

Draft Environmental Assessment
Audubon Nature Center (ANC)
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana
FEMA-DR-1603-LA
October 2014



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ANC	Audubon Nature Center
BMP	Best Management Practices
CAA	Clean Air Act
CBRS	Coastal Barrier Resources System
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMD	Coastal Management Division
CWA	Clean Water Act
DA	Department of the Army
DFIRM	Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map
EA	Environmental Assessment
ECD	Erosion Control Devices
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EHP	Environmental and Historic Preservation
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
GOHSEP	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
JD	Jurisdictional Determination
LDEQ	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
LDNR	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
LDWF	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
LPDES	Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Services
OCM	Office of Coastal Management
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PA	Public Assistance
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ROW	Right of Way
Sf	Square Feet
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office/Officer
SOV	Solicitation of Views
SPOC	Single-Point-of-Contact
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Authority

On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina, a Category 4 hurricane with a storm surge well above normal high tide levels, moved across the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama Gulf Coasts. Maximum sustained winds at landfall were estimated at 140 miles per hour. President George W. Bush declared a major disaster for the state of Louisiana due to damages from Hurricane Katrina and signed a disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) on August 29, 2005, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana. FEMA is administering this disaster assistance pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. Section 406 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program to repair, restore, and replace state and local government and certain Private Nonprofit facilities damaged as a result of the declared event.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500 to 1508), and FEMA's regulations implementing NEPA (44 CFR Parts 9 and 10). The purpose of this EA is to analyze potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. FEMA will use the findings in this EA to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

1.2 Background

Orleans Parish, which is comprised of the City of New Orleans, is located in southeast Louisiana. It is approximately 350 square miles, of which approximately 180 square miles is dry land (approximately 51.5 percent), the remainder is open water (Figure 1). Orleans Parish is bordered to the east by Lake Borgne, St. Bernard Parish, and Plaquemines Parish; to the south by the Mississippi River, Plaquemines Parish, and Jefferson Parish; to the west by Jefferson Parish; and to the north by Lake Pontchartrain and St. Tammany Parish. Orleans Parish has approximately 343,829 people according to 2010 census figures. New Orleans is located approximately 70 miles southeast from Baton Rouge, the capital of Louisiana, and approximately 105 miles upriver from the Gulf of Mexico.

The Audubon Nature Center (ANC) is a non-profit educational facility offering families and school groups hands-on, natural, and physical science programs featuring live animals, planetarium shows, overnight adventures, and teacher workshops. The ANC is owned by the Audubon Commission, a city agency and an eligible applicant. The Audubon Commission hired the Audubon Nature Institute to manage the day to day operations of the ANC and to be responsible for all maintenance and building and boardwalk repairs. The ANC consisted of nine (9) buildings in a single campus, located in a densely wooded wetland area adjacent to the 135 acre Joe Brown City Park (See Figures 2-4). The applicant has demolished seven (7) of the nine (9) buildings, which were previously approved for replacement in kind. However, the applicant seeks alternative methods to meeting their needs.



Figure 1: New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, Site Location Map



Figure 2: New Orleans, ANC Site Location Map

2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

2.1 Purpose

The objective of the PA Program is to provide assistance to State, Tribal, and local governments, and certain types of Private Nonprofit Organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies. The ANC is part of the Audubon Institute, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that operates a financially self-sufficient collection of museums and parks. The Audubon Institute's mission is to exhibit the diversity of wildlife and preserve native Louisiana habitats, in order to educate a diverse audience about the natural world. The Audubon Institute includes facilities which promote wildlife research and conservation, and provides opportunities for community recreation. The purpose of this project is to restore educational services/programs, facilities, and resources which were lost as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

2.2 Need

Wind, rain, and flooding of Hurricane Katrina significantly damaged the ANC facilities. As a result, the ANC cannot provide quality programs to community residents, schools, and visitors without facility repairs and replacements. The community is in need of safe facilities that are up to current codes and standards in order to continue to provide natural resource education programs in the New Orleans metropolitan area.

3.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

3.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would entail provision of no public assistance for the damaged facilities. Consequently, the ANC facilities would remain destroyed. The applicant would no longer have the ability to safely display indigenous animals and provide outdoor lessons on recycling, conservation, wetlands protection, and geology to the general public and local schools. The center would no longer have the ability to offer the guided trail hikes, a botany center, butterfly garden, planetarium, summer camp, and outreach programs that attracted tens of thousands of children each year from southern states.

3.2 Alternative 2: Reconstruct and/or Restore the Facilities in the Original Location Footprint

This alternative would reconstruct and/or restore all the buildings in the original footprint at the ANC (See Figures 3 and 4) to their pre-disaster capacities. The reconstructed and/or restored buildings would incorporate all of the same functions as the original buildings in their original locations, and would include the following: Interpretive Center (30.031273, -89.963634); Science Resource Center (30.031131, -89.963345); Classroom Building (30.030991, -89.963114); Administration Building (30.030843, -89.963474); Planetarium (30.030975, -89.963264); Gift Shop/Entry Pavilion (30.031730, -89.964635); Utility Shed (30.031027, -89.963606); Botany Greenhouse (30.030681, -89.963138); Maintenance Building (30.030515, -89.963437); and boardwalk and primitive trail system. Figures 3-4 display the original building footprint at the ANC.

In order to rebuild each facility in the same footprint, extensive reconstruction of damaged building and boardwalk materials would be required, including the replacement of flooring, walls, windows, roofing, pilings, decking etc. Prior to the storm, the ANC visitors utilized a parking lot located in Joe Brown Park. Visitors would walk approximately 1,500 feet from the parking lot over a bridge into the ANC. Joe Brown Park has since constructed a track and football stadium over the former parking lot. Thus, parking and ingress/egress does not meet current transportation safety codes and standards for visitors to the ANC. If the facilities were to be rebuilt in the same footprint, close in parking surrounding the repaired and rebuilt facilities would be proposed. Because of the extensive damage to the existing facilities and the loss of Joe Brown Park parking, a new parking lot and access road would be required. This alternative meets the purpose and need and will be carried forward and evaluated.



Figure 3: Overall Site of ANC, in New Orleans, LA

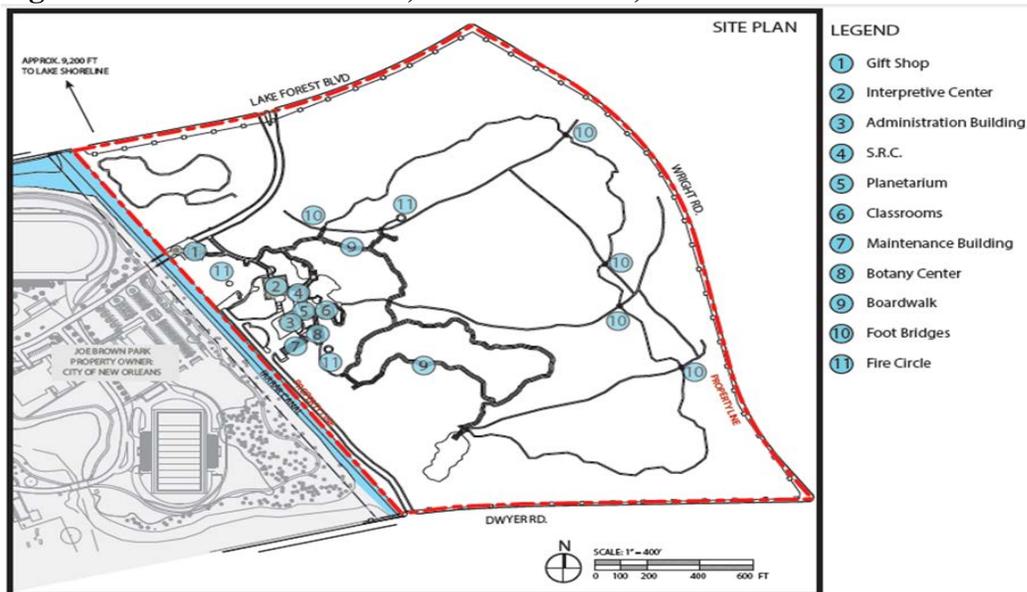


Figure 4: Site of ANC, showing original building locations & layout

3.3 Alternative 3: (Preferred) Consolidate and Restore the ANC Facilities and Functions at a New Location on the Site.

The applicant seeks FEMA PA federal grant funds to replace eligible destroyed facilities at the ANC with a new, consolidated building which would be located in the northwest corner of the property (30.031730, -89.964461) (See Figure 5). Specifically, the applicant proposes to demolish and consolidate seven (7) of the nine (9) existing buildings including the Entry Pavilion, Gift Shop, Classrooms, Science and Research Center, Administrative Facilities, Interpretive Center, and Planetarium. Current site plans (See Figures 5-8, and Appendix B) include the improved project drawings for the ANC facilities and educational programs. The Botany Building and the Maintenance Building would be restored in their original footprints.

