



September 17, 2003

Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D.,
State Historic Preservation Officer
Division of Historical Resources
R. A. Gray Building, Room 305
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Subject: *Cultural Resources Assessment, Bay Point Wastewater Treatment System, Florida Keys, Florida.*

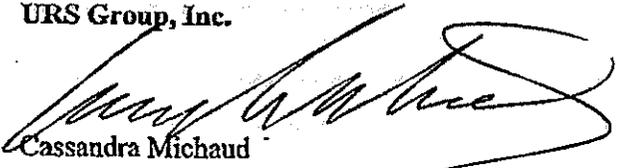
Dear Dr. Mathews:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IV, URS Group, Inc., submits one copy of the draft report, *Cultural Resources Assessment, Bay Point Wastewater Treatment System, Florida Keys, Florida*, for your review. The purpose of this assessment is to assist FEMA's project planning regarding the proposed wastewater treatment plant on Bay Point, to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, and to provide the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) with information on possible impacts to cultural resources.

This assessment was completed in August 2003 by URS Group, Inc. The report has been prepared in accordance with applicable state and federal standards by investigators who meet *The Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards*, 36 CFR Part 61, in the discipline of archaeology. We look forward to receiving your agency's comments on the report. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at 301-652-2215.

Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.



Cassandra Michaud
Archaeologist

Enclosure

cc: Science Kilner, FEMA Region IV, Lead Environmental Specialist
Steve Carruth, URS Group, Inc., Environmental Planner
Jeffrey Durbin, URS Group, Inc., Architectural Historian
Justin Patton, URS Group, Inc., Archaeologist
Ramon Mendieta, URS Group, Inc., Project Environmental Scientist

URS Group, Inc.
200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Galtersburg, MD 20878
Tel: 301.258.9780
Fax: 301.869.8728
www.urscorp.com



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 Glenda E. Hood
 Secretary of State
 DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Ms. Cassandra Michaud
 URS Group, Inc.
 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
 Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878

October 16, 2003

Re: DHR No. 2003-8434 / Date Received by DHR: September 18, 2003
*Draft Report, Cultural Resources Assessment, Bay Point Wastewater Treatment System,
 Florida Keys, Monroe County, Florida*

Dear Ms. Michaud:

Our office has received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (Public Law 91-190), as amended. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist federal agencies when identifying historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*, assessing effects upon them, and considering alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

Unfortunately, we are unable to conclude our review of the referenced survey report at this time, as it is not complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*. Before this office can finish the process of reviewing the proposed project for potential impacts to historic properties, the following information must be forwarded to this office:

- Completed Florida Master Site File Survey Log Sheet
- Completed Florida Master Site File Historical Bridge Forms for the 5 previously unrecorded bridges within the project area
 - 1) Bridge over Saddlebunch No.2 Channel (which connects Saddlebunch Key and Bay Point)
 - 2) Saddlebunch Channel No. 2 Bridge
 - 3) Saddlebunch Channel No. 3 Bridge
 - 4) Saddlebunch Channel No. 4 Bridge
 - 5) Saddlebunch Channel No. 5 Bridge

The requested information should be included in the final report and include the above DHR Number (2003-8434). When the revised report is received, we can quickly conclude the review process. Please note that the complete language of Chapter 1A-46 is available online at <http://dhr.dos.state.fl.us/bhp/compliance>.

In view of your comments about the lack of a Certified Local Government (CLG) for Bay Point or Saddlebunch key, we are providing you with the contact information of the Monroe County CLG that should have been contacted.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
 (850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6435

Archaeological Research
 (850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6436

Historic Preservation
 (850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

Historical Museums
 (850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433

Palm Beach Regional Office
 (561) 279-1475 • FAX: 279-1476

St. Augustine Regional Office
 (904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044

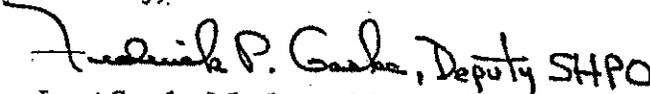
Tampa Regional Office
 (813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340

Ms. Michaud
October 16, 2003
Page 2

Mr. George Born
Historic Florida Keys Foundation
510 Greene Street
Key West, Florida 33030
Phone 305-292-6718
Fax: 305-293-6348

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Mini Sharma, Historic Sites Specialist, at mtsharma@dos.state.fl.us or (850) 245-6333. Your interest in protecting Florida's historic properties is appreciated.

Sincerely,

 Frederick P. Gaska, Deputy SHPO

for Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D., Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer

Xc: Ms. Science Kilner, FEMA-Region IV



November 6, 2003

Ms. Mini Sharma
Historic Sites Specialist
Division of Historical Resources
R. A. Gray Building, Room 305
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Subject: *Survey Log Sheet, Cultural Resources Assessment, Bay Point Wastewater Treatment System, Florida Keys, Florida DHR No.2003-8434*

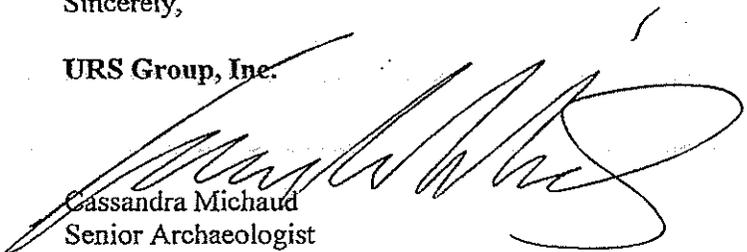
Dear Ms. Sharma:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IV, URS Group, Inc., is enclosing a Survey Log Sheet, which is associated with the draft report, *Cultural Resources Assessment, Bay Point Wastewater Treatment System, Florida Keys, Florida*. In a letter from your office dated October 16, 2003, you requested that this survey log sheet be submitted to complete the required documentation for this project. In the same letter, you further requested the completion of Historical Bridge Forms for five previously unrecorded bridges within the project area. Through subsequent discussions between Ms. Science Kilner of FEMA Region IV and Ms. Laura Kammerer of your office, it was agreed that these forms would not be necessary in order to complete your agency's review of this project.

