

Record of Environmental Consideration

REVISED FOR FEMA ENVIRONMENTAL -- LOUISIANA -- April 2007

See 44 Code of Federal Regulation Part 10

Project Name/Number: Ernest "Dutch" Morial Elementary School-New School
FIPS #033-UA9M2-00/ AI No. 2176

Applicant Name: Recovery School District

Project Location: Ernest "Dutch" Morial Elementary School- Location: 30.017942, -89.997597
7701 Grant Street, New Orleans, LA 70126

Project Description: The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) have established Alternative Arrangements (AA) to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the CEQ Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Requirements of NEPA to Reconstruct Critical Infrastructure in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area (NOMA). AA will enable FEMA, as a component of DHS, to consider the potential for significant impacts to the human environment from its approval to fund the reconstruction of critical physical infrastructure in NOMA. This proposed project meets AA qualifications for the Reconstruction of Critical Infrastructure in the NOMA. For more information visit www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/noma/index.shtm

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Division at the Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office has determined through its Special Considerations review that the Recovery School District (applicant) public involvement process meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Alternative Arrangements (AA). Those requirements comply with the programmatic agreement between the CEQ, DHS, and FEMA.

As part of the Greater New Orleans Area critical infrastructure, this project qualifies for expedited considerations under the Alternative Arrangements for NEPA compliance. The AA process (www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/noma) has been activated to address the basic elements of NEPA for actions taken to restore critical infrastructure devastated by Hurricane Katrina

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath caused wind and flood damages to facilities located at the site of the Ernest "Dutch" Morial Elementary School. Per the Recovery School District's and Orleans Parish School Board's 2008 "School Facilities Master Plan," this facility has been proposed for replacement. Furthermore, the applicant has been granted a Single Settlement Request (SSR) to utilize FEMA funding for the reconstruction of the New Orleans Public Schools (NOPS) in accordance with this master plan. There is a recipient scope of work for this facility in PW 19166, which details the applicant's Single Settlement Request agreement with FEMA. However, this amended request withdraws the previously approved scope of work in PW 19166 and should be considered new scope for the Master Plan Alternate Project PW. Consequently, this scope of work will be vetted and memorialized in the amended Record of Environmental Consideration for PW 19166.

Scope of Work Includes:

Construct a Pre K- 8 School with related site work, including an enclosed area 134,850 SF. The total area of the school, with a covered porch is 137, 950 SF. The building is divided into smaller components such that each grade feels that it is within a smaller "school within a school." The structure is subdivided by a 2-hour firewall, creating a 3-story section with a footprint area of 23,420 SF, and a 2-story section with a footprint of 40,270 SF. This allows for elimination of the need for fireproofing of the steel columns, beams and bar joist floor framing systems.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination

- Statutorily excluded from NEPA review (**Review Concluded**)
- Programmatic Categorical Exclusion - Category (**Review Concluded**)
- Categorical Exclusion - Category XV
 - 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**)
- Alternative Arrangements
 - Public Involvement Plan on file (see comments below)
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: Based on documentation provided by the sub-applicant, FEMA's Environmental / Historic Preservation Section and Alternatives Arrangement team determined that the Recovery School District and the Orleans Parish School Board provided sufficient documentation to demonstrate a satisfactory public involvement process for rebuilding schools in Orleans Parish, LA. Any changes to the scope of work will require re-submission through the state to FEMA and requires re-evaluation for compliance with national environmental policies. The applicant is responsible for obtaining and complying with all local, state and federal permits. Non-compliance with this requirement may jeopardize receipt of federal funds.