The new consolidated building would also have a kitchen and grease trap and water meters installed within the new building footprint. The original lift station for the facility would be demolished. A new sanitary sewerage system piping and structures would be installed from a point five (5) feet outside the new building footprint to a connection with the municipal water and sewer service. This work would be done within the public right-of-way, to meet current codes and standards.

The existing access road on the site would be extended to the new building to meet safety standards, and a new parking lot would be constructed on ANC property, across Waterford Street, approximately 200 feet north of the new consolidated ANC building site. The new parking lot would measure approximately 0.45-acre. Each end of the parking lot would have a culvert installed under the entrance and exit roads. The two (2) culverts would measure 40-feet in length by 12-inches in diameter each. Each end of the culverts would have a rock rip rap apron measuring 12-foot long by 12-foot wide by 12-inches deep installed as erosion control.

The ANC also proposes work on multiple existing boardwalks and trail systems located within the Nature Center. The boardwalk would be rebuilt in a slightly modified footprint to connect the new building, and it would be straightened rather than meandering in some spans. The existing primitive trail system would be cleared of debris and vegetation and re-graveled. A USACE permit was received for the project on August 12, 2014, however the applicant stated they intend to amend the permit for new drawings which depict the additional footbridges and boardwalks. (See Appendix B).

The combined total area of the pre-storm facilities not including the boardwalk was approximately 28,986 square feet (sq. ft.), and the current design of the new facility would comprise approximately 20,430 square feet. The proposed new building area first floor would measure 13,536 sq. ft., and the new decks would measure 6,894 sq. ft., per the amended design drawings submitted to FEMA on June 23, 2014.

The ANC would rebuild, repair, or renovate the other two existing buildings, a Maintenance/Storage Shop and a Botany Building/Greenhouse in their current locations. An existing small parking area would remain adjacent to the Maintenance Building, typically used for employees (See Figure 7).

For renovations to the Maintenance/Storage Shop the applicant proposes to retain the existing concrete slab and steel columns and beams. Many parts would be removed and cleaned, painted, and replaced including: the door and track; steel lintel and framing; metal downspouts and gutters and metal siding and trim.

Also to be cleaned and replaced in the Maintenance/Storage Shop would be the wood stud walls; plywood sheathing; wood shelving; a service sink and plumbing; all electrical outlets and boxes, switches, switch plates, and all associated conduit and wiring; the metal roof; insulation; lattice screen; laminated translucent glazing and window frames; and lighting system. In addition, to meet all required code upgrades the applicant would mechanically clean, prime, and paint all steel framing; repair, paint, and lubricate window operating systems; repair or replace finish hardware including lockset, butts, and add closer with cover, bronze threshold, and weather stripping; door astragals, prime, and paint; furnish and install new electrical load center with breakers; and furnish and install new gas space heater and associated gas piping, valves, etc.

Additional proposed renovations to the Maintenance/Storage Shop include: furnish and install six (6) exterior compact brass faucets; repair existing concrete perimeter wall with grout and cement; weld all broken steel connections and paint; mechanically clean, prime, and paint steel structure; clean and repair window mechanisms, replace as needed; replace all glazing; replace electrical service wiring and conduit; and repair and paint the load center outside concrete foundation. ANC would also refinish door and replace glazing and hardware (lockset, butts, flush bolts, closures, and thresholds); reverse door swing; furnish and install new exhaust fans, switches, conduit, wiring, insect screens; and gravity type operating louvers to match exterior; pressure wash concrete floor and knee wall; and prime and paint the flooring.

For the Botany Building/Greenhouse renovation, many parts would be removed and cleaned, painted, and replaced. Renovations would include aluminum downspouts; a submersible pump with all associated conduit and wiring; lattice work and associated wood framing; space heater with piping, gas piping back to meter; glass, glazing, and putty; ventilation fans; brass faucets; and all electrical outlets, outlet boxes, switches, switch plates, and all associated conduit and wiring. New gas piping would extend from the existing gas meter to the Botany Building gas space heater, and the bottom of the heater would be mounted a minimum of seven (7) feet above the finished floor.

The entire project would impact approximately three (3) acres of mixed wetlands, including 1.45-acres for the new building and associated roads/utilities, 0.46-acre for the maintenance and botany building repairs, and 1.10-acre for the rebuilding of the boardwalk. Staging areas for construction would be limited to existing paved areas. Access to construction areas would be limited to existing service drives. The new location is intended to meet American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) codes and standards of public safety for ingress and egress. This alternative meets the purpose and need and will be carried forward and evaluated.

Figures 5-10 display the proposed building conditions and surrounding area at the ANC.

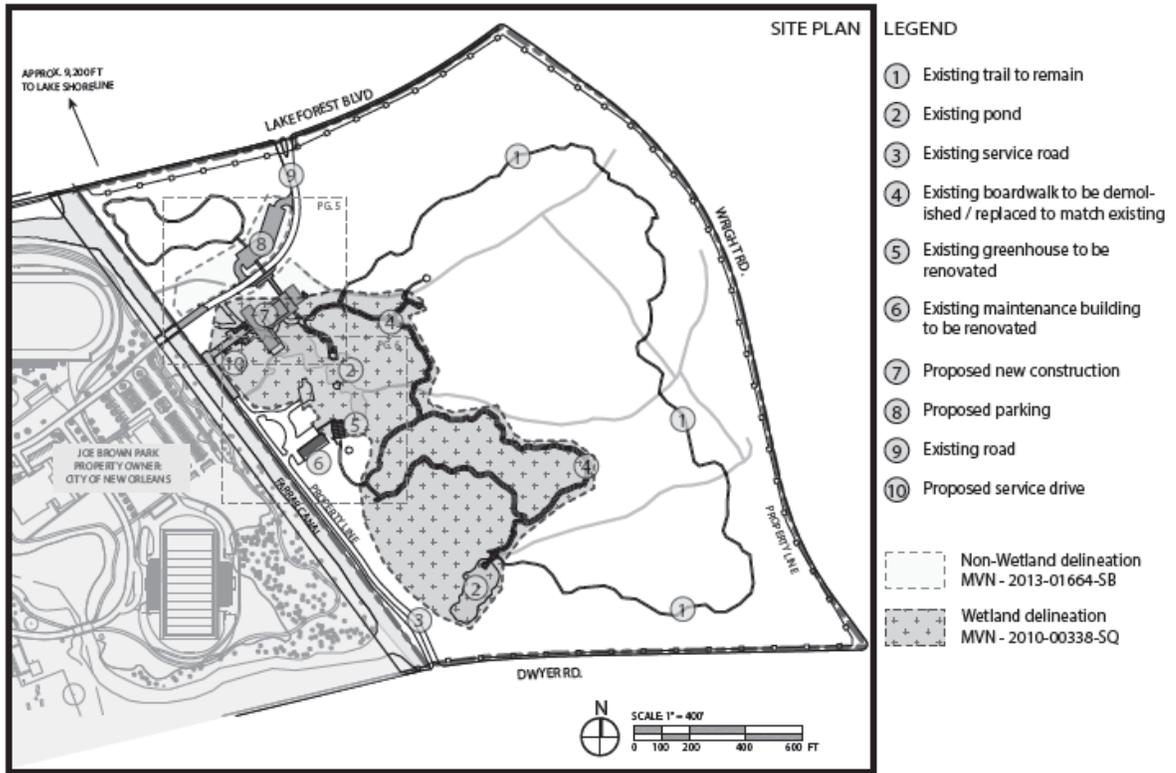


Figure 5: Site of ANC, showing the proposed/preferred building and parking locations and layout relative to the overall site

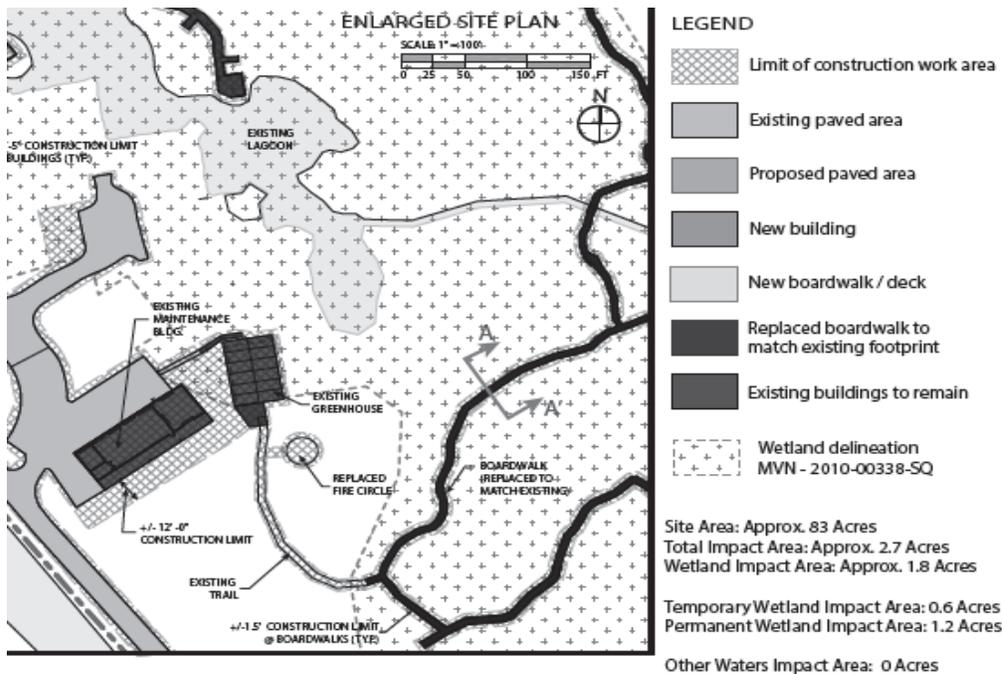


Figure 6: Site of ANC, showing the proposed building removal and two existing buildings to remain.