We request a letter confirming your receipt of this documentation and your concurrence with the finding of no effect for this project. The letter may be faxed to my attention at 301-656-8059, or mailed to the address below. Should you have further questions, please contact me at 301-652-2215. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this project.

Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.



Cassandra Michaud
Senior Archaeologist

Enclosure

cc: Science Kilner, FEMA Region IV, Lead Environmental Specialist
Steve Carruth, URS Group, Inc., Environmental Planner
Jeffrey Durbin, URS Group, Inc., Architectural Historian
Justin Patton, URS Group, Inc., Archaeologist

URS Group, Inc.
7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814
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www.urscorp.com

Ent/D/FMSF

Survey # (FMSF only)



only

Survey Log Sheet

Florida Master Site File
Version 2.0 9/97

Consult *Guide to the Survey Log Sheet* for detailed instructions.

Identification and Bibliographic Information

Survey Project (Name and project phase) Bay Point Wastewater Treatment Plant, Florida Keys, Florida

Report Title (exactly as on title page) Cultural Resources Assessment, Bay Point Wastewater Treatment System, Florida Keys, Florida

Report Author(s) (as on title page— individual or corporate; last names first) URS Group, Inc.

Publication Date (year) 2003 Total Number of Pages in Report (Count text, figures, tables, not site forms) 31

Publication Information (If relevant, series and no. in series, publisher, and city. For article or chapter, cite page numbers. Use the style of *American Antiquity*; see *Guide to the Survey Log Sheet*.) Cultural Resources Assessment, Bay Point Wastewater Treatment Plan, Florida Keys, Florida/ Prepared for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IV, 3003 Chamblee Tucker Road, Atlanta, GA 30341.

Supervisor(s) of Fieldwork (whether or not the same as author[s]; last name first) Patton, Justin S.

Affiliation of Fieldworkers (organization, city) URS Corporation, Bethesda, Maryland

Key Words/Phrases (Don't use the county, or common words like *archaeology, structure, survey, architecture*. Put the most important first. Limit each word or phrase to 25 characters.) Bay Point, Cultural Resources Assessment, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Florida Keys

Survey Sponsors (corporation, government unit, or person who is directly paying for fieldwork)

Name Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IV

Address/Phone 3003 Chamblee Tucker Road, Atlanta, GA 30341, 770-220-5432

Recorder of Log Sheet Patton, Justin S. Date Log Sheet Completed 10/ 27/ 03

Is this survey or project a continuation of a previous project? No Yes: Previous Survey # (S)

FMSF only

Mapping

Counties (List each one in which field survey was done - do not abbreviate; use supplement sheet if necessary) _____

Monroe County

USGS 1:24,000 Map(s) : Map Name/Date of Latest Revision (use supplement sheet if necessary): _____

Sugarloaf Key (1972). Saddlebunch Keys (1991), Boca Chica Key (1971)

Description of Survey Area

Dates for Fieldwork: Start 08/01/02 End 08/01/02 Total Area Surveyed (fill in one) 3 hectares acres

Number of Distinct Tracts or Areas Surveyed 3

If Corridor (fill in one for each): Width 3.1 meters feet Length 1.2 kilometers miles

Research and Field Methods

Types of Survey (check all that apply): X archaeological X architectural X historical/archival • underwater • other:

Preliminary Methods (x)Check as many as apply to the project as a whole. If needed write others at bottom). X Florida Archives (Gray Building) • library research- local public • local property or tax records X windshield • Florida Photo Archives (Gray Building) • library-special collection - nonlocal • newspaper files X aerial photography XFMSF site property search • Public Lands Survey (maps at DEP) • literature search X FMSF survey search • local informant(s) X Sanborn Insurance maps • other (describe)

Archaeological Methods (Describe the proportion of properties at which method was used by writing in the corresponding letter. Blanks are interpreted as "None.") F(-ew: 0-20%), S(-ome: 20-50%); M(-ost: 50-90%); or A(-ll, Nearly all: 90-100%). If needed write others at bottom.

- Check here if NO archaeological methods were used. A surface collection, controlled other screen shovel test (size:) block excavation (at least 2x2 M) A surface collection, uncontrolled water screen (finest size:) soil resistivity shovel test-1/4" screen posthole tests magnetometer shovel test-1/8" screen auger (size:) side scan sonar shovel test 1/16" screen coring unknown shovel test-unscreened test excavation (at least 1x2 M) other (describe):

Historical/Architectural Methods (Describe the proportion of properties at which method was used by writing in the corresponding letter. Blanks are interpreted as "None.") F(-ew: 0-20%), S(-ome: 20-50%); M(-ost: 50-90%); or A(-ll, Nearly all: 90-100%). If needed write others at bottom.

- Check here if NO historical/architectural methods were used. building permits demolition permits neighbor interview subdivision maps commercial permits A exposed ground inspected occupant interview tax records interior documentation local property records occupation permits unknown A other (describe): survey and digital photographs of project area view-shed

Scope/Intensity/Procedures Florida Master Site Files research and archaeological and architectural pedestrian survey.

Survey Results (cultural resources recorded)

Site Significance Evaluated? X Yes • No If Yes, circle NR-eligible/significant site numbers below. Site Counts: Previously Recorded Sites 0 Newly Recorded Sites 0 Previously Recorded Site #'s with Site File Update Forms (List site #'s without "8." Attach supplementary pages if necessary) 0 Newly Recorded Site #'s (Are you sure all are originals and not updates? Identify methods used to check for updates, ie, researched the FMSF records. List site #'s without "8." Attach supplementary pages if necessary.)