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

Reviewer and Approvals

FEMA Environmental Reviewer:

Name: John Renne, Environmental Specialist, FEMA LRO

Signature John Renne Date 2/20/14

FEMA Environmental Liaison Officer or Delegated Approving Official:

Name: LeSchina Holmes, Lead Environmental Protection Specialist, FEMA LRO

Signature LeSchina Holmes Date 02/20/2014

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

A. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

- Not type of activity with potential to affect historic structures or archaeological resources (**Review Concluded**)
- Activity meets Programmatic Agreement. Activity meets Programmatic Allowance (date of agreement and allowance number in comments) - **Review Concluded**
- Applicable executed Programmatic Agreement (August 17, 2009 as amended on July 22, 2011). See project review below for historic structures and archaeological resources.
- Other Programmatic Agreement dated _____ applies

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

- No historic properties that are listed or 50 years or older in project area. (**Review Concluded**)
- Building or structure 50 years or older or listed on the National Register in the 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 or grounds associated with a historic structure
 - Project area has no potential for presence of archeological resources
 - Determination of no historic properties affected (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence 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**)

Comment: 2/14/2014 -- A review of this project was conducted in accordance with Stipulation I.E of FEMA's Secondary Programmatic Agreement Regarding New Orleans School Facilities Master Plan (2PA) dated August 17, 2009. FEMA is not required by the 2PA to perform additional Section 106 review for undertakings reviewed prior to the implementation of the Master Plan and during the development of this 2PA unless RSD and/or OPSB propose changes to the scope of work that FEMA determines may cause additional effects to historic properties. FEMA previously reviewed the scope of work for the demolition and rebuild of Morial Elementary School under the terms of the statewide Programmatic Agreement, dated December 3, 2004, and made a determination of No Historic Properties Affected, in a letter dated November 8, 2007. SHPO concurred with this determination on November 15, 2007. FEMA has reviewed the Scope of Work (SOW) in the current amendment request and determined that the historic preservation determination dated 11/8/2007 is applicable. No further review is required.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: Kathryn Wollan, Historic Preservation

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: Project is located in an urban or previously developed area. Neither listed species nor their habitat occur in or near this site that would be adversely impacted, thus FEMA finds there will be no effect to threatened or endangered species or critical habitat.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: John Renne, Environmental Specialist

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: Project is not within a CBRA zone.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: Louisiana Coastal Barrier Resource System Maps referenced 2/19/2014.

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 of Clean Water Act or Section 9/10 of Rivers and Harbors Act permit, including qualification under Nationwide Permits.
Are project conditions required? YES (see Section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**
 Project would affect waters of the U.S. by discharging to a surface water body.

Comments: No affected jurisdictional waters of the U.S. in or near the project area.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: John Renne, Environmental Specialist

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: This project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Management Zone. See conditions.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: Louisiana Coastal Zone maps queried 2/19/2014.

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 scope does not include impoundment, diversion, control, or other modification of waters of any stream or body of water.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: Google Earth queried 2/19/2014.

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: The proposed project includes activities that would produce a minor, temporary, and localized impact on air quality from vehicle emissions and fugitive dust particles. No long-term air quality impact is anticipated. See conditions.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: EPA Region 6 Non-attainment Map

H. Farmland Protection Policy Act

- Project will not affect undisturbed ground. **(Review Concluded)**
- Project has a zoning classification that is other than agricultural or is in an urbanized area. **(Review Concluded)**
- 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 Resources Conservation Service required.
 - Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, Form AD-1006, completed.
- Are project conditions required? YES (see section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: The site is located within an existing urban and developed area ROW and FPPA is precluded.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: John Renne, Environmental Specialist

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: The site is an existing disturbed area with little value to migratory birds and would not be included in the USFWS migratory bird management program.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: USFWS guidance letter dated September 27, 2005.

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: Project is not located in or near any surface waters with the potential to affect EFH species.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: John Renne, Environmental Specialist

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: Project is not along and does not affect a Wild or Scenic River (WSR).
Correspondence/Consultation/References: National Wild and Scenic Rivers
<http://www.rivers.gov/maps/zoom/conus/conus.html> referenced 2/19/14.

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)**
 - A Final Public Notice is required

Comments: The Parish of Orleans enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on 8/3/1970. Site is located within Flood Zone "AE" base flood elevation -6 feet NAVD88, as per revised Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel Number 22071C0138F, dated 11/9/2012. Project is construction of a school. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(6), no project should be built to a floodplain management standard that is less protective than what the community has adopted in local ordinances through their participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. The applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to the LA GOHSEP and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(9), for the replacement of building contents, materials and equipment, where possible, disaster-proofing of the building and/or elimination of such future losses should occur by relocation of those building contents, materials and equipment outside or above the base floodplain. In compliance with Executive Order 11988, an 8-step process was completed, is attached and on file.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: John Renne, Environmental Specialist.

