



FEMA

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FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
FINAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
THE TOWN OF JAMESTOWN STREAM CORRIDOR RECOVERY DESIGN

BACKGROUND

One of the most costly and widespread floods in Colorado history devastated the Town of Jamestown, Boulder County, in September 2013. Sustained heavy rains (14 inches in 48 hours) and post-wildfire conditions led to massive flooding and debris flows. The worst flooding occurred from September 11-13, 2013. James Creek and Little James Creek both left their banks and formed new channels, undercutting houses and roads. Several homes, bridges, culverts, and roads were washed away, isolating residents and forcing nearly every resident to be evacuated by military helicopters. The Town's water treatment plant and water distribution system were also severely damaged, leaving the Town without water for several months. By the end of the disaster, the Town had lost 20% of the homes, 50% of the roads, multiple bridges, the water treatment plant, and the Jamestown Volunteer Fire Department's fire hall. The floodwaters and debris flows deposited thousands of cubic yards of sediment and debris along the Town's main corridor, on private property, and inside homes and garages. A Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-4145-DR-CO) was declared on September 14, 2013.

Because of the severe flooding and debris flows that occurred in Jamestown during Presidential disaster declaration FEMA-4145-DR-CO, stream corridor recovery projects are needed to:

- Restore infrastructure and properties in the Town to a safe, sustainable, and permanent function and capacity;
- Mitigate the impacts and losses caused by future flood and debris flows events on Jamestown's essential services, infrastructure and property; and
- Protect the health, safety, and welfare of Jamestown's residents from future floods and debris flows.

As a result of the damages that occurred in Colorado during the September 2013 floods and debris flows, FEMA was authorized under Presidential disaster declaration FEMA-4145-DR-CO to provide Federal assistance to designated disaster areas in Colorado, including Jamestown. Jamestown's stream corridor recovery projects are being funded by the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program, administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) program; FEMA's

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, FEMA's regulations for implementing NEPA at 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and in the spirit of Unified Review as outlined in Section 6 of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA) of 2013 FEMA prepared a draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) to evaluate the potential impacts to the human environment resulting from the Jamestown stream corridor recovery projects. The PEA is incorporated by reference into this FONSI.

The PEA evaluated four alternatives: (1) No Action; (2) Replacement of Existing Buildings, Infrastructure, or Stream Corridor; (3) Relocation of Existing Buildings, Infrastructure, or Stream Corridor and/or Construction of New Buildings, Infrastructure, or Stream Corridor; and (4) Combination of Alternatives 2 and 3. The stream corridor was divided into eight reaches during the preliminary alternative design process to effectively analyze the post-flood hydrologic and hydraulic conditions. A given alternative may not be available in all eight reaches or all segments of each reach. Therefore, each reach may have a different preferred alternative.

Notice of the availability of the draft PEA was published on the Town of Jamestown's website (jamestownco.org) and the *Denver Post* on February 18, 2014, for a 5-day public comment period. No comments on the draft PEA were received during the 5-day public comment period.

CONDITIONS

Actions under this PEA and FONSI must meet the following conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions would make the FONSI determination inapplicable for the project and could jeopardize the receipt of FEMA funding.

1. In accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, the applicant would be responsible for acquiring any necessary permits prior to commencing construction at the proposed project site.
2. The applicant will follow best management practices and requirements under applicable stormwater pollution requirements for the placement of fill and construction activities.
3. Contractor and/or Subcontractors will properly handle, package, transport, and dispose of hazardous materials and/or waste in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations, laws, and ordinances. If hazardous substances are released to the project area during construction, these federal, state, and local requirements must be followed in response and cleanup.
4. If during the course of work, unmarked graves, burials, human remains, or archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered, the applicant shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery, secure the site, and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. All archaeological findings will be secured and access to the

sensitive area restricted. 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 State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to ensure that the project is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

5. The applicant will follow applicable mitigation measures as identified in Section 5 of the PEA to the maximum extent possible.
6. The applicant must meet any project-specific conditions developed and agreed upon between FEMA and with environmental planning or historic preservation resource or regulatory agencies during consultation or coordination.
7. Construction traffic should be closely monitored and controlled as appropriate. All construction activities would be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with OSHA requirements. To alert motorists and pedestrians of project activities, appropriate signage and barriers would be on site prior to and during construction activities. During construction activities, the construction site(s) would be fenced off to discourage trespassers.
8. The applicant will submit any changes to the scope of work that was originally submitted as part of the application for FEMA's determination of whether the PEA is still valid or whether any supplementation or re-evaluation is needed.

FINDINGS

Based upon the information contained in the Final PEA, the potential impacts resulting from the four project types analyzed in the PEA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations at 44 CFR Part 10 and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), FEMA finds that the implementation of the proposed action will not have significant impacts to the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared. This FONSI is based upon proposed actions fitting one of the four project types (alternatives) described in the Final PEA and meeting all conditions prescribed for that particular project type.

APPROVAL



Steven E. Hardegen
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FEMA-4145-DR-CO

03/04/2014

Date