Site Form Used: • SmartForm • FMSF Paper Form X Approved Custom Form: Attach copies of written approval from FMSF Supervisor. Recommendation of eligibility was approved by SHPO but no architectural forms were prepared.

DO NOT USE SITE FILE USE ONLY DO NOT USE BAR Related BHP Related 872 1A32 State Historic Preservation Grant



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Glenda E. Hood
 Secretary of State
 DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Ms. Cassandra Michaud
 URS Group, Inc.
 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
 Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878

November 7, 2003

Re: DHR No. 2003-9728 (2003-8434) / Date Received by DHR: November 6, 2003 *LAC 11/10/03*
Additional Information to Draft Report, Cultural Resources Assessment, Bay Point
Wastewater Treatment System, Florida Keys, Monroe County, Florida

Dear Ms. Michaud:

Our office has received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (Public Law 91-190), as amended. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist federal agencies when identifying historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*, assessing effects upon them, and considering alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

A cultural resource assessment survey was completed for a project that proposes to replace existing on-site residential waste water systems with a wastewater collections system. The project involves three alternatives.

Alternative 1 is the no-build alternative and therefore will have no effect on historic properties. The assessment for Alternative 2 resulted in the identification of a bridge that is part of the Overseas Highway, which is determined to be eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*. The Area of Potential Effect for Alternative 3 resulted in the identification of six bridges that may be eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places* as components of the Overseas Highway and Railway Bridge network. Alternatives 2 and 3 will involve the replacement of the metal hangers that will be used to attach wastewater transmission force to the bridge. Because the proposed alternatives involve minimal changes to the bridge and will not change the characteristics that make the seven structures potentially eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*, it is the opinion of URS, Inc., that alternatives 1, 2 or 3 will have no effect on historical properties eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*, or otherwise of historical or archaeological value. Based on the information provided, our office concurs with the above recommendations made by URS, Inc.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

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Tampa Regional Office
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Ms. Michaud
November 7, 2003
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We find the submitted report complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*. If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Mini Sharma, Historic Sites Specialist, at mtsharma@dos.state.fl.us or (850) 245-6333. Your interest in protecting Florida's historic properties is appreciated.

Sincerely,

 Frederick P. Gaska, Deputy SHPO

 Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D., Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer

Xc: Ms. Science Kilner, FEMA-Region IV



November 20, 2003

Georgia Cranmore
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
NMFS, Southeast Region
Protective Resources Division
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements for Bay Point Key in the Florida Keys, Florida.

Dear Ms. Cranmore:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), URS Group, Inc. is providing your agency with a compact disk copy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Wastewater Treatment Improvements in Bay Point Key, Monroe County, Florida. The SEA evaluates the impacts of constructing wastewater treatment facilities in the communities of Bay Point and Saddlebunch Keys. A separate, initial letter outlining FEMA's intent to prepare the Draft SEA, along with a request for informal Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation for this project, was transmitted to your agency on May 6, 2003. On May 19, 2003, your office replied that the project would have no effect on listed species or critical habitat protected by the ESA under the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) purview. The Draft SEA incorporates the ESA consultation, and at this time, FEMA welcomes additional comments your agency may have to the entire document, which is provided on the enclosed CD.

A public meeting on the Draft SEA will be held for the Bay Point Project December 4, 2003. The public review period for the Bay Point Draft SEA is from November 26 to December 12, 2003.

Background

In 1998, during the aftermath of Hurricane Georges, Congress allocated additional monies for long-term disaster recovery projects in the State of Florida to assist counties whose needs were yet unmet through allocation of primary disaster relief funds. This Unmet Needs money was earmarked for the counties most impacted by Hurricane Georges, including Monroe County. Monroe County, Florida requested that wastewater management improvement projects be considered for disaster funding since many existing wastewater facilities in Monroe County do not provide adequate collection, treatment, or disposal, and thus contribute greatly to degraded water quality in the Florida Keys. Since then, FEMA has received grant applications from several Monroe County communities to upgrade their current wastewater treatment facilities.

URS Group, Inc.
200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Tel: 301.258.9780
Fax: 301.869.8728



Georgia Cranmore
NMFS, Southeast Region
November 20, 2003
Page 2

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508), and FEMA regulations for NEPA compliance (44 CFR Part 10) direct FEMA and other federal agencies to fully understand and take into consideration during decision making, the environmental consequences of proposed federal actions (projects). Therefore, FEMA must comply with NEPA, and other applicable federal laws and regulations, before making federal funds available for disaster recovery and mitigation actions. FEMA prepared a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and reached a Programmatic Finding of No Significant Impact (PFONSI) on December 23, 2002, which was previously submitted to your office for review. This SEA tiers from that document.

Submitting Comments

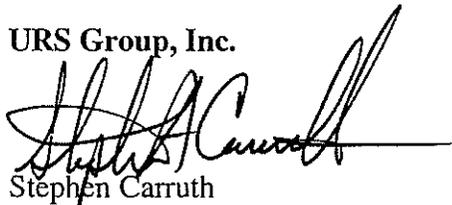
Please submit your comments on the Draft SEAs in writing to Ms. Science Kilner, Lead Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region IV within 30 days of the receipt of this letter. Ms. Kilner's contact information is:

FEMA Region IV – Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Fax: (770) 220-5440

Your comments will be considered during the Final SEA preparation process. Thank you for your involvement in this documentation process.

Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.