B. E.O. 11990 - Wetlands

- No Effects on Wetland(s) and/or 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: Review of the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory map for this project site indicates no mapped wetlands at or near the proposed project site.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: U.S. FWS NWI map accessed on-line 2/19/2014.

C. E.O. 12898 - Environmental Justice for Low Income and Minority

Populations

- Project scope of work has no potential to adversely impact any population (**Review Concluded**)
 - No Low income or minority population in, near or affected by the project based on information gathered from <http://factfinder.census.gov>. (**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: The percent populations of 70126 are: 10.3 % White, 87.1% African-American, 1.6% Hispanic. The median household income in 1999 was \$30,627 and 18.8% of families are below the poverty line.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: John Renne, Environmental Specialist

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).

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Comments: 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 (such as asbestos and lead based paint), and/or toxic waste in accordance with the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state, and federal agencies.

Correspondence/Consultation/Reference: Joseph Chauvin, Environmental Protection Specialist

Toxic Substances Control Act

This project involves the demolition, renovation, refurbishing of a public child-occupied structure and/or facility constructed prior to 1978 that may contain surfaces coated with lead-based paint (LBP).

IV. Extraordinary Circumstances

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:

V. Environmental Review Project Conditions

Project Conditions:

The following conditions apply as a condition of FEMA funding reimbursement:

- Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(6), no project should be built to a floodplain management standard that is less protective than what the community has adopted in local ordinances through their participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. The applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to the LA GOHSEP and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(9), for the replacement of building contents, materials and equipment, where possible, disaster-proofing of the building and/or elimination of such future losses should occur by relocation of those building contents, materials and equipment outside or above the base floodplain.
- 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 (such as asbestos and lead based paint) and/or toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies.
- Per Clean Air Act National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutant Regulations and Louisiana Administrative Code 33:iii 5151, demolition activities related to possible asbestos-containing materials (PACM) must be inspected for ACM/PACM where it is safe to do so. ACM/PACM must be handled in accordance with local, state and federal regulations and disposed of at approved facilities that accept ACM. Demolition activity notification must be sent to the LDEQ before work begins.
- This project involves the modification of a public structure that may contain surfaces coated with lead-based paint (LBP). The applicant is responsible complying with all local, state, and federal laws and ensuring that project activities are coordinated with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for abatement activities.
- This project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Management Zone. Applicant must check with Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for permitting or other authorization requirements. Projects may be coordinated by contacting LDNR at 1-800-267-4019.
- If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) 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 at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation (HP) staff. The Applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO.
- If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present within the project area, 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 Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within seventy-two hours of the discovery.

RECOVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Ernest Morial Elementary School
FEMA Disaster 1603-DR-LA
AI Database # 2176

Executive Order 11988 - FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT
Executive Order 11990 - WETLAND PROTECTION

8-STEP DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Date: 2/19/2014

Prepared By: John D. Renne' (CTR), CFM, Floodplain Specialist

Project: On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath caused wind and flood damages to multiple Recovery School District (RSD, the Applicant) facilities. Per the RSD's and Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) "School Facilities Master Plan," these facilities have been approved for repair or replacement. Furthermore, the applicant has been granted a Single Settlement Request (SSR, Project Worksheet 19166) to utilize FEMA grant funding for the reconstruction of the New Orleans Public Schools in accordance with this Master Plan. This EHP Record of Environmental Consideration (REC) addresses the Applicant's request for an amendment to the SSR for FEMA grant funding for new construction of the Ernest Morial pre-kindergarten through eighth (8th) grade school at the proposed site located at 5316 Michaud Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70129 (the former Morial Site).

The applicant has submitted an application for an Alternate Project requesting approval to refurbish a permanent school facility with the function and capacity to serve Pre-K through 8th grade school students. A scope of work narrative has been provided to FEMA Environmental and Historic Preservation as part of the alternate/improved project application package (attached herein). The project would include construction of a 137,950 square foot state of the art school.