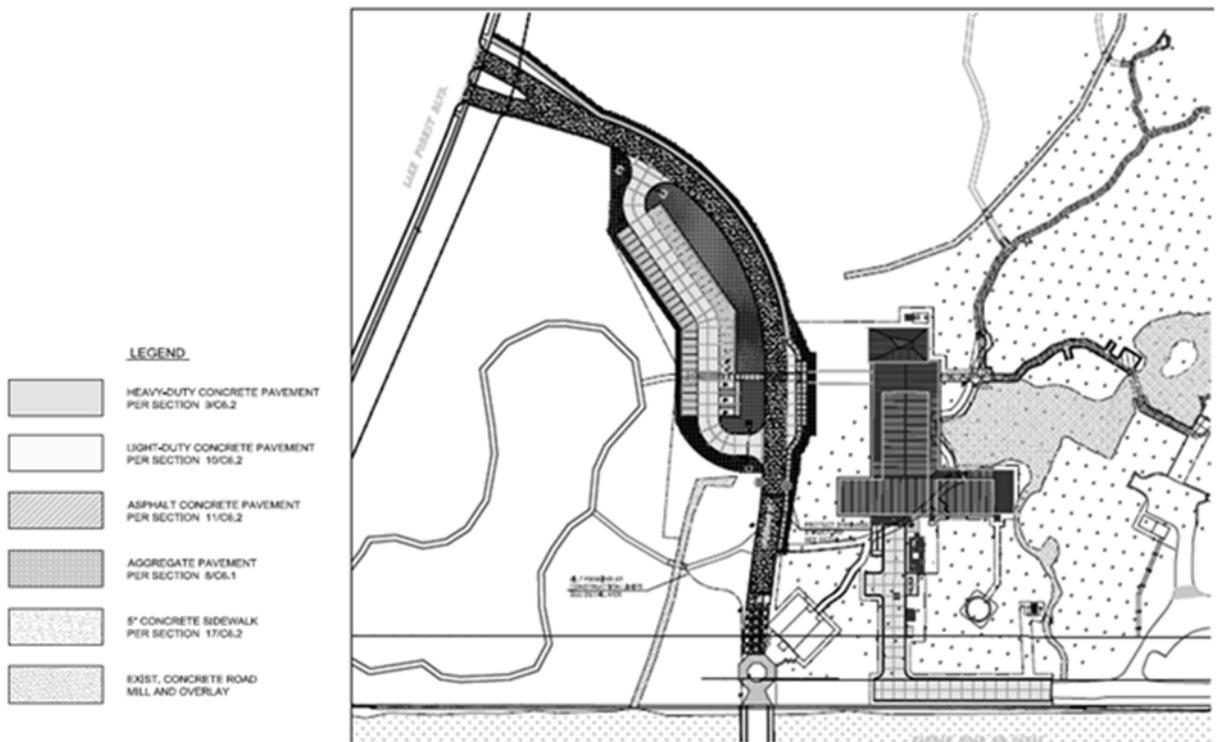


Figure 7: Site of ANC, showing the proposed/preferred building and parking locations and layout detail

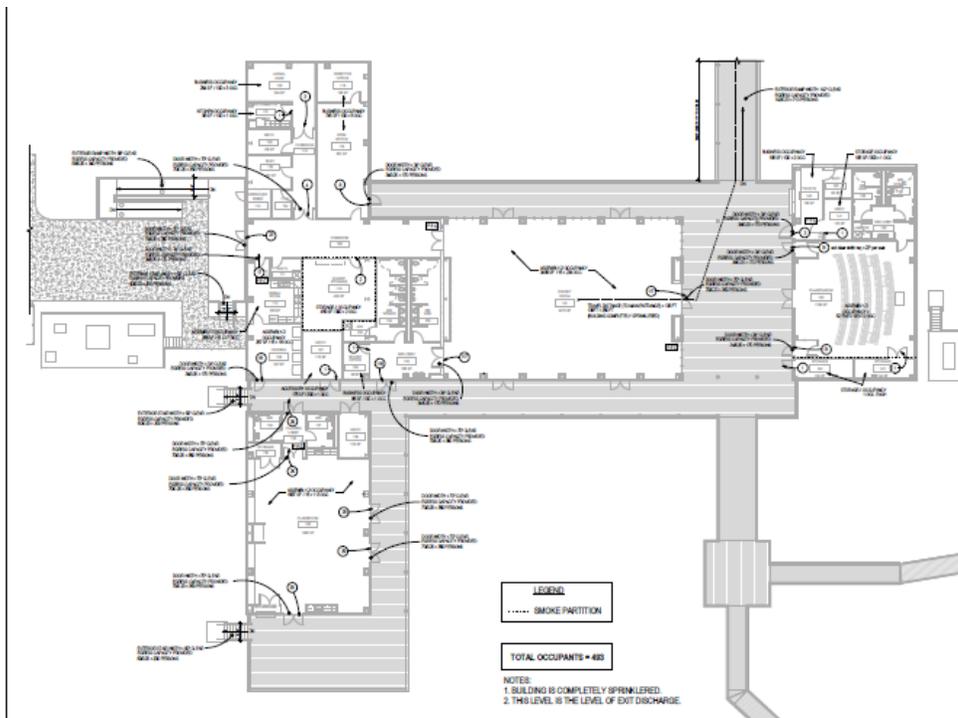


Figure 8: ANC Preferred Consolidated Building Layout



Figure 9: Typical Mid-Story Growth Surrounding the Facilities



Figure 10: Current Conditions at the Preferred Building Site, Facing North

4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND IMPACTS

4.1 Impact Summary

The following matrix summarizes the results of the environmental review process (Tables 1 and 2). Potential environmental impacts that were found to be negligible are not evaluated further. Resource areas that have the potential for impacts of minor, moderate, or major intensity are further developed in the following sections. Definitions of the impact intensity are described below:

Negligible: The resource area (e.g., geology) would not be affected, or changes would be either non-detectable or if detected, would have effects that would be slight and local. Impacts would be well below regulatory standards, as applicable. Affects to Cultural Resources are either non-existent, i.e. building is less than 50 years old and/or no known archeological sites are present on the site, or it is determined project is not likely to affect and SHPO/THPO concurs. No mitigation is needed.

Minor: Changes to the resource would be measurable, although the changes would be small and localized. Impacts would be within or below regulatory standards, as applicable. Mitigation measures would reduce any potential adverse effects. Affects to Cultural Resources are not likely, i.e. building is 50 years old and/or known archeological sites are near the project area, but special conditions/mitigation is required to maintain the not likely determination.

Moderate: Changes to the resource would be measurable and have both localized and regional scale impacts. Impacts would be within or below regulatory standards, but historical conditions are being altered on a short-term basis. Mitigation measures would be necessary and the measures would reduce any potential adverse effects. Affects to Cultural Resources are likely, i.e. building is 50 years old and/or known archeological sites are in the project area. Impacts would have localized and regional scale impacts.

Major: Changes would be readily measurable and would have substantial consequences on a local and regional level. Impacts would exceed regulatory standards. Mitigation measures to offset the adverse effects would be required to reduce impacts, though long-term changes to the resource would be expected. Affects to Cultural Resources are likely, i.e. building is 50 years old and/or known archeological sites are in the project area. Impacts would have substantial consequences on a localized and regional level.

