

# **Record of Environmental Consideration**

See 44 Code of Federal Regulation Part 10.

**Project Name/Number:** Alvar Branch Library / PW 10703

**Project Location:** 913 Alvar Street, City of New Orleans, Louisiana Orleans Parish 70117  
(N29.96397, W-90.0368)

**Project Description:** Project activities include removing and replacing bookshelves, carpet, and electrical components. Project activities also include removal of asbestos floor tiles, and re-plastering and re-painting the walls. Hazard mitigation will be accomplished by replacing the bookshelves with a rust resistant plastic-resin type of shelving.

## **Documentation Requirements**

- ☐ No Documentation Required **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ (Short version) All consultation and agreements implemented to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, and Executive Orders 11988, 11990 and 12898 are completed and no other laws apply. **(Review Concluded)**
- ☒ (Long version) All applicable laws and executive orders were reviewed. Additional information for compliance is attached to this REC.

## **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination**

- ☐ Statutorily excluded from NEPA review. **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Programmatic Categorical Exclusion - Category **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Categorical Exclusion - Category
- ☐ No Extraordinary Circumstances exist.
- Are project conditions required? ☐ Yes (see section V) ☐ No **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Extraordinary Circumstances exist (See Section IV).
- ☐ Extraordinary Circumstances mitigated. (See Section IV comments)
- Are project conditions required? ☐ Yes (see section V) ☐ No **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Environmental Assessment
- ☐ Supplemental Environmental Assessment (Reference EA or PEA in comments)
- ☒ Environmental Impact Statement

*Comments:* This project meets the criteria for an Alternative Arrangement (Government and Court Administration Buildings) type of project. This project has conditions and requires mitigation under the other EHP laws.

## **Reviewer and Approvals**

☐ Project is Non-Compliant (See attached documentation justifying selection).

FEMA Environmental Reviewer.

Name: Perry J. Boudreaux, Environmental Specialist

Signature PJB Date 7/19/2006

FEMA Regional Environmental Officer or delegated approving official.

Name: Don Fairley, ELO

Signature PJB Date 7/19/2006

### **I. Compliance Review for Environmental Laws (other than NEPA)**

#### **A. National Historic Preservation Act**

- ☐ Not type of activity with potential to affect historic properties. **(Review Concluded)**  
☒ Applicable executed Programmatic Agreement December 3, 2004  
☒ Activity meets Programmatic Allowance, Appendix A, Sections II.A.1; II.A.2; II.B.1; II.C.1; and II.D.1  
Are project conditions required? ☒ Yes (see section V) ☐ No **(Review Concluded)**

#### **HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES**

- ☒ No historic properties that are listed or 45/50 years or older in project area. **(Review Concluded)**  
☐ Building or structure listed or 45/50 years or older in project area and activity not exempt from review.  
☐ Determination of No Historic Properties Affected (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)  
Are project conditions required? ☐ Yes (see section V) ☐ No **(Review Concluded)**  
☐ Determination of Historic Properties Affected (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)  
☐ Property a National Historic Landmark and National Park Service was provided early notification during the consultation process. If not, explain in comments  
☐ No Adverse Effect Determination (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file).  
Are project conditions required? ☐ Yes (see section V) ☐ No **(Review Concluded)**  
☐ Adverse Effect Determination (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)  
☐ Resolution of Adverse Effect completed. (MOA on file)  
Are project conditions required ☐ Yes (see section V) ☐ No **(Review Concluded)**

#### **ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

- ☒ Project affects only previously disturbed ground. **(Review Concluded)**  
☐ Project affects undisturbed ground.  
☐ Project area has no potential for presence of archeological resources  
☐ Determination of no historic properties affected (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence or consultation on file). **(Review Concluded)**  
☐ Project area has potential for presence of archeological resources  
☐ Determination of no historic properties affected (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)  
Are project conditions required ☐ Yes (see section V) ☐ No **(Review Concluded)**  
☐ Determination of historic properties affected  
☐ NR eligible resources not present (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file).  
Are project conditions required ☐ Yes (see section V) ☐ No **(Review Concluded)**  
☐ NR eligible resources present in project area. (FEMA finding/ SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)  
☐ No Adverse Effect Determination. (FEMA finding/ SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)  
Are project conditions required? ☐ Yes (see section V) ☐ No **(Review Concluded)**  
☐ Adverse Effect Determination. (FEMA finding/ SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)  
☐ Resolution of Adverse Effect completed. (MOA on file)

Are project conditions required? ☐ Yes (see section V) ☐ No  
**(Review Concluded)**

