

Record of Environmental Consideration

See 44 Code of Federal Regulation Part 10.

Project Name/Number: W. Smith Jr. Elementary School Gymnasium / PW 8403

Project Location: 6755 E. St. Bernard Highway, Violet, Louisiana, St. Bernard Parish 70092
(N29.88970, W-89.89630)

Project Description: The demolition and replacement of the W. Smith Jr. Elementary School Gymnasium with upgrades to meet current codes and standards. The replacement facility will substantially conform to the pre-disaster function, capacity, and location of the damaged structure.

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 () (Reference PCE in comments) **(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 PERMANENT SCHOOLS 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: Brian Mehok, Environmental Specialist

Signature *Brian Mehok* Date 06/27/2006

FEMA Regional Environmental Officer or delegated approving official.

Name: Donald R. Fairley, REM

FOR
Signature *[Signature]* Date 06/27/2006

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 (12/03/2004) Otherwise, conduct standard Section 106 review.
 - Activity meets Programmatic Allowance #
 - Are project conditions required? Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
- Programmatic Agreement does not apply, must conduct Standard Section 106 Review.

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: 6/19/2006 - HISTORIC REVIEW COMPLETE: THIS STRUCTURE DOES NOT MEET 45-YEAR-CRITERION OR THE LEVEL OF EXCEPTIONAL IMPORTANCE REQUIRED BY CRITERION G OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER GUIDELINES TO BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. THEREFORE, THE PROPOSED DEMOLITION WILL HAVE NO EFFECT ON HISTORIC STRUCTURES. HOWEVER, DEMOLITION STILL MUST BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOW-IMPACT REMOVAL STIPULATIONS FOR DEMOLITION IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY JEOPARDIZE FEDERAL FUNDS - V.GOMEZ, HISTORIC PRESERVATION SPECIALIST

6/19/2006 - ARCHAEOLOGICAL REVIEW COMPLETE: SCOPE OF WORK INDICATES GROUND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEMOLITION AND REBUILD OF THE STRUCTURE WITHIN ITS PRE-DISASTER FOOTPRINT. UPON CONSULTATION OF SHPO DATA, THE AREA HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY SURVEYED AND THERE IS A KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN .5 MILES OF THE PROJECT AREA. DEMOLITION MUST FOLLOW THE LOWER IMPACT DEMOLITION STIPULATIONS & ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS WHICH ARE ATTACHED. THE STIPULATIONS AND PROTOCOLS SHOULD BE EXPLICIT IN THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE STIPULATIONS & ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS WILL JEOPARDIZE RECEIPT OF FEDERAL FUNDING. IF DURING THE COURSE OF WORK, ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS (PREHISTORIC OR HISTORIC) OR HUMAN REMAINS ARE DISCOVERED, THE APPLICANT SHALL STOP WORK IN THE VICINITY OF THE DISCOVERY AND TAKE ALL REASONABLE MEASURES TO AVOID OR MINIMIZE HARM TO THE FINDS. THE APPLICANT SHALL INFORM THEIR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (PA) CONTACTS FEMA, WHO WILL IN TURN CONTACT FEMA HISTORIC PRESERVATION STAFF. THE APPLICANT WILL NOT PROCEED WITH WORK UNTIL FEMA HISTORIC PRESERVATION STAFF HAVE COMPLETED CONSULTATION WITH THE LOUISIANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER (SHPO). IN ADDITION, IF UNMARKED GRAVES ARE PRESENT, COMPLIANCE WITH THE LOUISIANA UNMARKED HUMAN BURIAL SITES PRESERVATION ACT (R.S. 8:671 ET SEQ.) IS REQUIRED. THE APPLICANT SHALL NOTIFY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OF THE JURISDICTION WHERE THE REMAINS ARE LOCATED WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF THE DISCOVERY. THE APPLICANT SHALL ALSO NOTIFY FEMA AND THE LOUISIANA UNMARKED BURIAL SITES BOARD (CALL THE LOUISIANA DIVISION OF ARCHEOLOGY AT 225-342-8170) WITHIN SEVENTY-TWO HOURS OF THE DISCOVERY. IF THIS SCOPE OF WORK AND/OR THE FOOTPRINT/LOCATION OF THE NEW BUILDING CHANGES, THIS PROJECT WILL NEED TO BE RESUBMITTED FOR FURTHER SECTION 106 REVIEW PRIOR TO GROUND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES TAKING PLACE OUTSIDE OF THE PRE-DISASTER FOOTPRINT OF THE BUILDING. -KATHERINE ZERINGUE, HISTORIC PRESERVATION SPECIALIST/ARCHAEOLOGIST

Correspondence/Consultation/References: NONE

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: 06/23/2006 - WITHIN DECLARED DISASTER AREAS, US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE HAS INTERPRETED SECTION 7(p) OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT TO MEAN THAT RESTORING ANY INFRASTRUCTURE DAMAGED OR LOST DUE TO THE HURRICANE BACK INTO THE ORIGINAL FOOTPRINT DOES NOT REQUIRE ESA CONSULTATION WITH THE SERVICE, PER USFWS LETTER OF 9/15/05 TO DON FAIRLEY, FEMA'S REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER. HAZARD MITIGATION PROPOSED FOR THIS

PROJECT WILL NOT ALTER THE PRE-DISASTER FOOTPRINT OF THE FACILITY. - B. MEHOK, ENV. SPECIALIST

Correspondence/Consultation/References: USFWS LETTER OF 9/15/05 TO DON FAIRLEY, FEMA'S REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER.