**Table 1 - Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences Matrix-Alternative 3: (Preferred)
Relocate the ANC Facility Onsite**

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Geology and Soils	X				<p>Project would permanently convert approximately three (3) acres of soils considered exempt Prime Farmland to nonagricultural use. Potential for short-term localized increase in soil erosion during construction.</p> <p>The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA: P.L. 97-98, Sec. 1539-1549; 7 U.S.C. 4201, <i>et. seq.</i>) was enacted in 1981 to minimize the unnecessary conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses as a result of federal actions. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Alexandria, LA responded to FEMA-EHP's solicitation of views (SOV) email with a letter dated August 8, 2013. Per the letter the project map submitted with the SOV request indicates the proposed construction area is within urban areas and therefore is exempt from the rules and regulations of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)-Subtitle I of Title XV, Section 1539-1549. See Section 4.2</p>	<p>NRCS correspondence dated August 8, 2013 (See Appendix C)</p> <p>USACE permit dated August 12, 2014 (to be amended with new drawings, for additional footbridges and boardwalks)</p>	<p>All excavated material and debris associated with the authorized work must be hauled off site and disposed of in a non-jurisdictional area.</p> <p>Appropriate erosion and siltation controls must be utilized during construction to prevent sediment runoff into adjacent wetlands and waterways. Sediment control techniques could include, but are not limited to, the use of secured hay bales, sediment fencing, wooden or vinyl barriers, and/or seeding of disturbed areas.</p> <p>Erosion Control Devices (ECD's) must be used and maintained extensively to prevent any potential direct or indirect adverse impacts to nearby wetland areas per the Clean Water Act and EO 11990. Any adverse impacts to adjacent wetlands resulting from the construction of this project will jeopardize receipt of federal funding.</p> <p>Implement construction Best Management Practices (BMPs); The contractor will be responsible for keeping all excavated areas periodically sprayed with water, all equipment maintained in good working order, and all construction vehicles limited to 15 mph to minimize pollution/fugitive dust. If fill is stored on site as part of unit installation or removal, the contractor will be required to appropriately cover it.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Hydrology and Floodplains (Executive Order 11988)	X				<p>Orleans Parish enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on August 3, 1970. According to the NFIP Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) panel 22071C0137F, dated November 19, 2012, the preferred project site is located in zone AE, Elevation -7.</p> <p>Per the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Approved Jurisdictional Determination (JD) Form dated May 12, 2010, water drains omni-directionally to the east, west, and north into roadside ditches along entrance roads. These flows are eventually pumped into Farrar Canal and Lake Pontchartrain. Farrar Canal and adjacent wetlands are a part of a large impounded, pumped system that now pumps directly into Lake Pontchartrain. Farrar Canal was originally cut through swamps that were part of a wetland system adjacent to Lake Pontchartrain. At this time, pumping replaces flows that would have allowed interchange between Lake Pontchartrain and adjacent swamps.</p> <p>See Section 4.2 for additional impact discussion, and see Section 6.0 for the entire set of Conditions, and See Appendix D for Wetlands Jurisdictional Determinations.</p>	<p>DFIRM 22071C0137F, dated November 19, 2012. In compliance with Executive Order 11988, an 8-step process was completed, is attached and on file.</p> <p>During a site visit on November 6, 2013, the USACE determined artificial hydrology, namely pumping of water into and from the site, rendered much of the waters onsite non-jurisdictional for their permitting process. One small tributary in the northwest corner of the property is considered jurisdictional, and the applicant has reconfigured the new parking lot to avoid the tributary.</p> <p>USACE permit August 12, 2014 (to be amended for new drawings with additional footbridges and boardwalks)</p>	<p>Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(3), there shall be no new construction or substantial improvement of structures unless the lowest floor of the structures (including basement) is at or above the level of the base flood. 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 Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Applicant must ensure compliance with all parish and city ordinances. All correspondence must be submitted to FEMA and FEMA-EHP for inclusion in the project files. Should the site plans (including drainage design) change the applicant must submit changes to FEMA-EHP for review and approval prior to the start of construction.</p> <p>The project is within and directly adjacent to jurisdictional wetlands as per documentation provided by the USACE. Extreme care must be taken during the construction process through the appropriate use and maintenance of BMP's. Applicant must adhere to all conditions outlined in Clean Water Act Section 401 permits associated with the project. Precautions must be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one (1) acre.</p> <p>The applicant must contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3181 to determine if the proposed project requires a permit. Any water system improvements should be coordinated through the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.</p> <p>All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region. All debris should be disposed of in an approved landfill. If any solid or hazardous waste materials, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, the LDEQ Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) will be contacted at (225) 219-3640 to initiate appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contaminated material. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Wetlands (Executive Order 11990)		X			<p>Per USACE's approved JD Form dated May 12, 2010, water drains omni-directionally to the east, west, and north into roadside ditches along entrance roads. These flows are eventually pumped into Farrar Canal and Lake Pontchartrain. Farrar Canal and adjacent wetlands are a part of a large impounded, pumped system that now pumps directly into Lake Pontchartrain. Farrar Canal was originally cut through swamps that were part of a wetland system adjacent to Lake Pontchartrain. At this time, pumping replaces flows that would have allowed interchange between Lake Pontchartrain and adjacent swamps.</p> <p>An email SOV for the scope of work regarding building demolition and reconstruction was sent to USACE on June 24, 2013. An email forward from the applicant was received on August 14, 2013, with an attached USACE letter dated June 16, 2010 regarding JD. The USACE JD letter stated a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required prior to the work or dredge or fill material. (See Appendix C)</p> <p>The applicant hired Coast Environmental to conduct an additional delineation of wetlands in the area near the proposed parking lot. Results will help FEMA determine mitigation needed.</p>	<p>JD from the USACE, dated 5/12/2010.</p> <p>During a site visit on November 6, 2013, the USACE determined artificial hydrology, namely pumping of water into and from the site, rendered much of the waters onsite non-jurisdictional for their permitting process. One small tributary in the northwest corner of the property is considered jurisdictional, and the applicant has reconfigured the new parking lot to avoid the tributary.</p> <p>USACE permit August 12, 2014 (to be amended for new drawings showing additional footbridges and boardwalks)</p> <p>The EPA also reviewed the project for the discharge of fill material into wetlands. In a letter dated 7/8/2013 the EPA states they do not object to the project. (See Appendix C)</p>	<p>The project is within and directly adjacent to jurisdictional wetlands as per documentation provided by the USACE. Extreme care must be taken during the construction process through the appropriate use and maintenance of BMP's. Applicant must adhere to all conditions outlined in Clean Water Act Section 401 permits associated with the project.</p> <p>Proper signage must clearly identify the adjacent wetland boundaries to help prevent any potential adverse impacts from construction vehicles/equipment/supplies accidentally leaving the boundaries of the approved ROW.</p> <p>The Audubon Nature Center has contracted for purchase of 1.4 acres of Bottomland Hardwoods at the Comite Properties Wetlands Mitigation Bank, Tract "A". First Louisiana Resource, LLC has assumed responsibility for completing the mitigation in accordance with the Comite Properties Wetlands Mitigation Bank Mitigation Banking Instrument and has recorded the allocation of the mitigation required by this permit in the Regulatory In-lieu Fee & Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS).</p> <p>Precautions must be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one (1) acre. The applicant must contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3181 to determine if the proposed project requires a permit.</p> <p>All work shall be confined to the approved work areas shown on the attached drawings. Any alterations or changes in the scope of the project which would have impacts to additional jurisdictional waters, including wetlands, not considered under this authorization, would require a separate Department of the Army permit evaluation and decision.</p> <p>Construction activities shall not cause more than minimal and temporal water quality degradation of any adjacent wetland, stream, or water body. Appropriate erosion and siltation controls must be utilized during construction to prevent sediment runoff into adjacent wetlands and waterways. Sediment control techniques could include, but are not limited to, the use of secured hay bales, sediment fencing, wooden or vinyl barriers, and/or seeding of disturbed areas.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Surface Water and Water Quality	X				<p>Project will involve developing three (3) acres of land. Potential for short-term localized increase in sedimentation during construction. Applicant would need a Sanitary General Wastewater Discharge Permit from LDEQ for the discharge produced by the facilities.</p> <p>Applicant reduced impacts to Surface Water in the project area by reconfiguring the proposed parking lot from 0.85-acre in size to 0.45-acre in size, and relocated the parking lot to outside of a jurisdictional tributary.</p>	<p>Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) comments to the Solicitation of Views, received via email August 19, 2013.</p> <p>JD from the USACE, dated 5/12/2010, 2/1/2012, and 11/6/2013. (See Appendix D).</p> <p>During a site visit on November 6, 2013, the USACE determined artificial hydrology, namely pumping of water into and from the site, rendered much of the waters onsite non-jurisdictional for their permitting process. One small tributary in the northwest corner of the property is considered jurisdictional, and the applicant has reconfigured the new parking lot to avoid the tributary.</p> <p>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Email response dated 7/8/13 (See Appendix C) The EPA also reviewed the project for the discharge of fill material into wetlands. In a letter dated 7/8/2013 the EPA states no objection</p> <p>USACE permit August 12, 2014 (to be amended for new drawings depicting additional footbridges and boardwalks)</p>	<p>The project is within and directly adjacent to jurisdictional wetlands as per documentation provided by the USACE. Extreme care must be taken during the construction process through the appropriate use and maintenance of BMP's. Applicant must adhere to all conditions outlined in Clean Water Act Section 401 permits associated with the project.</p> <p>Proper signage must clearly identify the adjacent wetland boundaries to help prevent any potential adverse impacts from construction vehicles/equipment/supplies accidentally leaving the boundaries of the approved ROW.</p> <p>The Audubon Nature Center has contracted for purchase of 1.4 acres of Bottomland Hardwoods at the Comite Properties Wetlands Mitigation Bank, Tract "A". First Louisiana Resource, LLC has assumed responsibility for completing the mitigation in accordance with the Comite Properties Wetlands Mitigation Bank Mitigation Banking Instrument and has recorded the allocation of the mitigation required by this permit in the Regulatory In-lieu Fee & Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS).</p> <p>Precautions must be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one (1) acre. The applicant must contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3181 to determine if the proposed project requires a permit.</p> <p>All work shall be confined to the approved work areas shown on the attached drawings. Any alterations or changes in the scope of the project which would have impacts to additional jurisdictional waters, including wetlands, not considered under this authorization, would require a separate Department of the Army permit evaluation and decision.</p> <p>Construction activities shall not cause more than minimal and temporal water quality degradation of any adjacent wetland, stream, or water body. Appropriate erosion and siltation controls must be utilized during construction to prevent sediment runoff into adjacent wetlands and waterways. Sediment control techniques could include, but are not limited to, the use of secured hay bales, sediment fencing, wooden or vinyl barriers, and/or seeding of disturbed areas.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0</p>

