

Record of Environmental Consideration

REVISED FOR FEMA ENVIRONMENTAL -- LOUISIANA -- April 2007

See 44 Code of Federal Regulation Part 10

Project Name/Number: Booker T. Washington High School
FIPS#: 033-UA9M2-00/ **AI No. 1654**

Applicant Name: Recovery School District

Project Locations: Booker T. Washington High School - Location: 29.94976, -90.08906
1201 S. Roman Street, New Orleans, LA 70125

Project Description:

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath caused wind and flood damages to facilities at the Recovery School District Booker T. Washington High School. The Orleans Parish School Board and the Recovery School District prepared a Schools Facilities Master Plan for Orleans Parish for renovations and rebuilding of schools following Katrina. The Applicant plans to demolish and replace the Main Academic Facility, Annex Building and all other out-buildings along with demolition of all sidewalks and parking areas associated the school and will result in ground disturbing activity. The rehabilitation of the existing school Auditorium and Entrance/Lobby is addressed in A/I Project No. 1267. The following general scope of work includes demolition, construction A/E fees, commissioning, recordation, and other National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) conditions associated with the Booker T. Washington High School Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Recordation: Historic American Building Survey (HABS) Recordation for large format photography, historic narrative and production of archival drawings and photographs in accordance with the MOA, dated July 20, 2011.

Demolition and Site Restoration: Abatement and demolition of the following buildings: Main Classroom Building, excluding recoupment features described in the MOA Appendix B; Annex/Gymnasium Building; Aquaculture Building; Green House; Agricultural Building and Mechanical Equipment Building. Additionally, all existing utilities, paving, and foundations (as specified) will be removed. Demolition of the (non-historic) Annex Building.

Rehabilitation and Recoupment: Selective demolition and rehabilitation of recoupment features described in the MOA Appendix B. The components include selective demolition and rehabilitation, Auditorium Lobby and Auditorium Building. This also includes some select exterior brick from the Main Classroom Building which will be cleaned, palletized and retained for restoration of certain architectural features.

New Construction: The project entails construction of a new three-story facility. The school will support career technical education and will feature classrooms, a library/media center, performing and visual arts facilities, a fitness center as well as a gymnasium and auxiliary gymnasium. The school will also include a cafeteria, school based health clinic, as well as office space for administrative and student support services. The Auditorium Building and the Auditorium Lobby, as well as certain recoupment features, which are not part of the Main Classroom Building, will not be demolished. These components will be retained and restored as part of the new high school facility design and construction. The development and installation of an interpretive display, in accordance with the MOA, will also be included.

Other Mitigation Measures: The Applicant will also complete additional mitigation measures called for in accordance with the MOA, including the development and submission of updates to the National Register of Historic Places status.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) have established Alternative Arrangements 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. These alternative arrangements 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 project qualifies

as an Alternative Arrangement for the Reconstruction of Critical Infrastructure in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area. 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 Facility Planning and Control (Applicant) public involvement process meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Alternative Arrangements (AA). Those requirements comply with the programmatic agreement between the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the Department of Homeland Security, and FEMA.

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

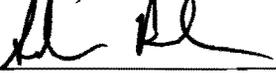
FEMA Environmental Reviewer:

Name: Kelly E. Rowe, Environmental Specialist, FEMA LRO

Signature  Date 11-16-11

FEMA Environmental Liaison Officer or Delegated Approving Official:

Name: Adam Borden, Environmental Team Lead, FEMA LRO

Signature  Date 11-15-11

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**)
- Applicable executed Programmatic Agreement. Activity meets Programmatic Allowance (date of agreement and allowance number in comments) - **Review Concluded**
- Applicable executed Programmatic Agreement (date in comments). 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 attached/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)**

Comments: A review of the demolition and replacement of the Booker T. Washington High School and ancillary buildings, and retention of the Auditorium, Auditorium Lobby and adjoining classrooms and select portions of the Main Classroom building (undertaking) was conducted in accordance with FEMA's Secondary Programmatic Agreement Regarding Implementation of School Facilities Master Plan for Orleans Parish, dated August 17, 2009 (RSD/OPSB 2PA). FEMA determined BTW was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) on July 17, 2002, for its significance at the local level under National Register Evaluation Criterion A, In accordance with 36 CFR§ 800.5, FEMA has determined the demolition of these structures will adversely affect historic properties. The RSD/OPSB 2PA requires FEMA to consult under 36 CFR §800.6 to develop a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the adverse effects of this Undertaking. The MOA for this undertaking was executed on August 25, 2011. To remain in compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA the stipulations detailed within the MOA and summarized in the conditions section of the REC, must be carried out.

