

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the City of Bastrop Pine Ridge Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project, Bastrop County, Texas
HMGP-DR-1999-TX Project #35

Interested persons are hereby notified that the City of Bastrop has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures that reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster.

FEMA proposes to provide funding to the City of Bastrop for hazardous fuels reduction activities along 16,678 linear feet of electric utility right-of-way in the Piney Ridge subdivision. The proposed action would reduce wildfire hazards along the utility lines and reduce the risk of fire spreading into the surrounding neighborhood by removing underbrush, small trees, dead trees, and by trimming limbs.

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives on the human and natural environment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508), the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA (44 CFR Parts 9 and 10). The draft EA evaluates alternatives that provide for compliance with applicable environmental laws. The alternatives evaluated include (1) no action; (2) the proposed action described above.

The draft EA is available for review and comment at the City of Bastrop City Hall at 1311 Chestnut Street, Bastrop, Texas, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday from April 10, 2014 to May 9, 2014. An electronic version of the draft EA can be requested from Dorothy Weir, FEMA Region 6, at dorothy.weir@fema.dhs.gov or viewed on FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents>.

The comment period will end 30 days from the initial notice publication date. Written comments on the draft EA can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Dorothy Weir, Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region 6, 800 N Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209, Fax: 940-297-0152; dorothy.weir@fema.dhs.gov. If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.