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Groundwater	X				<p>Orleans Parish pulls water from and delivers water into the Mississippi River; however, the project is not anticipated to affect the groundwater.</p> <p>Pre-existing structures for mosquito control (infiltration) trenches are present on the site. These are long, narrow trenches backfilled with a stone aggregate, and lined with a filter fabric. Runoff is stored in the void spaces between the stones and infiltrates through the bottom into the soil matrix. They remove fine sediment, particulate pollutants, organics, and other material. Additionally, they provide groundwater recharge and preserve base flow into nearby streams.</p>	<p>LDEQ email dated 8/19/13. USEPA letter dated 7/8/13. (See Appendix C)</p>	<p>Applicant must adhere to all conditions outlined in Clean Water Act Section 401 permits associated with the project. Precautions must be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one (1) acre. The applicant must contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3181 to determine if the proposed project requires a permit. Any water system improvements should be coordinated through the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.</p> <p>All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region. All debris should be disposed of in an approved landfill. If any solid or hazardous waste materials, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, the LDEQ Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) will be contacted at (225) 219-3640 to initiate appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contaminated material. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>
Wild and Scenic River	X				<p>There are no Wild and Scenic Rivers in the vicinity site.</p>	<p>Referenced on August 19, 2013 http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/louisiana-natural-and-scenic-rivers-descriptions-and-map</p>	
Coastal Resources	X				<p>The project is not located within the Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS). The project is within the Coastal Management Zone.</p> <p>The demolition was previously approved by FEMA, with the condition that the applicant secure the appropriate permits from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) and the USACE. As long as they abide by the specific conditions indicated by the respective regulatory agency, then they can proceed as described in the approved demolition scope of work.</p>	<p>DFIRM 22071C0137F, dated November 19, 2012 (for CBRS)</p> <p>In a letter dated 6/20/2013 LDNR stated Audubon's application for new construction was complete, and was being reviewed by the agency and forwarded to USACE.</p> <p>This project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Zone. In an online review of permit for ANC replacement in a modified footprint, dated August 21, 2013, the Louisiana Office of Coastal Management (OCM) determined that the project is exempt. OCM states granting of financial assistance is fully consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program.</p>	<p>The applicant is responsible for coordinating with and obtaining any required permit(s) from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' (LDNR) Coastal Management Division (CMD) prior to initiating work. Projects may be coordinated by contacting LA DNR at 1-800-267-4019. The applicant shall comply with all conditions of the required permit. All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Air Quality	X				During construction, there is potential for short-term localized increase in vehicle emissions and dust particles.	LDEQ email dated 8/19/13. (See Appendix C). Per the email: Currently, Orleans Parish is classified as attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and has no general conformity determination obligations.	<p>The contractor will be responsible for keeping all excavated areas periodically sprayed with water, all equipment maintained in good working order, and all construction vehicles limited to 15 mph to minimize pollution/fugitive dust.</p> <p>Implement construction Best Management Practices (BMPs); area soils will be covered and/or kept wet during construction. If fill is stored on site as part of unit installation or removal, the contractor will be required to appropriately cover it.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>
Vegetation and Wildlife	X				The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program has compiled data on rare, endangered, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, plant communities, and other natural features throughout the State of Louisiana. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known at the time of a request regarding a location in question. Personnel of the Habitat Section of the Coastal & Nongame Resources Division have reviewed the preliminary data for the preferred project. After careful review of the database, no impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the preferred project. No state or federal parks, wildlife refuges, scenic streams, or wildlife management areas are known at or in the vicinity of the specified site within Louisiana's boundaries	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) determination of no effect, dated 6/27/13	<p>The project is within and directly adjacent to jurisdictional wetlands as per documentation provided by the USACE. Extreme care must be taken during the construction process through the appropriate use and maintenance of BMP's. Applicant must adhere to all conditions outlined in Clean Water Act Section 401 permits associated with the project.</p> <p>ANC has contracted for 1.4 acres of Bottomland Hardwoods at the Comite Properties Wetlands Mitigation Bank, Tract "A". First Louisiana Resource, LLC has assumed responsibility for completing the mitigation in accordance with the Comite Properties Wetlands Mitigation Bank Mitigation Banking Instrument and has recorded the allocation of the mitigation required by this permit in the Regulatory In-lieu Fee & Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS).</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Threatened and Endangered Species (Endangered Species Act Section 7)	X				<p>No impact to federally listed threatened or endangered species is anticipated. No impacts to critical habitats are anticipated.</p> <p>No impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the preferred project.</p> <p>Based on the information provided, the proposed project is not an activity that would affect a federally listed threatened or endangered species; nor is there proposed or designated critical habitat present within Orleans Parish. Therefore, a "no effect" conclusion is appropriate.</p>	<p>As directed by The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) via email dated 8/22/2013, FEMA utilized the self-screening website (www.fws.gov/lafayette) to make a preliminary effects determination for the USFWS determination of no effect, dated 8/27/13</p> <p>LDWF determination of no effect, dated 6/27/13 (See Appendix C)</p>	<p>No further ESA coordination with the USFWS is necessary for the proposed action, unless there are changes in the scope or location of the proposed project or the project has not been initiated one year from the date of this letter.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250)	X				<p>This law provides for the protection of the bald eagle (the national emblem) and the golden eagle by prohibiting, except under certain specified conditions, the taking, possession and commerce of such birds. The 1972 amendments increased penalties for violating provisions of the Act or regulations issued pursuant thereto and strengthened other enforcement measures. Rewards are provided for information leading to arrest and conviction for violation of the Act.</p> <p>The 1978 amendment authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to permit the taking of golden eagle nests that interfere with resource development or recovery operations. (See also the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act.)</p> <p>. Bald eagles are known to occur in Orleans Parish.</p>	<p>Internet resource website (http://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/baldegl.html) and the USFWS Bald Eagle Management Guidelines and Conservation Measures- the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, accessed on August 19, 2013</p>	<p>If a bald eagle or its nest is spotted within 1,500 feet of the project site during the months of October through mid-May, the applicant must cease construction activities and contact LDWF and USFWS immediately. All correspondence must be documented and remain in the project permanent files.</p> <p>The following recommendations can also be used to benefit bald eagles: Protect potential roost and nest sites by retaining mature trees and old growth stands, particularly within ½ mile from water. Where nests are blown from trees during storms or are otherwise destroyed by the elements, continue to protect the site in the absence of the nest for up to three (3) complete breeding seasons. Many eagles will rebuild the nest and reoccupy the site. To avoid collisions, site wind turbines, communication towers and high voltage transmission power lines away from nests, foraging areas, and communal roost sites.</p> <p>Employ industry-accepted best management practices (APLIC) to prevent birds from colliding with or being electrocuted by utility lines, towers and poles. If possible, bury utility lines in important eagle areas.</p> <p>Where bald eagles are likely to nest in human-made structures (e.g., cell phone towers) and such use could impede operation or maintenance of the structures or jeopardize the safety of the eagles, equip the structures with either (1) devices engineered to discourage bald eagles from building nests, or (2) nesting platforms that will safely accommodate bald eagle nests without interfering with structure performance.</p> <p>Do not intentionally feed bald eagles. Artificially feeding bald eagles can disrupt their essential behavioral patterns and put them at increased risk from power lines, collision with windows and cars, and other mortality factors. Use pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and other chemicals only in accordance with Federal and state laws.</p> <p>Monitor and minimize dispersal of contaminants associated with hazardous waste sites (legal or illegal), permitted releases, and runoff from agricultural areas, especially within watersheds where eagles have shown poor reproduction or where bio accumulating contaminants have been documented. These factors present a risk of contamination to eagles and their food sources.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Cultural Resources (National Historic Preservation Act Section 106)	X				<p>FEMA Historic Preservation staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map on April 10, 2013 and determined that the APE is not located within a listed historic district or within the viewshed of an individually listed or eligible resource. All of the structures within the APE were constructed post-1978 and do not meet the criteria to qualify for NRHP listing under Criterion G. Upon consultation of data provided by SHPO on May 20, 2013, there are no recorded archaeological sites within one mile of the archaeological APE (Figure 1). The 1892 Chef Menteur USGS quad shows the APE overlays a swamp. The 1936 and 1957 Chef Menteur quad has the APE undeveloped. There are no historic Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of the area. There is one archaeological survey within one mile of the APE, it is for the Michoud Industrial District. The APE is within the New Orleans Low Archaeological probability zone. No archaeological material was identified. (See Appendix C)</p>	<p>FEMA has determined that there will be “No Effect” to historic properties. SHPO concurrence with this determination was received, December 9, 2013. Consultation with affected tribes (Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Muscogee Creek Nation, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana) was conducted per FEMA’s Programmatic Agreement dated August 17, 2009 and amended on July 22, 2011 (PA). The Tribes did not object within the regulatory timeframes; therefore, in accordance with Stipulation VIII.E(1) of the PA and 36 CFR part 800.5(c)1, FEMA may proceed with funding the undertaking assuming concurrence. The applicant must comply with the NHPA conditions set forth (See Appendix C)</p>	<p>If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present with 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.</p> <p>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 contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA Historic Preservation completes consultation with the SHPO.</p> <p>Any fill or borrow material used must be sourced from areas that do not contain any buried cultural materials (e.g. brick foundations, prehistoric Indian artifacts, human burials, and the like).</p> <p>The Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana has stated that the project area is part of the aboriginal Chitimacha homelands. If during the course of work at the site, prehistoric and/or historic aboriginal cultural materials are discovered, the permittee shall contact the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana at P.O. Box 661, Charenton, LA 70523, and the CEMVN, Regulatory Branch. CEMVN, Regulatory Branch will initiate the required federal, state, and tribal coordination to determine the significance of the cultural materials and the need, if applicable, for additional cultural resource investigations.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898)/Socioeconomics	X				Orleans: According to the 2012 U.S. Census Demographic Profile of Orleans Parish, La: the total population is 369,250, with 34.8% White, 60.4% Black, 5.3% Hispanic, and 3.0% Asian. Relocating the facility onsite would not have an impact on low-income or minority populations. The proposed project restores non-profit educational facility offering families and school groups hands-on natural and physical science programs featuring live animals, planetarium shows, overnight adventures, and teacher workshops.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Data for New Orleans, Louisiana	
Resource Recovery and Conservation Act (RCRA)	X				Project involves construction of a new building and its appurtenant facilities at the preferred site. No Hazardous waste sites or superfund sites, etc are located on or around the property.	LDEQ email dated 8/19/13. (See Appendix C)	<p>All debris must be disposed of in an approved landfill.</p> <p>If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3954 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.</p> <p>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 and/or toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Noise	X				The preferred ANC site is not located in proximity to any identified noise sensitive receptors. During the construction period there will be a short-term increase in noise levels. Orleans Parish noise ordinances state that construction activities shall be exempt from daytime decibel restrictions, but the maximum nighttime sound levels shall apply in all instances.	Orleans, Louisiana – Code of Ordinances Article IV Sec. 14 - 035.00	The work schedule at the site is to follow Orleans Parish Code of Ordinances for noise. See also Conditions Section 6.0.
Public Safety and Access	X				All work is occurring on city owned land. During construction activities, public access would be strictly controlled		To minimize worker and public health and safety risks from project construction and closure, all construction and closure work will be done using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of construction equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, all activities will be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with the standards specified in OSHA regulations and the USACE safety manual. The contractor would post appropriate signage and fencing to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns. See also Conditions Sections 6.0.
Traffic and Transportation	X				Project related work would take place within the property fence. The only anticipated traffic impacts would be due to construction materials and equipment accessing the site. Traffic volumes along the respective work access areas would increase temporarily during work activities. And traffic would be temporarily impacted during construction of the entrance way. After the facility is complete and open to visitors, long-term traffic volumes would increase slightly. Vehicles accessing the site would include workers, visitors, delivery trucks, etc. This impact is expected to be nominal.	Applicant would meet traffic demands by reconfiguring the proposed parking. These new plans were provided to USACE in an amended CUP dated March 28, 2014.	Appropriate signage and barriers should be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes. To minimize worker and public health and safety risks from project construction and closure, all construction and closure work will be done using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of construction equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, all activities will be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with the standards specified in OSHA regulations and the USACE safety manual. The contractor must implement traffic control measures, as necessary. See also Conditions Section 6.0.