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, thus FEMA finds there will be no effect to threatened or endangered species.
Correspondence/Consultation/References: USFWS emergency consultation provisions determined in letters dated September 15, 2005 for Katrina.

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 November 16, 2011.

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 jurisdictional waters of the U.S., including wetlands, occur in or near the project area.
Correspondence/Consultation/References: USFWS National Wetlands Inventory map (<http://www.fws.gov/nwi/>) queried on November 16, 2011.

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. Projects within the coastal zone may require a coastal use permit or other authorization from LADNR. Projects may be coordinated by contacting LA DNR at 1-225-342-9232.
Correspondence/Consultation/References: Louisiana Coastal Zone maps queried November 16, 2011.

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: Louisiana Map (<http://www.lamap.doa.louisiana.gov/>) queried November 16, 2011

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.
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 and FPPA is precluded.
Correspondence/Consultation/References: Kelly E. Rowe, 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: Louisiana Map (<http://www.lamap.doa.louisiana.gov/>) referenced November 16, 2011.

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 Wild or Scenic River (WSR).
Correspondence/Consultation/References: National Wild and Scenic Rivers <http://www.nps.gov/rivers/wildriverslist.html>

L. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

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.

M. Other Relevant Laws and Environmental Regulations

NA

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 – Orleans Parish Advisory Base Flood Elevation Maps (ABFEs) were issued June 2006. This site is shown on ABFE Panel LA-CC31, as in Zone ABFE, EL 0, or 3 feet above the Highest Existing Adjacent Grade (HEAG). As of the release date of preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs), unobligated FEMA Public Assistance grants for new construction and substantial improvements are to be built in accordance with a minimum base flood elevation (BFE) as established by the preliminary DFIRM. Orleans Parish Preliminary DFIRMs were issued November 2008. The site is shown on DFIRM Panel 22071C0230F, as in Shaded X Zone NAVD. New construction must be compliant with current codes and standards. The applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. As per 44 CFR 9.11 (d) (9), mitigation or minimization standards must be applied where possible. The replacement of building contents, materials and equipment should be, where possible, wet or dry-proofed, elevated, or relocated to or above the community established base flood elevation. Hazardous materials need to be elevated above the 0.2 % annual chance (500-year) flood elevation. A cumulative final public notice was published 10/26/07 - 11/02/07 and is attached or on file.

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: None

Correspondence/Consultation/References: U.S. FWS NWI map accessed on-line November 16, 2011.

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 70125 are: 25.6 % White, 71.3 % African-American, 2.6 % Hispanic, 1.2 % Asian. The median household income in 1999 was \$ 20,089.00 and 37.3 % of families are below poverty level.
Correspondence/Consultation/References: Kelly E. Rowe, 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).

Comments: None

Correspondence/Consultation/Reference:

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:

1. RSD must record the Booker T. Washington School in accordance with Stipulation II.A of the MOA.
2. RSD must complete recoupment and restoration efforts in accordance with Stipulation II.B of the MOA.
3. RSD must update the National Register Nomination in accordance with Stipulation II.C of the MOA.
4. RSD must develop and implement and Interpretive Plan, in accordance with Stipulation II.D of the MOA.

5. If, in the course of the Undertaking, archaeological deposits are uncovered or unforeseen effects occur, RSD shall ensure that its contractor immediately stops work in the general vicinity of the discovery or unforeseen effect and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds and/or to avoid or minimize further unforeseen effects. RSD shall ensure that the archaeological findings are secured and access to the area of the discovery is restricted. RSD will then notify FEMA and GOHSEP of discoveries or unforeseen effects as soon as practicable.
6. If human skeletal remains are uncovered during the Undertaking, RSD shall immediately notify GOHSEP, FEMA, the New Orleans Police Department, and the Orleans Parish Coroner's Office.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. This project involves the partial demolition of public structures 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.
10. The applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. As per 44 CFR 9.11 (d) (9), mitigation or minimization standards must be applied where possible. The replacement of building contents, materials and equipment should be, where possible, wet or dry-proofed, elevated, or relocated to or above the community established base flood elevation. Hazardous materials need to be elevated above the 0.2 % annual chance (500-year) flood elevation. A cumulative final public notice was published 10/26/07 - 11/02/07 and is attached or on file.