodplain ordinance. All permits and certificates, and all the associated coordination, should be documented and provided to the local floodplain administrator, to LA GOHSEP and to FEMA as part of the permanent project file. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d) (9), the replacement of building contents, materials and equipment, where possible, require disaster proofing of the building and/or elimination of such future losses by relocation of those building contents, materials and equipment to or above the ABFE.
- St. Bernard Parish is required to contact LDNR regarding a Coastal Use Permit prior to initiating work.
- Any fill or borrow material used must be sourced from sites that do not contain any buried cultural materials (i.e. wells, cisterns, foundations, basements, prehistoric Indian artifacts, human burials, and the like). If during the course of work,

archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) or human remains are discovered, St. Bernard Parish and/or its contractors should stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The Parish should inform the FEMA Public Assistance program, who would in turn contact the FEMA Historic Preservation staff. The Parish would not proceed with work until FEMA completes consultation with the SHPO. In addition, if unmarked graves are present, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act is required. In that situation, the Parish should notify the local law enforcement agency within 24 hours of the discovery, and notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within 72 hours of the discovery. Failure to comply with these stipulations may jeopardize FEMA funding of the project.

- To minimize air quality impacts, St. Bernard Parish and its contractors should implement BMPs to limit emissions, fugitive dust and exhaust. BMPs would include maintaining and covering spoil piles, covering the loads of haul vehicles and keeping construction equipment properly tuned.
- Construction traffic should be monitored and controlled as appropriate.
- St. Bernard Parish and its contractors should ensure all project activities are conducted in a safe manner and in compliance with all state and federal occupational safety regulations, including OSHA, to protect workers and the general public.
- If hazardous constituents are unexpectedly encountered, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation and management of the contamination should be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state and local regulations.
- Appropriate measures to prevent, minimize and control spills of hazardous materials should be taken, and any hazardous and non-hazardous wastes generated should be disposed in accordance with applicable federal, state and local requirements.

## CONCLUSION

The results of these evaluations, as well as consultations and input from other federal and state agencies, are presented in the Draft EA. Based on the information analyzed, FEMA has determined that the implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to the quality of the natural and human environment. In addition, the proposed project does not appear to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (per 44 CFR Part 10) and the proposed project as described in the EA may proceed.

APPROVAL

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Date

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Date