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Hazardous Materials and Toxic Wastes	X				<p>A review of online data sources (e.g., EPA EnviroMapper, NEPAAssist, and the Louisiana Electronic Document Management System™) revealed that the preferred project site is not on federal and/or state agency's lists concerning hazardous material Voluntary Remediation Programs, Brownfield Programs, underground storage tank decommissioning, waste/debris disposal facilities, or oil/gas well sites.</p> <p>The ANC has no record or indication of past or present hazardous waste activities including notification as a hazardous waste generator or other regulated activity.</p> <p>The EPA reviewed the project site and the preferred alternative, performed a database search for records associated with the site, and provided comment on the preferred alternative. No adverse records were identified and the USEPA comments were incorporated into the EA analysis and documentation.</p>	EPA EnviroMapper, NEPAAssist, and the Louisiana Electronic Document Management System accessed on August 19, 2013'	<p>If any solid or hazardous waste materials, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contamination will be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. The contractor would be required to take appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control the spill of hazardous materials in the construction area. The LDEQ Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) will be contacted at (225) 219-3640 to initiate appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contaminated material. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.</p> <p>All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region. All debris should be disposed of in an approved landfill.</p> <p>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 and/or toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies.</p> <p>To minimize worker and public health and safety risks from project construction and closure, all construction and closure work will be done using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of construction equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, all activities will be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with the standards specified in OSHA regulations and the USACE safety manual. The contractor must implement traffic control measures, as necessary.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>

**Table 2 - Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences Matrix- Alternative 2:
Reconstruct and/or Restore the ANC in the Original Location Footprint**

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Geology and Soils	X				To rebuild each facility in the same footprint would require extensive removal of damaged building and boardwalk materials, in addition to the replacement of pilings, buildings, and decking. To rebuild in the same footprint would result in a larger building project, as the new design of the building footprint is smaller. Potential for short-term localized increase in soil erosion during construction. The parking area previously located in Joe Brown Park has been lost for use, so a new parking lot is needed, close enough to the ANC facility to meet ADA or fire and safety codes and standards. To rebuild in the same footprint would require an additional interior access roadway, which would be a larger impact and cost prohibitive.	NRCS correspondence dated August 8, 2013. (See Appendix C) USACE permit August 12, 2014 (to be amended for additional footbridges and boardwalks) The project was reviewed by agencies for work within the same approximate footprint	All excavated material and debris associated with the authorized work must be hauled off site and disposed of in a non-jurisdictional area. Appropriate erosion and siltation controls must be utilized during construction to prevent sediment runoff into adjacent wetlands and waterways. Sediment control techniques could include, but are not limited to, the use of secured hay bales, sediment fencing, wooden or vinyl barriers, and/or seeding of disturbed areas. Erosion Control Devices (ECD's) must be used and maintained extensively to prevent any potential direct or indirect adverse impacts to nearby wetland areas per the Clean Water Act and EO 11990. Any adverse impacts to adjacent wetlands resulting from the construction of this project will jeopardize receipt of federal funding. Implement construction Best Management Practices (BMPs); The contractor will be responsible for keeping all excavated areas periodically sprayed with water, all equipment maintained in good working order, and all construction vehicles limited to 15 mph to minimize pollution/fugitive dust. If fill is stored on site as part of unit installation or removal, the contractor will be required to appropriately cover it. See also Conditions Section 6.0.