Stephen Carruth
Project Environmental Scientist

Attachments



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

December 19, 2003

Ms. Science Kilner
FEMA Region IV
Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Ms. Kilner:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) has reviewed the November 20, 2003, Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (DSEA) for the Bay Point Key/Saddlebunch Key Wastewater System, Monroe County, Florida, which you provided. By letter dated May 29, 2003, we provided comments on the Notice of Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (DSEA) for the Bay Point Key/Saddlebunch Key Wastewater System, Monroe County, Florida. We also provided comments on the September 20, 2002, Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (DPEA) for the Proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements in the Florida Keys, Florida.

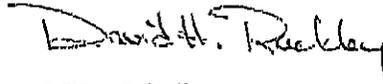
NOAA Fisheries concurs with the determination that construction of a Bay Point Key/Saddlebunch Key Wastewater System is expected to have a beneficial effect with regard to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Nearshore marine habitats including seagrass communities and coral reefs are likely to benefit as a result of reductions in total suspended solids, nutrients, and pathogens that are discharged in connection with wastewater treatment activities.

In conclusion, NOAA Fisheries supports improvement of the existing wastewater treatment facilities Keys-wide, including proposed improvements at Bay Point Key/Saddlebunch Key. Reducing nutrient loading into nearshore waters from outdated septic systems and cesspits should result in improved water quality and positive effects on EFH and other NOAA Fisheries-trust resources in the Florida Keys. Therefore, the actions to be implemented largely address NOAA Fisheries' recommendations, and the intent and procedural requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and the regulations for implementing the EFH requirements of the Act have been met.



We sincerely appreciate efforts by the FEMA to protect Florida's living marine resources. Related correspondence should be addressed to the attention of Ms. Jocelyn Karazsia at our Miami Office. She may be reached at 11420 North Kendall Drive, Suite #103, Miami, Florida 33176, or by telephone at (305) 595-8352.

Sincerely,



for

Miles M. Croom
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc:
EPA, Marathon
DEP, Marathon
FFWCC, Tallahassee
FWS, Vero Beach
F/SER4
F/SER45-Karazsia
F/SER43-Ruebsamen



November 20, 2003

Mr. Bill Causey, Superintendent
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
P.O. Box 500368
Marathon, FL 33050

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessments (SEA) of Proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements for Key Largo and Bay Point Key in the Florida Keys, Florida.

Dear Mr. Causey:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), URS Group, Inc. is providing your agency with a CD copy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Wastewater Treatment Improvements in Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida, and a CD copy of the Draft SEA for Wastewater Improvements for Bay Point, Monroe County, Florida. The SEAs evaluate the impacts of constructing wastewater treatment facilities in the communities of Key Largo and Bay Point. Separate, initial letters outlining FEMA's intent to prepare the Draft SEAs for these two projects was transmitted to your agency on June 5, 2003 and May 6, 2003, respectively. Agency comments received in response to these letters were considered in preparation of the enclosed drafts. At this time, FEMA requests your review and comment on the Key Largo and Bay Point Draft SEAs.

Public meetings on the Draft SEAs will be held in Key Largo for the Key Largo Project on December 3, 2003 and in Key West for the Bay Point Project December 4, 2003. The public review period for the Key Largo Draft SEA is from November 21 to December 19, 2003. The public review period for the Bay Point Draft SEA is from November 26 to December 12, 2003.

Background

In 1998, during the aftermath of Hurricane Georges, Congress allocated additional monies for long-term disaster recovery projects in the State of Florida to assist counties whose needs were yet unmet through allocation of primary disaster relief funds. This Unmet Needs money was earmarked for the counties most impacted by Hurricane Georges, including Monroe County. Monroe County, Florida requested that wastewater management improvement projects be considered for disaster funding since many existing wastewater facilities in Monroe County do not provide adequate collection, treatment, or disposal, and thus contribute greatly to degraded water quality in the Florida Keys. Since then, FEMA has received grant applications from several Monroe County communities to upgrade their current wastewater treatment facilities.

URS Group, Inc.
200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Tel: 301.258.9780
Fax: 301.869.8728



Mr. Bill Causey
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
November 20, 2003
Page 2

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508), and FEMA regulations for NEPA compliance (44 CFR Part 10) direct FEMA and other federal agencies to fully understand and take into consideration during decision making, the environmental consequences of proposed federal actions (projects). Therefore, FEMA must comply with NEPA, and other applicable federal laws and regulations, before making federal funds available for disaster recovery and mitigation actions. FEMA prepared a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and reached a Programmatic Finding of No Significant Impact (PFONSI) on December 23, 2002, which was previously submitted to your office for review. These SEAs tier from this document.

Submitting Comments

Please submit your comments on the Draft SEAs in writing to Ms. Science Kilner, Lead Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region IV within 30 days of the receipt of this letter. Ms. Kilner's contact information is:

FEMA Region IV – Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Fax: (770) 220-5440

Your comments will be considered during the Final SEA preparation process. Thank you for your involvement in this documentation process.

Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.

Stephen Carruth
Project Environmental Scientist

Attachments



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
P.O. Box 500368
Marathon, FL 33050

(305) 743-2437 Voice
(305) 743-2357 Fax

5 January 2004

Science Kilner, Lead Environmental Specialist
FEMA Region IV, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

Re: Comments on the Key Largo and Bay Point Key Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessments

Dear Ms. Kilner:

I am writing in response to a letter dated 20 November 2003 from Stephen Carruth (URS Group, Inc.) to Billy D. Causey, Superintendent of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS). Mr. Causey asked me to review and provide comments on the Draft SEAs on behalf of the FKNMS.

At both Key Largo and Bay Point Key we support the Alternative 2 (A2) sites for wastewater treatment plants. At Key Largo, A2 places the shallow-injection wells farther from the Florida Straits (1,500 ft) than A3 (immediately adjacent). The greater distance most likely will enable further reduction of nutrient concentrations, via sorption of phosphorus onto carbonate substrata and denitrification, as the lense of effluent rises and flows toward the Straits. Groundwater investigations at Key Colony Beach have documented this phenomenon. At Bay Point Key, A2 has a much shorter pumping distance than A3, reducing the risk of a spill of untreated sewage.