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: NONE

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: NONE

Correspondence/Consultation/References: NONE

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: 06/23/2006 - THE PROJECT IS LOCATED WITHIN THE LOUISIANA COASTAL MANAGEMENT ZONE. LA DNR 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 OR OTHER AUTHORIZATION FROM DNR. PROJECTS MAY BE COORDINATED BY CONTACTING LA DNR AT 1-800-276-4019. - B. MEHOK, ENV. SPECIALIST

Correspondence/Consultation/References: NONE

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: NONE

Correspondence/Consultation/References: NONE

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: NONE

Correspondence/Consultation/References: NONE

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: NONE

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: NONE

Correspondence/Consultation/References: NONE

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: NONE

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: NONE

L. Other Relevant Laws and Environmental Regulations

Identify relevant law or regulations, resolution and any consultation/references: NONE

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: 06/02/06 THE PARISH OF ST. BERNARD ENROLLED IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM 03/13/1970. PER FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM) 225204 0460 B, DATED 05/01/1985, PROJECT IS LOCATED IN ZONE B, AREA PROTECTED FROM THE 100-YR FLOOD BY LEVEE, DIKE OR OTHER STRUCTURE SUBJECT TO FAILURE OR OVERTOPPING DURING LARGER FLOODS. PROJECT IS REPLACEMENT OF SMITH ELEMENTARY GYMNASIUM BUILDING. IN COMPLIANCE WITH E0 11988, A COMPLETED 8-STEP PROCESS SHOWING CONSIDERED ALTERNATIVES IS ATTACHED. PER 44 CFR 9.11(D)(9), THE REPLACEMENT OF BUILDING CONTENTS, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT, WHERE POSSIBLE, DISASTER PROOFING OF THE BUILDING AND/OR ELIMINATION OF SUCH FUTURE LOSSES BY RELOCATION OF THOSE 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. HARRIET WEGNER, FPM

Correspondence/Consultation/References: NONE

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: 06/23/2006 - AS THE PROJECT WILL DEMOLISH AND REPLACE THE FACILITY TO PRE-DISASTER FOOTPRINT, IT IS NOT EXPECTED TO AFFECT THE ADJACENT WETLANDS. CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN, HOWEVER, IN EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS STORAGE AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS STAGING) TO ENSURE THAT WETLANDS ARE NOT ADVERSELY AFFECTED PER THE CLEAN WATER ACT AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 11990. - B. MEHOK, ENV. SPECIALIST

Correspondence/Consultation/References: NONE

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: 06/23/2006 - THE PROJECT WILL REPLACE THE DAMAGED FACILITY WITH A NEW BUILDING THAT CONFORMS TO PRE-DISASTER FUNCTION, CAPACITY, AND LOCATION AND THUS IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH OR ADVERSE EFFECTS ON LOW-INCOME OR MINORITY POPULATIONS. - B. MEHOK, ENV. SPECIALIST

Correspondence/Consultation/References: NONE

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: NONE

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. The environmental review for this project is based upon the scope of work for the demolition of the damaged facility and the construction of a replacement facility that conforms to the pre-disaster function, capacity, and location of the damaged structure. Any changes to this approved scope of work will require submission to, and evaluation and approval by the State and FEMA prior to initiation of any work, for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Non-compliance with the requirements noted herein may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.
2. Demolition must follow the Lower Impact Demolition Stipulations & Additional Protocols. These stipulations and protocols should be explicit in the Request for Proposal. Failure to comply with these stipulations may jeopardize receipt of FEMA funding. If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) or human remains are discovered, the applicant shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The applicant shall inform their Public Assistance (PA) contacts FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation Staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA Historic Preservation Staff have completed consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). In addition, if unmarked graves are present, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 ET SEQ.) is required. The applicant shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located with twenty-four hours of the discovery. The applicant shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Unmarked Burial Sites Board (call the Louisiana Division of Archeology at 225-342-8170) within seventy-two hours of the discovery. If this scope of work and/or the footprint/location of the new building changes, this project will need to be resubmitted for further Section 106 review prior to ground disturbing activities taking place outside of the pre-disaster footprint of the building; and
3. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(9), the replacement of building contents, materials and equipment, where possible, disaster proofing of the building and/or elimination of such future losses by relocation of those 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. A certified copy of the published final public notice is to be forwarded to the LA GOHSEP and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.

Monitoring Requirements: None