



FEMA

August 16, 2006

Johnny Gonzales
GOHSEP PAO
FEMA-1603-DR-LA
415 N. 15th Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

RE: Alternative Arrangements, Reconstruction of Critical Infrastructure in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area, EJE 0291 Ehret High School, Jefferson Parish Public School System, PW 13095, DR-1603-LA, PA ID: 051-U415A-00

Dear Mr. Gonzales:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Public Assistance project for EJE 0291 Ehret High School, 4300 Patriot Street, Marrero, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, qualifies for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Alternative Arrangements for the Reconstruction of Critical Infrastructure in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area.

Under the regular Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) NEPA review this project would have qualified for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) XV. However, due to the unprecedented number of grants requested that need to be processed in a short time, the potential cumulative effects, and potential environmentally-related socio-economic effects of FEMA's funding in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area, FEMA has determined that this type of action may have significant impacts that cannot be reviewed under the normal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) have adopted the Alternative Arrangements to address the basic elements of NEPA under these circumstances. For more information visit www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/noma/index.shtm.

While the use of Alternative Arrangements meets NEPA compliance requirements, there are requirements of other Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) laws and executive orders that must be individually complied with. For the work described in this Project Worksheet (PW) the following conditions relating to those requirements apply:


- 1) This project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Management Zone. Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) has determined that receipt of federal assistance is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resource Program. Projects within the coastal zone may still require a Coastal Use Permit (CUP) or other authorization from LDNR. Projects may be coordinated by contacting LDNR at 1-800-267-4019.
- 2) Unusable equipment, debris and material shall be disposed of in an approved manner and location. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project applicant shall handle, manage, and dispose of petroleum products, hazardous materials and/or toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies.
- 3) In accordance with the Formosan Termite Initiative Act, (LA R.S. 3:3391.1 thru 3391.13) the Louisiana Parish of Jefferson is under quarantine. The movement of wood or cellulose material, temporary housing or architectural components (e.g. beams, doors and other wood salvaged from a structure) may not leave the

quarantined parish without written authorization from the Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry or his designee(s).

4) As per 44 CFR 9.11, mitigation or minimization standards must be applied. Where possible, building contents, materials, and equipment (mechanical or electrical) must be elevated to or above advisory base flood elevations. In compliance with EO 11988, an 8-step process was completed and is attached. Per 44 CFR 9.12, applicant must publish a final public notice 15 days prior to the start of construction activities. Final public notice is to be forwarded to the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (LA GOHSEP) and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.

Please note that this transmittal is a notification that this project has been cleared under NEPA only. **This is not a notice of final approval or eligibility.** Any change beyond the approved scope of work for this project will require additional environmental review by FEMA.

Sincerely,

 *um. Fagan for:*
Howard R. Bush
Environmental Liaison Officer
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

Enclosures: Project Worksheet # 13095

Cc: Oliver Mack, FEMA DPAO for Grants