We support the use of ultraviolet radiation for effluent disinfection at both sites. Chlorination by tablets or sodium hypochlorite may result in endocrine disruptors and other deleterious organic compounds, which should be less of a potential risk with treatment by ultraviolet radiation.

For both projects, we recommend that you consult Dr. Joe Boyer (Florida International University, Southeast Environmental Research Center, FKNMS Water Quality Monitoring Project) about monitoring possible changes in nutrient concentrations associated with these two projects. It might be possible to examine arrays of monitoring stations near the two sites in a



before-and-after, control-and-impact (BACI) type of sampling design. This might have much greater statistical "power" than the single-station approach noted in the Draft SEAs. Such data might complement the water-quality investigation that is being conducted in conjunction with the Little Venice project in Marathon. This type of BACI water-quality investigation might also add credence to the conjectures about "cumulative water quality improvements" in section 4.2 Water Resources and Water Quality of both SEAs. This could be a valuable scientific contribution as the Keys community proceeds toward implementing additional wastewater treatment systems over the coming years.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the Draft SEAs. Please feel free to contact me at 305-743-2437 x25 (brian.keller@noaa.gov) if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely yours,



Brian D. Keller, Ph.D.
Science Coordinator

cc: B.D. Causey



November 20, 2003

Mr. James Golden, AICP
Senior Planner
Environmental Resource Regulation
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements for Bay Point Key in the Florida Keys, Florida.

Dear Mr. Golden:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), URS Group, Inc. is providing your agency with a compact disk copy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Wastewater Treatment Improvements in Bay Point Key, Monroe County, Florida. The Draft SEA evaluates the impacts of constructing wastewater treatment facilities in the communities of Bay Point and Saddlebunch Keys. A separate, initial letter outlining FEMA's intent to prepare the Draft SEA for this project was transmitted to your agency on May 6, 2003 via the Florida State Clearinghouse. On June 9, 2003, your office replied with 14 technical/economic issues with regard to this project. FEMA has worked with the applicant, the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, to resolve pertinent issues and addresses them in the Draft SEA. The remaining design/engineering issues will be resolved when the Aqueduct Authority coordinates project permits. At this time, FEMA welcomes additional comments your agency may have to the entire document, which is provided on the enclosed CD.

A public meeting on the Draft SEA will be held for the Bay Point Project on December 4, 2003. The public review period for the Bay Point Draft SEA is from November 26 to December 12, 2003.

Background

In 1998, during the aftermath of Hurricane Georges, Congress allocated additional monies for long-term disaster recovery projects in the State of Florida to assist counties whose needs were yet unmet through allocation of primary disaster relief funds. This Unmet Needs money was earmarked for the counties most impacted by Hurricane Georges, including Monroe County. Monroe County, Florida requested that wastewater management improvement projects be considered for disaster funding since many existing wastewater facilities in Monroe County do not provide adequate collection, treatment, or disposal, and thus contribute greatly to degraded water quality in the Florida Keys. Since then, FEMA has received grant applications from several Monroe County communities to upgrade their current wastewater treatment facilities.

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Mr. James Golden, AICP
South Florida Water Management District
November 20th, 2003
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The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508), and FEMA regulations for NEPA compliance (44 CFR Part 10) direct FEMA and other federal agencies to fully understand and take into consideration during decision making, the environmental consequences of proposed federal actions (projects). Therefore, FEMA must comply with NEPA, and other applicable federal laws and regulations, before making federal funds available for disaster recovery and mitigation actions. FEMA prepared a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and reached a Programmatic Finding of No Significant Impact (PFONSI) on December 23, 2002, which was previously submitted to your office for review. This SEA tiers from that document.

Submitting Comments

Please submit your comments on the Draft SEA in writing to Ms. Science Kilner, Lead Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region IV within 30 days of the receipt of this letter. Ms. Kilner's contact information is:

FEMA Region IV – Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Fax: (770) 220-5440

Your comments will be considered during the Final SEA preparation process. Thank you for your involvement in this documentation process.

Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.

Stephen Carruth
Project Environmental Scientist

Attachments



November 20, 2003

Ms. Jocelyn Karazsia
National Marine Fisheries Service
Division of Habitat Conservation
11420 N. Kendall Drive, Suite 103
Miami, Florida 33176

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements for Bay Point Key in the Florida Keys, Florida.

Dear Ms. Karazsia:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), URS Group, Inc. is providing your agency with a compact disk copy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Wastewater Treatment Improvements in Bay Point Key, Monroe County, Florida. The SEA evaluates the impacts of constructing wastewater treatment facilities in the communities of Bay Point and Saddlebunch Keys. A separate, initial letter outlining FEMA's intent to prepare the Draft SEA for this project was transmitted to your agency on May 6, 2003. On May 29, 2003, your office replied that the project is expected to have a beneficial effect with regard to Essential Fish Habitat. At this time, FEMA welcomes additional comments your agency may have to the entire document, which is provided on the enclosed CD.

A public meeting on the Draft SEA will be held for the Bay Point Project on December 4, 2003. The public review period for the Bay Point Draft SEA is from November 26 to December 12, 2003.