**Comments:** 7.19.06 - All masonry cleaning shall be done in accordance with the recommendations laid out in the US Department of the Interior's Preservation Brief 01: Assessing Cleaning and Water-repellent Treatments for Historic Masonry Buildings (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief01.htm>) by qualified personnel with experience working on historic buildings. Every effort shall be made to minimize masonry damage through the use of the gentlest means of cleaning possible and through adequate protection of undamaged areas. Failure to comply with this stipulation may jeopardize receipt of FEMA funding

All plaster repair work shall be done in accordance with the recommendations laid out in the US Department of the Interior's Preservation Brief 21: Repairing Historic Flat Plaster Walls and Ceilings (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief21.htm>) and Preservation Brief 28: Painting Historic Interiors (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief28.htm>) by qualified personnel with experience working on historic buildings. Every effort shall be made to minimize the loss of additional historic fabric through the use of the gentlest means of repair possible and through adequate protection of undamaged areas. Failure to comply with these stipulations may jeopardize receipt of FEMA funding.

FEMA's Programmatic Agreement (PA), dated December 3, 2004, provides for expedited project review under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The scope of work as submitted in this pw has been reviewed and meets the criteria outlined in Appendix A, Programmatic Allowances, Sections II.A.1; II.A.2; II.B.1; II.C.1; and II.D.1 of the document. In accordance with the PA, FEMA is not required to submit projects to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for review where the work performed meets these allowances. In keeping with the stipulations of the PA, all proposed repair activities should be done in-kind to match existing materials and form. Any change to the approved scope of work will require resubmission for re-evaluation under section 106 and consultation with the SHPO. Non-compliance may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding. This concludes the section 106 review for this project. James Crouch, Historic Preservation Specialist

*Correspondence/Consultation/References:*

## B. Endangered Species Act

☒ No listed species and/or designated critical habitat present in areas affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action.

**(Review Concluded)**

☐ Listed species and/or designated critical habitat present in the areas affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action.

☐ No effect to species or designated critical habitat. (See comments for justification)

Are project conditions required? ☐ Yes (see section V) ☐ No **(Review Concluded)**

☐ May affect, but not likely to adversely affect species or designated critical habitat (FEMA determination/USFWS/NMFS concurrence on file) **(Review Concluded)**

Are project conditions required? ☐ Yes (see section V) ☐ No **(Review Concluded)**

☐ Likely to adversely affect species or designated critical habitat

☐ Formal consultation concluded. (Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion on file)

Are project conditions required? ☐ YES (see section V) ☐ NO **(Review Concluded)**

**Comments:** None

## C. Coastal Barrier Resources Act

☒ Project is not on or connected to CBRA Unit or Otherwise Protected Area **(Review Concluded)**.

☐ Project is on or connected to CBRA Unit or Otherwise Protected Area. (FEMA determination/USFWS consultation on file)

☐ Proposed action an exception under Section 3505.a.6? **(Review Concluded)**

☐ Proposed action not excepted under Section 3505.a.6.

Are project conditions required? ☐ YES (see section V) ☐ NO **(Review Concluded)**

**Comments:** None

*Correspondence/Consultation/References:*

**D. Clean Water Act**

- ☒ Project would not affect any waters of the U.S. **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Project would affect waters, including wetlands, of the U.S.
- ☐ Project exempted as in kind replacement or other exemption. **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Project requires Section 404/401/or Section 9/10 (Rivers and Harbors Act) permit, including qualification under Nationwide Permits.
- Are project conditions required? ☐ YES (see section V) ☐ NO **(Review Concluded)**

*Comments:* Project is not in or adjacent to any waterways of the US.

*Correspondence/Consultation/References:*

**E. Coastal Zone Management Act**

- ☐ Project is not located in a coastal zone area and does not affect a coastal zone area **(Review concluded)**
- ☒ Project is located in a coastal zone area and/or affects the coastal zone
- ☒ State administering agency does not require consistency review. **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ State administering agency requires consistency review.
- Are project conditions required? ☐ YES (see section V) ☐ NO **(Review Concluded)**

*Comments:* FEMA has determined that this project is consistent with the Coastal Zone Management Act and the Louisiana Coastal Management Plan (LCMP).

*Correspondence/Consultation/References:*

**F. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act**

- ☒ Project does not affect, control, or modify a waterway/body of water. **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Project affects, controls or modifies a waterway/body of water.
- ☐ Coordination with USFWS conducted
- ☐ No Recommendations offered by USFWS. **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Recommendations provided by USFWS.
- Are project conditions required? ☐ YES (see section V) ☐ NO **(Review Concluded)**

*Comments:* Project is not in or adjacent to any waterways of the US.

