

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)**  
**for the St. Martin High School Construction Project**  
**Ocean Springs, Mississippi**  
**FEMA-1604-DR-MS**

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to assist in the funding of a flood mitigation project to construct a new St. Martin High School to replace the St. Martin Attendance Center which was composed of the St. Martin Upper Elementary School and the St. Martin Middle School in Jackson County, Mississippi.

The St. Martin Attendance Center (Upper Elementary and Middle School) formerly located at 16304 Lemoyne Boulevard in Jackson County, Mississippi. The St. Martin Upper Elementary School facility consisted of a classroom building, a gymnasium, and a building containing classrooms, offices, and a cafeteria, with a combined total space of 52,395 square feet. The St. Martin Middle School consisted of sixteen buildings: six classroom buildings; a science building; a cafeteria; a gymnasium; a vocational building; a field house; a maintenance storage building; a maintenance building; an industrial arts building; a bus maintenance building; and a concession building. As a result of Hurricane Katrina, fifteen feet of storm surge water inundated the two schools' campuses, causing more than 50% destruction of all buildings including interior furnishings, equipment, plumbing, wiring and flooring. Due to the extent of the damages, all buildings were subsequently demolished. FEMA proposes to provide assistance for this project through the Public Assistance Program (PA) under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1604-DR-MS.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Jackson County School Board would relocate the proposed new St. Martin High School out of the 100-year floodplain. The Jackson County School Board would construct the new St. Martin High School out of the floodplain and advisory base flood elevation (ABFE) zone, protecting it from future storm damages and interrupted service. The proposed new construction of St. Martin High School would be relocated to a 43 acre undeveloped, wooded lot off Yellow Jacket Boulevard in Ocean Springs (Lat. 30°, 26', 27.21" North and Long. 88°, 47', 48.28" West). The proposed site was already designated as Section 16 land owned by Jackson County for use by the school board. The proposed project site is bound on the north by a subdivision, on the east by undeveloped forested land, on the south by the existing St. Martin High School (e.g. to be converted to the new Middle School) and on the west by Yellow Jacket Boulevard.

The proposed project site would be completely cleared for the construction of the proposed new St. Martin High School. The proposed facility will contain a 168,185 square foot High School designed to support 2,508 students (with a future additions of 26,400 square feet to support an additional 1,112 students. The two story classroom

wings will meet FEMA 361 Shelter requirements. Access to the proposed project site would be from the west via Yellow Jacket Boulevard. The proposed new St. Martin High School would utilize municipal water, electricity, sewerage, and telephone facilities, with tie-ins from existing lines running parallel to Yellow Jacket Boulevard.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 1190, 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 considered, 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.stm> or viewed and copied at the following locations:

- Ocean Springs Municipal Library, 525 Dewey Avenue, Ocean Springs, MS 39564
- St. Martin Branch Library, 15004 Lemoyne Boulevard, Biloxi, MS 39532

The comment period will end fifteen (15) days from the notice publication date, which is October 16, 2007. 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 FONSI will become final. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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