Background

In 1998, during the aftermath of Hurricane Georges, Congress allocated additional monies for long-term disaster recovery projects in the State of Florida to assist counties whose needs were yet unmet through allocation of primary disaster relief funds. This Unmet Needs money was earmarked for the counties most impacted by Hurricane Georges, including Monroe County. Monroe County, Florida requested that wastewater management improvement projects be considered for disaster funding since many existing wastewater facilities in Monroe County do not provide adequate collection, treatment, or disposal, and thus contribute greatly to degraded water quality in the Florida Keys. Since then, FEMA has received grant applications from several Monroe County communities to upgrade their current wastewater treatment facilities.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508), and FEMA regulations for NEPA compliance (44 CFR Part 10) direct FEMA and other federal agencies to

URS Group, Inc.
200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Tel: 301.258.9780
Fax: 301.869.8728



Ms. Jocelyn Karazsia
National Marine Fisheries Service
November 20, 2003
Page 2

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Submitting Comments

Please submit your comments on the Draft SEA in writing to Ms. Science Kilner, Lead Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region IV within 15 days of the receipt of this letter. Ms. Kilner's contact information is:

FEMA Region IV – Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Fax: (770) 220-5440

Your comments will be considered during the Final SEA preparation process. Thank you for your involvement in this documentation process.

Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Carruth', written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Carruth
Project Environmental Scientist

Attachments



November 20, 2003

Mr. Brian Barnett
Interim Director
Office of Environmental Services
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 S. Meridian St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements for Bay Point Key in the Florida Keys, Florida.

Dear Mr. Barnett:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), URS Group, Inc. is providing your agency with a compact disk copy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Wastewater Treatment Improvements in Bay Point Key, Monroe County, Florida. The SEA evaluates the impacts of constructing wastewater treatment facilities in the communities of Bay Point and Saddlebunch Keys. A separate, initial letter outlining FEMA's intent to prepare the Draft SEA for this project was transmitted to your agency via the Florida Clearinghouse on May 6, 2003. On July 11, 2003, your office replied that it had no comment on the project. At this time, FEMA welcomes additional comments your agency may have to the entire document, which is provided on the enclosed CD.

A public meeting on the Draft SEA will be held for the Bay Point Project December 4, 2003. The public review period for the Bay Point Draft SEA is from November 26 to December 12, 2003.

Background

In 1998, during the aftermath of Hurricane Georges, Congress allocated additional monies for long-term disaster recovery projects in the State of Florida to assist counties whose needs were yet unmet through allocation of primary disaster relief funds. This Unmet Needs money was earmarked for the counties most impacted by Hurricane Georges, including Monroe County. Monroe County, Florida requested that wastewater management improvement projects be considered for disaster funding since many existing wastewater facilities in Monroe County do not provide adequate collection, treatment, or disposal, and thus contribute greatly to degraded water quality in the Florida Keys. Since then, FEMA has received grant applications from several Monroe County communities to upgrade their current wastewater treatment facilities.

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Mr. Brian Barnett
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
November 20th, 2003
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Your comments will be considered during the Final SEA preparation process. Thank you for your involvement in this documentation process.

Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.

Stephen Carruth
Project Environmental Scientist

Attachments



November 20, 2003

Mr. Gus Rios
Branch Manager
South District – Marathon Branch
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
2796 Overseas Highway, Suite 221
Marathon, FL 33050

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements for Bay Point Key in the Florida Keys, Florida.

Dear Mr. Rios:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), URS Group, Inc. is providing your agency with a compact disk copy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Wastewater Treatment Improvements in Bay Point Key, Monroe County, Florida. The SEA evaluates the impacts of constructing wastewater treatment facilities in the communities of Bay Point and Saddlebunch Keys. A separate, initial letter to your agency outlining FEMA's intent to prepare the Draft SEA for this project was transmitted to you via the Florida Clearinghouse on May 6, 2003. On July 11th, 2003, Mr. Robert Hall of FDEP's Inter-governmental Programs Office replied with several concerns relating to the project, including: sufficient distance and cross-connection avoidance between the wastewater collection/transmission system and potable water pipes, sufficient injection well capacities, and sufficient treatment capacity at the Key West Resort Utilities plant. FEMA has worked with the applicant to resolve some of these issues, and the Draft SEA addresses pertinent FDEP concerns. The remaining design/engineering issues will be resolved when our applicant coordinates project permits with your office. At this time, FEMA welcomes additional comment your agency may have to the entire document, which is provided on the enclosed CD.

A public meeting on the Draft SEA will be held for the Bay Point Project on December 4, 2003. The public review period for the Bay Point Draft SEA is from November 26 to December 12, 2003.

Background

In 1998, during the aftermath of Hurricane Georges, Congress allocated additional monies for long-term disaster recovery projects in the State of Florida to assist counties whose needs were yet unmet through allocation of primary disaster relief funds. This Unmet Needs money was earmarked for the counties most impacted by Hurricane Georges, including Monroe County. Monroe County, Florida requested that wastewater management improvement projects be considered for disaster funding since many existing wastewater facilities in Monroe County do

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Mr. Gus Rios
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
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Page 2

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3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Fax: (770) 220-5440

Your comments will be considered during the Final SEA preparation process. Thank you for your involvement in this documentation process.

Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.

Stephen Carruth
Project Environmental Scientist

Attachments



November 20, 2003

Mr. Heinz Mueller, Chief
Office of Environmental Assessment
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessments (SEA) of Proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements for Key Largo and Bay Point Key in the Florida Keys, Florida.

Dear Mr. Mueller:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), URS Group, Inc. is providing your agency with a CD copy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Wastewater Treatment Improvements in Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida, and a CD copy of the Draft SEA for Wastewater Improvements for Bay Point, Monroe County, Florida. The SEAs evaluate the impacts of constructing wastewater treatment facilities in the communities of Key Largo and Bay Point. Separate, initial letters outlining FEMA's intent to prepare the Draft SEAs for these two projects was transmitted to your agency on June 5, 2003 and May 6, 2003, respectively. Agency comments received in response to these letters were considered in preparation of the enclosed drafts. At this time, FEMA requests your review and comment on the Key Largo and Bay Point Draft SEAs.