*Correspondence/Consultation/References:*

**G. Clean Air Act**

- ☒ Project will not result in permanent air emissions. **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Project is located in an attainment area. **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Project is located in a non-attainment area.
- ☐ Coordination required with applicable state administering agency..
- Are project conditions required? ☐ YES (see section V) ☐ NO **(Review Concluded)**

*Comments:* Project will not result in permanent air emissions.

*Correspondence/Consultation/References:*

**H. Farmland Protection Policy Act**

- ☒ Project does not affect designated prime or unique farmland. **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Project causes unnecessary or irreversible conversion of designated prime or unique farmland.
- ☐ Coordination with Natural Resource Conservation Commission required.
- ☐ Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, Form AD-1006, completed.
- Are project conditions required? ☐ YES (see section V) ☐ NO **(Review Concluded)**

*Comments:* None

*Correspondence/Consultation/References:*

**I. Migratory Bird Treaty Act**

- ☐ Project not located within a flyway zone. **(Review Concluded)**
- ☒ Project located within a flyway zone.
- ☒ Project does not have potential to take migratory birds. **(Review Concluded)**
- Are project conditions required? ☐ Yes (see section V) ☒ No **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Project has potential to take migratory birds.
- ☐ Contact made with USFWS
- Are project conditions required? ☐ YES (see section V) ☐ NO **(Review Concluded)**

*Comments:* See letter from Don Fairley to Mr. Russ Watson with USF&WS, dated 09/14/2005. Specifically, FEMA has determined that restoration projects funded with federal resources will not have adverse impacts on migratory birds or other fish and wildlife reserves. These determinations are based on the understanding that the conditions outlined in the Louisiana Endangered Species Summary are met.

*Correspondence/Consultation/References:* [http://pacificflyway.gov/Documents/Mississippi\\_map.pdf](http://pacificflyway.gov/Documents/Mississippi_map.pdf)

**J. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act**

- ☒ Project not located in or near Essential Fish Habitat. **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Project located in or near Essential Fish Habitat.
- ☐ Project does not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat. **(Review Concluded)**
- Are project conditions required? ☐ Yes (see section V) ☐ No **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Project adversely affects Essential Fish Habitat (FEMA determination/USFWS/NMFS concurrence on file)
- ☐ NOAA Fisheries provided no recommendation(s) **(Review Concluded)**
- Are project conditions required? ☐ Yes (see section V) ☐ No **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ NOAA Fisheries provided recommendation(s)
- ☐ Written reply to NOAA Fisheries recommendations completed.
- Are project conditions required? ☐ YES (see section V) ☐ NO **(Review Concluded)**

*Comments:* None

*Correspondence/Consultation/References:*

**K. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act**

- ☒ Project is not along and does not affect Wild or Scenic River (WSR) - **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Project is along or affects WSR
- ☐ Project adversely affects WSR as determined by NPS/USFS. **FEMA cannot fund the action.** (NPS/USFS/USFWS/BLM consultation on file) **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Project does not adversely affect WSR. (NPS/USFS/USFWS/BLM consultation on file)
- Are project conditions required? ☐ YES (see section V) ☐ NO **(Review Concluded)**

*Comments:* None

*Correspondence/Consultation/References:*

**L. Other Relevant Laws and Environmental Regulations****II. Compliance Review for Executive Orders****A. E.O. 11988 - Floodplains**

- ☐ No Effect on Floodplains/Flood levels and project outside Floodplain - **(Review Concluded)**
- ☒ Located in Floodplain or Effects on Floodplains/Flood levels
- ☐ No adverse effect on floodplain and not adversely affected by the floodplain. **(Review Concluded)**
- Are project conditions required? ☐ Yes (see section V) ☐ No **(Review Concluded)**
- ☐ Beneficial Effect on Floodplain Occupancy/Values **(Review Concluded)**
- ☒ Possible adverse effects associated with investment in floodplain, occupancy or modification of floodplain environment

- ☒ 8 Step Process Complete - documentation on file  
 Are project conditions required? ☒ YES (see section V) ☐ NO (Review Concluded)

**Comments** 07/12/2006 - The City of New Orleans and Orleans Parish enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) 08/03/1970. Per Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) 225203 0115e, dated 03/01/1984, project is located in Zone "A4", area of 100-year flood; base flood elevations and flood hazard factors determined. Project is for building repair and repair of mechanical and electrical components. Hazard mitigation proposals are attached to protect stand by generator and air conditioning condenser units by elevation of such components. Applicant shall follow all applicable local, state and federal laws, regulations and requirements. In compliance with E.O. 11988, an 8-step process has been completed and is attached (as additional information). A cumulative public notice was published in the New Orleans Times Picayune, Baton Rouge Advocate, Lafayette Daily Advertiser, Lake Charles American Press and the Hammond Star, November 7-9, 2005. No action is not a viable alternative as it would leave a potentially hazardous facility within the city limits. Relocation is not a viable alternative as it would leave the community without a critical facility. The most practical action is to repair the facility. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(9), for the replacement of building contents, materials, and equipment, where possible, the building shall be disaster proofed and/or such future losses shall be eliminated by relocation of these building contents, materials, and equipment outside or above the advisory base floodplain. 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 La GOHSEP and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files. Dana Mehlman, Env. Spec.