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Hydrology and Floodplains (Executive Order 11988)	X				<p>Orleans Parish enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on August 3, 1970. According to the NFIP Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) panel 22071C0137F, dated November 19, 2012, the preferred project site is located in zone AE, Elevation -7.</p> <p>Per the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Approved Jurisdictional Determination (JD) Form dated May 12, 2010, water drains omni-directionally to the east, west, and north into roadside ditches along entrance roads. These flows are eventually pumped into Farrar Canal and Lake Pontchartrain. Farrar Canal and adjacent wetlands are a part of a large impounded, pumped system that now pumps directly into Lake Pontchartrain. Farrar Canal was originally cut through swamps that were part of a wetland system adjacent to Lake Pontchartrain. At this time, pumping replaces flows that would have allowed interchange between Lake Pontchartrain and adjacent swamps.</p>	<p>DFIRM 22071C0137F, dated November 19, 2012. In compliance with Executive Order 11988, an 8-step process was completed, is attached and on file.</p> <p>During a site visit on November 6, 2013, the USACE determined artificial hydrology, namely pumping of water into and from the site, rendered much of the waters onsite non-jurisdictional for their permitting process. One small tributary in the northwest corner of the property is considered jurisdictional, and the applicant has reconfigured the new parking lot to avoid the tributary.</p> <p>USACE permit August 12, 2014 (to be amended for additional footbridges and boardwalks)</p>	<p>Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(3), there shall be no new construction or substantial improvement of structures unless the lowest floor of the structures (including basement) is at or above the level of the base flood. 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 Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Applicant must ensure compliance with all parish and city ordinances. All correspondence must be submitted to FEMA and FEMA-EHP for inclusion in the project files. Should the site plans (including drainage design) change the applicant must submit changes to FEMA-EHP for review and approval prior to the start of construction.</p> <p>The project is within and directly adjacent to jurisdictional wetlands as per documentation provided by the USACE. Extreme care must be taken during the construction process through the appropriate use and maintenance of BMP's. Applicant must adhere to all conditions outlined in Clean Water Act Section 401 permits associated with the project. Precautions must be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one (1) acre.</p> <p>The applicant must contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3181 to determine if the proposed project requires a permit. Any water system improvements should be coordinated through the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.</p> <p>All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region. All debris should be disposed of in an approved landfill. If any solid or hazardous waste materials, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, the LDEQ Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) will be contacted at (225) 219-3640 to initiate appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contaminated material. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Wetlands (Executive Order 11990)		X			<p>Per USACE's approved JD Form dated May 12, 2010, water drains omni-directionally to the east, west, and north into roadside ditches along entrance roads. These flows are eventually pumped into Farrar Canal and Lake Pontchartrain. Farrar Canal and adjacent wetlands are a part of a large impounded, pumped system that now pumps directly into Lake Pontchartrain. Farrar Canal was originally cut through swamps that were part of a wetland system adjacent to Lake Pontchartrain. At this time, pumping replaces flows that would have allowed interchange between Lake Pontchartrain and adjacent swamps.</p>	<p>JD from the USACE, dated 5/12/2010.</p> <p>During a site visit on November 6, 2013, the USACE determined artificial hydrology, namely pumping of water into and from the site, rendered much of the waters onsite non-jurisdictional for their permitting process. One small tributary in the northwest corner of the property is considered jurisdictional, and the applicant has reconfigured the new parking lot to avoid the tributary.</p> <p>USACE permit August 12, 2014 (to be amended for additional footbridges and boardwalks)</p> <p>The EPA also reviewed the project for the discharge of fill material into wetlands. In a letter dated 7/8/2013 the EPA states they do not object to the project. (See Appendix C)</p>	<p>The project is within and directly adjacent to jurisdictional wetlands as per documentation provided by the USACE. Extreme care must be taken during the construction process through the appropriate use and maintenance of BMP's. Applicant must adhere to all conditions outlined in Clean Water Act Section 401 permits associated with the project.</p> <p>Proper signage must clearly identify the adjacent wetland boundaries to help prevent any potential adverse impacts from construction vehicles/equipment/supplies accidentally leaving the boundaries of the approved ROW.</p> <p>The Audubon Nature Center has contracted for purchase of 1.4 acres of Bottomland Hardwoods at the Comite Properties Wetlands Mitigation Bank, Tract "A". First Louisiana Resource, LLC has assumed responsibility for completing the mitigation in accordance with the Comite Properties Wetlands Mitigation Bank Mitigation Banking Instrument and has recorded the allocation of the mitigation required by this permit in the Regulatory In-lieu Fee & Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS).</p> <p>Precautions must be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one (1) acre. The applicant must contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3181 to determine if the proposed project requires a permit.</p> <p>All work shall be confined to the approved work areas shown on the attached drawings. Any alterations or changes in the scope of the project which would have impacts to additional jurisdictional waters, including wetlands, not considered under this authorization, would require a separate Department of the Army permit evaluation and decision.</p> <p>Construction activities shall not cause more than minimal and temporal water quality degradation of any adjacent wetland, stream, or water body. Appropriate erosion and siltation controls must be utilized during construction to prevent sediment runoff into adjacent wetlands and waterways. Sediment control techniques could include, but are not limited to, the use of secured hay bales, sediment fencing, wooden or vinyl barriers, and/or seeding of disturbed areas.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Surface Water and Water Quality	X				<p>Project would demolish buildings and boardwalks and rebuild in the same footprint. Potential for short-term localized increase in sedimentation during construction.</p> <p>Applicant reduced impacts to Surface Water by reconfiguring the proposed parking to outside of a small tributary.</p> <p>The parking area previously located in Joe Brown Park has been lost for use, so a new parking lot is needed, close enough to the ANC facility to meet ADA or fire and safety codes and standards. To rebuild in the same footprint would require an additional interior access roadway, which would be a larger impact and cost prohibitive.</p>	<p>Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) comments to the Solicitation of Views, received via email August 19, 2013.</p> <p>JD from the USACE, dated 5/12/2010.</p> <p>During a site visit on November 6, 2013, the USACE determined artificial hydrology, namely pumping of water into and from the site, rendered much of the waters onsite non-jurisdictional for their permitting process. One small tributary in the northwest corner of the property is considered jurisdictional, and the applicant has reconfigured the new parking lot to avoid the tributary.</p> <p>Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Email response dated 7/8/13 (See Appendix C) The EPA also reviewed the project for the discharge of fill material into wetlands. In a letter dated 7/8/2013 the EPA states no objection</p> <p>USACE permit August 12, 2014 (to be amended for additional footbridges and boardwalks)</p>	<p>LDEQ email dated 8/19/13 states If the project results in a discharge to waters of the state, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) application may be necessary. If the project results in a discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify its LPDES permit before accepting the additional wastewater. All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that you contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-9371 to determine if your proposed project requires a permit.</p> <p>If the project will include a sanitary wastewater treatment facility, a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit application or Notice of Intent must be submitted no later than January 1, 2014. Additional information may be obtained on the LDEQ website at http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2296/Default.aspx or by contacting the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219- 9371.</p> <p>The project is within and directly adjacent to jurisdictional wetlands as per the USACE. Extreme care must be taken during the construction process through the appropriate use and maintenance of BMP's. Applicant must adhere to all conditions outlined in Clean Water Act Section 401 permits associated with the project. If any of the proposed work is located in wetlands or other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you should contact the USACE directly regarding permitting issues. If a USACE permit is required, part of the application process may involve a water quality certification from LDEQ. All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.</p> <p>If your water system improvements include water softeners, you are advised to contact the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.</p> <p>See also Section 6.0</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Groundwater	X				<p>Orleans Parish pulls water from and delivers water into the Mississippi River; however, the project is not anticipated to affect the groundwater.</p> <p>Pre-existing structures for mosquito control (infiltration) trenches are present on the site. These are long, narrow trenches backfilled with a stone aggregate, and lined with a filter fabric. Runoff is stored in the void spaces between the stones and infiltrates through the bottom into the soil matrix. They remove fine sediment, particulate pollutants, organics, and other material.</p> <p>Additionally, they provide groundwater recharge and preserve base flow in nearby streams.</p>	<p>LDEQ email dated 8/19/13. USEPA letter dated 7/8/13. (See Appendix C)</p>	<p>Applicant must adhere to all conditions outlined in Clean Water Act Section 401 permits associated with the project. Precautions must be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one (1) acre. The applicant must contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3181 to determine if the proposed project requires a permit. Any water system improvements should be coordinated through the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.</p> <p>All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region. All debris should be disposed of in an approved landfill. If any solid or hazardous waste materials, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, the LDEQ Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) will be contacted at (225) 219-3640 to initiate appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contaminated material. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>
Wild and Scenic River	X				<p>There are no Wild and Scenic Rivers in the vicinity site.</p>	<p>Referenced on August 19, 2013 http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/louisiana-natural-and-scenic-rivers-descriptions-and-map</p>	