Public meetings on the Draft SEAs will be held in Key Largo for the Key Largo Project on December 3, 2003 and in Key West for the Bay Point Project December 4, 2003. The public review period for the Key Largo Draft SEA is from November 21 to December 19, 2003. The public review period for the Bay Point Draft SEA is from November 26 to December 12, 2003.

Background

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Mr. Heinz Mueller
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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Page 2

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Submitting Comments

Please submit your comments on the Draft SEAs in writing to Ms. Science Kilner, Lead Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region IV within 30 days of the receipt of this letter. Ms. Kilner's contact information is:

FEMA Region IV – Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Fax: (770) 220-5440

Your comments will be considered during the Final SEA preparation process. Thank you for your involvement in this documentation process.

Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.

Stephen Carruth
Project Environmental Scientist

Attachments



November 20, 2003

Mr. Gerald Briggs, Chief
Bureau of Onsite Sewage, HSES
Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way Bin #A08
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1713

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessments (SEA) of Proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements for Key Largo and Bay Point Key in the Florida Keys, Florida.

Dear Mr. Briggs:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), URS Group, Inc. is providing your agency with a CD copy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Wastewater Treatment Improvements in Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida, and a CD copy of the Draft SEA for Wastewater Improvements for Bay Point, Monroe County, Florida. The SEAs evaluate the impacts of constructing wastewater treatment facilities in the communities of Key Largo and Bay Point. Separate, initial letters outlining FEMA's intent to prepare the Draft SEAs for these two projects was transmitted to your agency on June 5, 2003 and May 6, 2003, respectively. Agency comments received in response to these letters were considered in preparation of the enclosed drafts. At this time, FEMA requests your review and comment on the Key Largo and Bay Point Draft SEAs.

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Mr. Gerald Briggs
Florida Department of Health
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Page 2

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Submitting Comments

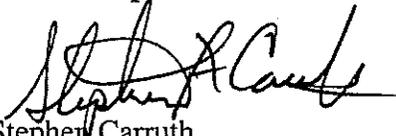
Please submit your comments on the Draft SEAs in writing to Ms. Science Kilner, Lead Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region IV within 30 days of the receipt of this letter. Ms. Kilner's contact information is:

FEMA Region IV – Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Fax: (770) 220-5440

Your comments will be considered during the Final SEA preparation process. Thank you for your involvement in this documentation process.

Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.



Stephen Carruth
Project Environmental Scientist

Attachments



November 20, 2003

Mr. Bart Bibler, Chief
Bureau of Water Programs, HSEW
4042 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32311

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessments (SEA) of Proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements for Key Largo and Bay Point Key in the Florida Keys, Florida.

Dear Mr. Bibler:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), URS Group, Inc. is providing your agency with a CD copy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Wastewater Treatment Improvements in Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida, and a CD copy of the Draft SEA for Wastewater Improvements for Bay Point, Monroe County, Florida. The SEAs evaluate the impacts of constructing wastewater treatment facilities in the communities of Key Largo and Bay Point. Separate, initial letters outlining FEMA's intent to prepare the Draft SEAs for these two projects was transmitted to your agency on June 5, 2003 and May 6, 2003, respectively. Agency comments received in response to these letters were considered in preparation of the enclosed drafts. At this time, FEMA requests your review and comment on the Key Largo and Bay Point Draft SEAs.

Public meetings on the Draft SEAs will be held in Key Largo for the Key Largo Project on December 3, 2003 and in Key West for the Bay Point Project December 4, 2003. The public review period for the Key Largo Draft SEA is from November 21 to December 19, 2003. The public review period for the Bay Point Draft SEA is from November 26 to December 12, 2003.

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Mr. Bart Bibler
Bureau of Water Programs, HSEW
November 20, 2003
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Submitting Comments

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FEMA Region IV – Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Fax: (770) 220-5440

Your comments will be considered during the Final SEA preparation process. Thank you for your involvement in this documentation process.

Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.

Stephen Carruth
Project Environmental Scientist

Attachments



November 20, 2003

Ms. Rebecca Jetton, Planning Manager
Marathon Regional Service Center
2796 Overseas Highway, Suite 212
Marathon, FL 33050

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessments (SEA) of Proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements for Key Largo and Bay Point Key in the Florida Keys, Florida.

Dear Ms. Jetton:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), URS Group, Inc. is providing your agency with a CD copy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Wastewater Treatment Improvements in Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida, and a CD copy of the Draft SEA for Wastewater Improvements for Bay Point, Monroe County, Florida. The SEAs evaluate the impacts of constructing wastewater treatment facilities in the communities of Key Largo and Bay Point. Separate, initial letters outlining FEMA's intent to prepare the Draft SEAs for these two projects was transmitted to your agency on June 5, 2003 and May 6, 2003, respectively. Agency comments received in response to these letters were considered in preparation of the enclosed drafts. At this time, FEMA requests your review and comment on the Key Largo and Bay Point Draft SEAs.

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Ms. Rebecca Jetton
Marathon Regional Service Center
November 20, 2003
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Submitting Comments

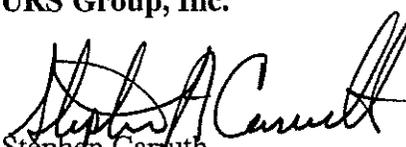
Please submit your comments on the Draft SEAs in writing to Ms. Science Kilner, Lead Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region IV within 30 days of the receipt of this letter. Ms. Kilner's contact information is:

FEMA Region IV – Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Fax: (770) 220-5440

Your comments will be considered during the Final SEA preparation process. Thank you for your involvement in this documentation process.

Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.



Stephen Carruth
Project Environmental Scientist

Attachments



November 20, 2003

Mr. John Studt, Branch Chief
Regulatory Permits Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
4400PGS Blvd., Suite 500
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessments (SEA) of Proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements for Key Largo and Bay Point Key in the Florida Keys, Florida.