**Correspondence/Consultation/References:**

### B. E.O. 11990 - Wetlands

- ☒ No Effects on Wetland(s) and project located outside Wetland(s) - (Review Concluded)  
☐ Located in Wetland or effects Wetland(s)  
     ☐ Beneficial Effect on Wetland - (Review Concluded)  
     ☐ Possible adverse effect associated with constructing in or near wetland  
         ☐ Review completed as part of floodplain review  
         ☐ 8 Step Process Complete - documentation on file  
 Are project conditions required? ☐ YES (see section V) ☐ NO (Review Concluded)

**Comments:** None

**Correspondence/Consultation/References:**

### C. E.O. 12898 - Environmental Justice For Low Income and Minority Populations

- ☒ No Low income or minority population in, near or affected by the project - (Review Concluded)  
☐ Low income or minority population in or near project area  
     ☐ No disproportionately high and adverse impact on low income or minority population - (Review Concluded)  
     ☐ Disproportionately high or adverse effects on low income or minority population  
 Are project conditions required? ☐ YES (see section V) ☐ NO (Review Concluded)

**Comments:** None

**Correspondence/Consultation/References:**

## III. Other Environmental Issues

Identify other potential environmental concerns in the comment box not clearly falling under a law or executive order (see environmental concerns scoping checklist for guidance).

**Comments:** None

**Correspondence/Consultation/References:**

## IV. Extraordinary Circumstances

**Based on the review of compliance with other environmental laws and Executive Orders, and in consideration of other environmental factors, review the project for extraordinary circumstances.**

\* A "Yes" under any circumstance may require an Environmental Assessment (EA) with the exception of (ii) which should be applied in conjunction with controversy on an environmental issue. If the circumstance can be mitigated, please explain in comments. If no, leave blank.

**Yes**

- ☐ (i) Greater scope or size than normally experienced for a particular category of action
- ☐ (ii) Actions with a high level of public controversy
- ☐ (iii) Potential for degradation, even though slight, of already existing poor environmental conditions;
- ☐ (iv) Employment of unproven technology with potential adverse effects or actions involving unique or unknown environmental risks;
- ☐ (v) Presence of endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat, or archaeological, cultural, historical or other protected resources;
- ☐ (vi) Presence of hazardous or toxic substances at levels which exceed Federal, state or local regulations or standards requiring action or attention;
- ☐ (vii) Actions with the potential to affect special status areas adversely or other critical resources such as wetlands, coastal zones, wildlife refuge and wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers;
- ☐ (viii) Potential for adverse effects on health or safety; and
- ☐ (ix) Potential to violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
- ☐ (x) Potential for significant cumulative impact when the proposed action is combined with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, even though the impacts of the proposed action may not be significant by themselves.

*Comments: None*

## **V. Environmental Review Project Conditions**

### **Project Conditions:**

1. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(9), for the replacement of building contents, materials, and equipment, where possible, the building shall be disaster proofed and/or such future losses shall be eliminated by relocation of these building contents, materials, and equipment outside or above the advisory base floodplain. 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 La GOHSEP and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.
2. All masonry cleaning shall be done in accordance with the recommendations laid out in the US Department of the Interior's Preservation Brief 01: Assessing Cleaning and Water-repellent Treatments for Historic Masonry Buildings (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief01.htm>) by qualified personnel with experience working on historic buildings. Every effort shall be made to minimize masonry damage through the use of the gentlest means of cleaning possible and through adequate protection of undamaged areas. Failure to comply with this stipulation may jeopardize receipt of FEMA funding

3. All plaster repair work shall be done in accordance with the recommendations laid out in the US Department of the Interior's Preservation Brief 21: Repairing Historic Flat Plaster Walls and Ceilings (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief21.htm>) and Preservation Brief 28: Painting Historic Interiors (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief28.htm>) by qualified personnel with experience working on historic buildings. Every effort shall be made to minimize the loss of additional historic fabric through the use of the gentlest means of repair possible and through adequate protection of undamaged areas. Failure to comply with these stipulations may jeopardize receipt of FEMA funding.
4. In keeping with the stipulations of the PA, all proposed repair activities should be done in-kind to match existing materials and form. Any change to the approved scope of work will require resubmission for re-evaluation under section 106 and consultation with the SHPO. Non-compliance may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

**Monitoring Requirements:** None