The work would be expected to be completed in June of 2015. Final plans are under development and would be provided to FEMA at a later date.

This project must be conducted in accordance with conditions for federal actions in the floodplain and/or wetlands as set forth in presidential Executive Order (EO) 11988, *Floodplains* and presidential Executive Order 11990, *Wetlands* and the implementing regulation found at 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 9, *Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands*. These regulations apply to all direct and indirect Agency actions which have the potential to affect floodplains or wetlands or their occupants, or which are subject to potential harm by location in floodplains.

Public Assistance grant funded projects carried out in the floodplain or affecting the floodplain must be coordinated with the local floodplain administrator for a floodplain development permit prior to the undertaking. The action must be carried out in

compliance with relevant, applicable, and required local codes and standards, thereby reducing the risk of future flood loss, minimize the impacts of floods on safety, health, and welfare, and preserving and restoring beneficial floodplain values as required by Executive Order 11988.

Restoration projects conducted with Public Assistance (PA) grant funds must be carried out in accordance with the local floodplain management plan and ordinance and shall utilize the current locally adopted digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) map, or draft Preliminary FIRM as a minimum standard and in no case, build to a standard lower than the revised Preliminary DFIRM released by FEMA 11/9/2012. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(6), no project should be built to a floodplain management standard that is less protective than what the community has adopted in local ordinances through their participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

STEP 1 Determine whether the proposed actions are located in a wetland and/or the 100-year floodplain (500-year floodplain for critical actions [44 CFR 9.4]), or whether they have the potential to affect or be affected by a floodplain or a wetland (see 44 CFR 9.7).

The project is located in relation to floodplains as mapped by:

Latitude: 30.01798 **Longitude:** -89.99861
7701 Grant Street, New Orleans, LA 70126

Revised Preliminary DFIRM Panel (November 9, 2012):
22 071C 0138 F **Flood Zone:** "AE"
Base Flood Elevation: NA

The project is located in a wetland as identified by:

STEP 2

Notify the public at the earliest possible time of the intent to carry out an action in a floodplain or wetland, and involve the affected and interested public in the decision making process (see 44 CFR 9.8).

Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.

Applicable - Notice will be or has been provided by:

In general, FEMA has an obligation to provide adequate information to enable the public meaningful input on the decision for all actions having the potential to affect or be affected by floodplains or wetlands that it proposes. FEMA shall provide the public with adequate information and opportunity for review and comment at the earliest possible time and throughout the decision-making process; and upon completion of this process, provide the public with an accounting of its final decision (see 44 CFR §9.12). A Cumulative Initial Public Notice was published statewide 11/7/2005-11/9/2005. Additional public notice shall be provided as required by the Executive Order.

STEP 3

Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating the proposed action in a floodplain or wetland (including alternative sites, actions and the "no action" option) [see 44 CFR 9.9]. If a practicable alternative exists outside the floodplain or wetland, FEMA must locate the action at the alternative site.

- Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.
- Applicable - Alternatives identified as described below:

The school facilities provide functions to serve the local community, which depends on the availability of appropriate resources and facilities to meet its needs effectively. In order to meet these needs it is imperative that the facility be located such that reasonable access and coverage is provided to all areas served. In order meet this demand, the school facilities must be located centrally to the student population served.

Alternative 1: No Action – With the no action alternative, there would be no repair or refurbishment of the damaged facilities. No action would leave the community without the function of the damaged facilities. Additionally, this would leave the damaged facility and its environs in an unsafe condition, which would represent a safety hazard to the public and nearby properties. This alternative has been determined not practicable by the applicant and GOHSEP.

Alternative 2 (Proposed Alternative): - Build a New School in the Base Floodplain – This alternative would construct new facilities in the proposed location in the area of the 1% annual chance flood. Detailed design drawings and rationale for this alternative, including proposed mitigation, would be provided by the applicant in the amendments to the alternate project.

