

# Record of Environmental Consideration

REVISED FOR FEMA ENVIRONMENTAL -- LOUISIANA -- April 2007

See 44 Code of Federal Regulation Part 10

**Project Name/Number:** Sarah T. Reed High School  
Gymnasium Bleachers  
FIPS#: 033-UA9M2-00/ **AI No. 1494**

**Applicant Name:** Recovery School District

**Project Locations:** Sarah T. Reed High School - Location: 30.04153, -89.93174  
5316 Michoud Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70129

## **Project Description:**

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath caused wind and flood damages to facilities at the Recovery School District Sarah T. Reed High School. Based on the Recovery School District and Orleans Parish School Board 2008 "School Facilities Master Plan" to restore school facilities, the Sarah T. Reed High School is planned to be repaired. The scope of work is to remove and salvage the bleachers from the Booker T. Washington High School site and transport and install the bleachers at the Sarah T. Reed High School site. The buildings at the Booker T. Washington High School site are planned to be demolished, except for the adjacent auditorium building, and a new high school complex will be rebuilt.

## **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 6-16-11

### FEMA Environmental Liaison Officer or Delegated Approving Official:

Name: Adam Borden Environmental Team Lead, FEMA LRO

Signature  Date 6-16-11

## 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 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 this project was conducted in accordance with Stipulation VII.E (1) of FEMA's Secondary Programmatic Agreement regarding New Orleans School Facilities Master Plan (2PA) dated August 17, 2009. FEMA is not required by this 2PA to request the SHPO's review of NRHP eligibility determinations or effect determinations for undertakings to alter or demolish school facilities or campuses constructed after 1963. Additionally, there are no ground disturbing activities included in the scope of work. Any change to the approved scope of work will require reevaluation under Section 106 of the NHPA.

### 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 June 15, 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 June 15, 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 June 15, 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 June 15, 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 June 15, 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

#### Formosan Termite Initiative Act

In accordance with the Formosan Termite Initiative Act, (LA R.S. 3:3391.1 thru 3391.13) the Louisiana Parish of Orleans is under quarantine. The movement of wood or cellulose material, temporary housing or architectural components (e.g. beams, doors and other wood salvaged from a structure) may not leave the quarantined parishes without written authorization from the Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and forestry or his designee(s).

## 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:** 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 DFIRMs were issued November 2008. This site is shown on DFIRM Panel 22071C0145F, in Zone AE (EL 1) NAVD. Local ordinances based on ABFE maps may require a more stringent elevation requirement. 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 June 15, 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 70129 are: 15.3 % White, 50 % African-American, Asian 32.6 %, 2.3 % Hispanic. The median household income in 1999 was \$ 45,592 and 10 % 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. 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.
2. In accordance with the Formosan Termite Initiative Act, (LA R.S. 3:3391.1 thru 3391.13) the Louisiana Parish of Orleans- is under quarantine. The movement of wood or cellulose material, temporary housing or architectural components (e.g. beams, doors and other wood salvaged from a structure) may not leave the quarantined parishes without written authorization from the Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and forestry or his designee(s).
3. 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.
4. 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.

## 8-STEP PROCESS CHECKLIST

### Recovery School District Sarah T. Reed High School— Installation of BTW Bleachers Orleans Parish

Date: 6/15/2011  
Prepared by: Kelly E. Rowe, CFM, Environmental/Floodplain Specialist, FEMA EHP  
Project Title: Sarah T. Reed High School Bleachers  
Location: Orleans Parish, Louisiana  
(Latitude: 30.04153; Longitude: -89.93174)

FEMA-1603-DR-LA

#### EO 11988-FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT EO 11990-WETLAND PROTECTION

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

The specific project sites are located in a floodplain as mapped on Preliminary DFIRM No. 22071C0145F, dated November 13, 2008, within Zone AE (EL 1); special flood hazard area inundated by 100-year flood; base flood elevations (BFE) determined.

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:

A cumulative Initial Public Notice was published statewide  
October 21<sup>st</sup> – November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.

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 in the EA Document or described below:

Alternative 1: No action would leave the damaged school campus in continued disrepair with inadequate facilities to meet the educational needs of the students in the community near the school site.

Alternative 2: Relocating these facilities outside the 100-year flood event elevation. The area is predominantly composed of special flood hazard areas. The students and community will likely not commute to facilities outside the 100-year flood event area due to the significant distances involved in the commute.

Alternative 3: Renovation of these facilities above or floodproofed for the 100-year flood event elevation.

STEP 4 **Identify the full range or 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 in the EA Document or described below:

The project will shift services to another facility within the floodplain and should not have an adverse affect upon the floodplain or wetlands.

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 in the EA Document or described below:

In compliance with 44 CFR 9.11, mitigation and minimization standards will be considered and applied, where possible.

STEP 6

**Reevaluate the proposed action to determine first, if it is still practicable in light of its exposure to flood hazards, the extent to which it will aggravate the hazards to others, and it's 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 is the only practicable location (see 44 CFR 9.9).**

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:

The most practicable alternative is to rebuild the facilities at the former location and function as before.

Applicable - Action proposed is not located in the only practicable location. Describe below:

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 will be prepared as described below:

A Cumulative Public Notice was published on October 27-31, 2008.

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 of the order(s).