Dear Mr. Studt:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), URS Group, Inc. is providing your agency with a CD copy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Wastewater Treatment Improvements in Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida, and a CD copy of the Draft SEA for Wastewater Improvements for Bay Point, Monroe County, Florida. The SEAs evaluate the impacts of constructing wastewater treatment facilities in the communities of Key Largo and Bay Point. Separate, initial letters outlining FEMA's intent to prepare the Draft SEAs for these two projects was transmitted to your agency on June 5, 2003 and May 6, 2003, respectively. Agency comments received in response to these letters were considered in preparation of the enclosed drafts. At this time, FEMA requests your review and comment on the Key Largo and Bay Point Draft SEAs.

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Mr. John Studt
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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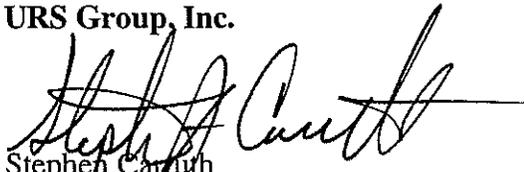
Please submit your comments on the Draft SEAs in writing to Ms. Science Kilner, Lead Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region IV within 30 days of the receipt of this letter. Ms. Kilner's contact information is:

FEMA Region IV – Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
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Your comments will be considered during the Final SEA preparation process. Thank you for your involvement in this documentation process.

Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.



Stephen Caruth
Project Environmental Scientist

Attachments



November 20, 2003

Ms. Teresa Tinker, Policy Coordinator
Growth Management and Strategic Planning
Office of the Governor
1501 Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessments (SEA) of Proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements for Key Largo and Bay Point Key in the Florida Keys, Florida.

Dear Ms. Tinker:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), URS Group, Inc. is providing your agency with a CD copy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Wastewater Treatment Improvements in Key Largo, Monroe County, Florida, and a CD copy of the Draft SEA for Wastewater Improvements for Bay Point, Monroe County, Florida. The SEAs evaluate the impacts of constructing wastewater treatment facilities in the communities of Key Largo and Bay Point. Separate, initial letters outlining FEMA's intent to prepare the Draft SEAs for these two projects was transmitted to your agency on June 5, 2003 and May 6, 2003, respectively. Agency comments received in response to these letters were considered in preparation of the enclosed drafts. At this time, FEMA requests your review and comment on the Key Largo and Bay Point Draft SEAs.

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URS Corporation
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Gaithersburg, MD 20878-1978
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Fax: 301.869.8728



Ms. Teresa Tinker
Office of the Governor
November 20, 2003
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The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508), and FEMA regulations for NEPA compliance (44 CFR Part 10) direct FEMA and other federal agencies to fully understand and take into consideration during decision making, the environmental consequences of proposed federal actions (projects). Therefore, FEMA must comply with NEPA, and other applicable federal laws and regulations, before making federal funds available for disaster recovery and mitigation actions. FEMA prepared a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and reached a Programmatic Finding of No Significant Impact (PFONSI) on December 23, 2002, which was previously submitted to your office for review. These SEAs tier from this document.

Submitting Comments

Please submit your comments on the Draft SEAs in writing to Ms. Science Kilner, Lead Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region IV within 30 days of the receipt of this letter. Ms. Kilner's contact information is:

FEMA Region IV – Federal Insurance and Mitigation Division
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Fax: (770) 220-5440

Your comments will be considered during the Final SEA preparation process. Thank you for your involvement in this documentation process.

Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.

Stephen Carruth
Project Environmental Scientist

Attachments



November 20, 2003

Mr. Jay Slack
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
South Florida Ecological Services Office
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960-3559

Subject: Notice of Availability of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Proposed Wastewater Treatment Improvements for Bay Point Key in the Florida Keys, Florida.

Dear Mr. Slack:

On behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), URS Group, Inc. is providing your agency with a compact disk copy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for Wastewater Treatment Improvements in Bay Point Key, Monroe County, Florida. The SEA evaluates the impacts of constructing wastewater treatment facilities in the communities of Bay Point and Saddlebunch Keys. A separate, initial letter outlining FEMA's intent to prepare the Draft SEA for this project and request for informal Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation was transmitted to your agency on May 6, 2003. On September 17, 2003, your office replied that the project will have no effect on federally listed threatened and endangered species or migratory birds. The Draft SEA incorporates the ESA consultation history, and at this time, FEMA welcomes additional comments your agency may have to the entire document, which is provided on the enclosed CD.

A public meeting on the Draft SEA will be held for the Bay Point Project on December 4, 2003. The public review period for the Bay Point Draft SEA is from November 26 to December 12, 2003.

Background

In 1998, during the aftermath of Hurricane Georges, Congress allocated additional monies for long-term disaster recovery projects in the State of Florida to assist counties whose needs were yet unmet through allocation of primary disaster relief funds. This Unmet Needs money was earmarked for the counties most impacted by Hurricane Georges, including Monroe County. Monroe County, Florida requested that wastewater management improvement projects be considered for disaster funding since many existing wastewater facilities in Monroe County do not provide adequate collection, treatment, or disposal, and thus contribute greatly to degraded water quality in the Florida Keys. Since then, FEMA has received grant applications from several Monroe County communities to upgrade their current wastewater treatment facilities.



Mr. Jay Slack
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
November 20, 2003
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Submitting Comments

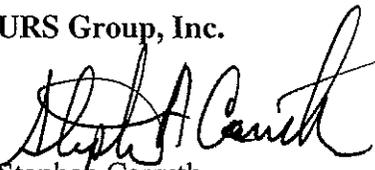
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Sincerely,

URS Group, Inc.



Stephen Carruth
Project Environmental Scientist

Attachments