Alternative 3: - Reconstruct outside the Base Floodplain – This alternative would rebuild the damaged facilities outside the base floodplain. This alternative requires identification of a suitable site not subject to flooding. Grading and grubbing of the site would be necessary to prepare for reconstruction. Additional sewage, electricity, and drainage for each building might also be necessary. Each facility would be constructed to be compliant with current codes and standards (e.g., American with Disabilities Act, building codes, local floodplain ordinances, etc.).

Reconstruction of the facilities outside the base floodplain is not a practicable option because it has been determined by the applicant to not be economically feasible or socially acceptable. Community leaders have also indicated this choice would not serve the best interests of the entire community.

STEP 4

Identify the potential direct or indirect impacts associated with, the occupancy or modification of floodplains and wetlands and the potential direct and indirect support of floodplain and wetland development that could result from the proposed action (see 44 CFR 9.10).

Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.

Applicable - Alternatives identified as described below:

Alternative 2 (Proposed Alternative): - Build a New School in the Base Floodplain - Construction of school facilities per the plans to be provided in the alternate project would represent investment at risk subject to damage in future floods. Facilities damaged in future flooding may result in the need for disaster assistance payments. Incorporation of mitigating measures to protect against future floods would lessen the likelihood of flood damage.

STEP 5

Minimize the potential adverse impacts and support to or within floodplains and wetlands to be identified under step # 4, restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains, and preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values served by wetlands (see 44 CFR 9.11).

Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.

Applicable - Mitigation measures identified as described below:

Alternative 2 (Proposed Alternative): - Build a New School in the Base Floodplain - Construction shall be in accordance with local floodplain ordinances with applicable building codes and standards applied to mitigate and minimize adverse effects from future floods (compliance with minimum National Flood Insurance Program standards and requirements). Building utilities would be protected by methods including elevation and component protection in place, where required by code.

STEP 6

Reevaluate the proposed action to determine first, if it's still practicable in light of its exposure to flood hazards, the extent to which it would aggravate the hazards to others and its potential to disrupt floodplain and wetland values and second, if alternatives preliminarily rejected at step # 3 are practicable in light of the information gained in steps # 4 and # 5. FEMA shall not act in a floodplain or wetland unless it's the only practicable location.

Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.

Applicable - Action proposed is located in the only practicable location as described below:

Construction of the school facilities as proposed has been determined by the applicant and GOHSEP to be a practicable option because it is economically feasible, socially acceptable, and has been determined by the community leaders to meet their needs and serve the best interests of the community. This alternative enables the applicant to rebuild in an area centrally located with respect to the school community served and would enable reduced travel times and the use of the existing school facilities.

STEP 7

Prepare and provide the public with a finding and public explanation of any final decision that the floodplain or wetland is the only practicable alternative (see 44 CFR 9.12).

- Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.
- Applicable - Finding is or would be prepared as described below:

Construction of the school facilities in the floodplain has been determined to be a practicable alternative with significant benefits to the community, which overrides the prudence of location outside the floodplain. This review and analysis of this proposed action was documented through the required 8-step public participation and decision-making process.

STEP 8

Review the implementation and post-implementation phases of the proposed action to ensure that the requirements of the order are fully implemented. Oversight responsibility shall be integrated into existing processes.

- Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.
- Applicable - Approval conditioned on review of implementation and post-implementation phases to ensure compliance with the order(s).

Project shall be reviewed by FEMA at grant closeout to ensure the project was completed in accordance with all relevant and applicable floodplain ordinances, codes and standards and that all project actions were undertaken in accordance with terms and conditions stipulated to mitigate and minimize adverse effects in or to the floodplain and wetlands.

02/19/2014 - FLOODPLAIN - The Parish of Orleans enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on 8/3/1970. Site is located within Flood Zone "Shaded X", as per revised Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel Number 22071C0141F, dated 11/9/2012. Project is refurbishment of a school. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(6), no project should be built to a floodplain management standard that is less protective than what the community has adopted in local ordinances through their participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. The applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to the LA GOHSEP and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(9), for the replacement of building contents, materials and equipment, where possible, disaster-proofing of the building and/or elimination of such future losses should occur by relocation of those building contents, materials and equipment outside or above the base floodplain. In compliance with Executive Order 11988, an 8-step process was completed, is attached and on file. J. Renne, CFM, Floodplain Specialist.