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Coastal Resources	X				<p>The project is not located within the Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS). The project is within the Coastal Management Zone.</p> <p>The demolition was previously approved by FEMA, with the condition that the applicant secure the appropriate permits from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) and the USACE. As long as they abide by the specific conditions indicated by the respective regulatory agency, then they can proceed as described in the approved demolition scope of work.</p>	<p>DFIRM 22071C0137F, dated November 19, 2012 (for CBRS)</p> <p>In a letter dated 6/20/2013 LDNR stated Audubon's application for new construction was complete, and was being reviewed by the agency and forwarded to USACE.</p> <p>This project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Zone. In an online review of permit for ANC replacement in a modified footprint, dated August 21, 2013, the Louisiana Office of Coastal Management (OCM) determined that the project is exempt. OCM states granting of financial assistance is fully consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program.</p>	<p>The applicant is responsible for coordinating with and obtaining any required permit(s) from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' (LDNR) Coastal Management Division (CMD) prior to initiating work. Projects may be coordinated by contacting LA DNR at 1-800-267-4019. The applicant shall comply with all conditions of the required permit. All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>
Air Quality	X				<p>During construction, there is potential for short-term localized increase in vehicle emissions and dust particles.</p>	<p>LDEQ email dated 8/19/13. (See Appendix C). Per the email: Currently, Orleans Parish is classified as attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and has no general conformity determination obligations.</p>	<p>The contractor will be responsible for keeping all excavated areas periodically sprayed with water, all equipment maintained in good working order, and all construction vehicles limited to 15 mph to minimize pollution/fugitive dust.</p> <p>Implement construction Best Management Practices (BMPs); area soils will be covered and/or kept wet during construction. If fill is stored on site as part of unit installation or removal, the contractor will be required to appropriately cover it.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Vegetation and Wildlife	X				The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program has compiled data on rare, endangered, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, plant communities, and other natural features throughout the State of Louisiana. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known at the time of a request regarding a location in question. Personnel of the Habitat Section of the Coastal & Nongame Resources Division have reviewed the preliminary data for the preferred project. After careful review of the database, no impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the preferred project. No state or federal parks, wildlife refuges, scenic streams, or wildlife management areas are known at or in the vicinity of the specified site within Louisiana's boundaries	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) determination of no effect, dated 6/27/13	The project is within and directly adjacent to jurisdictional wetlands as per documentation provided by the USACE. Extreme care must be taken during the construction process through the appropriate use and maintenance of BMP's. Applicant must adhere to all conditions outlined in Clean Water Act Section 401 permits associated with the project. ANC has contracted for 1.4 acres of Bottomland Hardwoods at the Comite Properties Wetlands Mitigation Bank, Tract "A". First Louisiana Resource, LLC has assumed responsibility for completing the mitigation in accordance with the Comite Properties Wetlands Mitigation Bank Mitigation Banking Instrument and has recorded the allocation of the mitigation required by this permit in the Regulatory In-lieu Fee & Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS). See also Conditions Section 6.0.
Threatened and Endangered Species (Endangered Species Act Section 7)	X				No impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the preferred project. Based on the information provided, the proposed project is not an activity that would affect a federally listed threatened or endangered species; nor is there proposed or designated critical habitat present within Orleans Parish. Therefore, a "no effect" conclusion is appropriate.	As directed by The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) via email dated 8/22/2013, FEMA utilized the self-screening website (www.fws.gov/lafayette) to make a preliminary effects determination for the USFWS determination of no effect, dated 8/27/13 (See Appendix C)	No further ESA coordination with the USFWS is necessary for the proposed action, unless there are changes in the scope or location of the proposed project or the project has not been initiated one year from the date of this letter. See also Conditions Section 6.0.

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250)	X				<p>This law provides for the protection of the bald eagle (the national emblem) and the golden eagle by prohibiting, except under certain specified conditions, the taking, possession and commerce of such birds. The 1972 amendments increased penalties for violating provisions of the Act or regulations issued pursuant thereto and strengthened other enforcement measures. Rewards are provided for information leading to arrest and conviction for violation of the Act. The 1978 amendment authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to permit the taking of golden eagle nests that interfere with resource development or recovery operations. (See also the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act.) Bald eagles are known to occur in Orleans Parish.</p>	<p>Internet resource website (http://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/baldegl.html) and the USFWS Bald Eagle Management Guidelines and Conservation Measures- the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, accessed on August 19, 2013</p>	<p>If a bald eagle or its nest is spotted within 1,500 feet of the project site during the months of October through mid-May, the applicant must cease construction activities and contact LDWF and USFWS immediately. All correspondence must be documented and remain in the project permanent files.</p> <p>The following recommendations can also be used to benefit bald eagles:</p> <p>Protect potential roost and nest sites by retaining mature trees and old growth stands, particularly within ½ mile from water. Where nests are blown from trees during storms or are otherwise destroyed by the elements, continue to protect the site in the absence of the nest for up to three (3) complete breeding seasons. Many eagles will rebuild the nest and reoccupy the site. To avoid collisions, site wind turbines, communication towers and high voltage transmission power lines away from nests, foraging areas, and communal roost sites.</p> <p>Employ industry-accepted best management practices (APLIC) to prevent birds from colliding with or being electrocuted by utility lines, towers and poles. If possible, bury utility lines in important eagle areas.</p> <p>Where bald eagles are likely to nest in human-made structures (e.g., cell phone towers) and such use could impede operation or maintenance of the structures or jeopardize the safety of the eagles, equip the structures with either (1) devices engineered to discourage bald eagles from building nests, or (2) nesting platforms that will safely accommodate bald eagle nests without interfering with structure performance.</p> <p>Do not intentionally feed bald eagles. Artificially feeding bald eagles can disrupt their essential behavioral patterns and put them at increased risk from power lines, collision with windows and cars, and other mortality factors. Use pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and other chemicals only in accordance with Federal and state laws.</p> <p>Monitor and minimize dispersal of contaminants associated with hazardous waste sites (legal or illegal), permitted releases, and runoff from agricultural areas, especially within watersheds where eagles have shown poor reproduction or where bio accumulating contaminants have been documented. These factors present a risk of contamination to eagles and their food sources.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Cultural Resources (National Historic Preservation Act Section 106)	X				FEMA Historic Preservation staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map on April 10, 2013 and determined that the APE is not located within a listed historic district or within the viewshed of an individually listed or eligible resource. All of the structures within the APE were constructed post-1978 and do not meet the criteria to qualify for NRHP listing under Criterion G. Upon consultation of data provided by SHPO on May 20, 2013, there are no recorded archaeological sites within one mile of the archaeological APE (Figure 1). The 1892 Chef Menteur USGS quad shows the APE overlays a swamp. The 1936 and 1957 Chef Menteur quad has the APE undeveloped. There are no historic Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of the area. There is one archaeological survey within one mile of the APE, it is for the Michoud Industrial District. The APE is within the New Orleans Low Archaeological probability zone. No archaeological material was identified. (See Appendix C)	FEMA has determined that there will be "No Effect" to historic properties. SHPO concurrence with this determination was received, December 9, 2013. Consultation with affected tribes (Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Muscogee Creek Nation, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana) was conducted per FEMA's Programmatic Agreement dated August 17, 2009 and amended on July 22, 2011 (PA). The Tribes did not object within the regulatory timeframes; therefore, in accordance with Stipulation VIII.E(1) of the PA and 36 CFR part 800.5(c)1, FEMA may proceed with funding the undertaking assuming concurrence. The applicant must comply with the NHPA conditions set forth (See Appendix C)	<p>If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present with 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.</p> <p>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 contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA Historic Preservation completes consultation with the SHPO.</p> <p>Any fill or borrow material used must be sourced from areas that do not contain any buried cultural materials (e.g. brick foundations, prehistoric Indian artifacts, human burials, and the like).</p> <p>The Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana has stated that the project area is part of the aboriginal Chitimacha homelands. If during the course of work at the site, prehistoric and/or historic aboriginal cultural materials are discovered, the permittee shall contact the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana at P.O. Box 661, Charenton, LA 70523, and the CEMVN, Regulatory Branch. CEMVN, Regulatory Branch will initiate the required federal, state, and tribal coordination to determine the significance of the cultural materials and the need, if applicable, for additional cultural resource investigations.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898)/Socioeconomics	X				Orleans: According to the 2012 U.S. Census Demographic Profile of Orleans Parish, La: the total population is 369,250, with 34.8% White, 60.4% Black, 5.3% Hispanic, and 3.0% Asian. Relocating the facility onsite would not have an impact on low-income or minority populations. The proposed project restores non-profit educational facility offering families and school groups hands-on natural and physical science programs featuring live animals, planetarium shows, overnight adventures, and teacher workshops.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Data for New Orleans, Louisiana	
Resource Recovery and Conservation Act (RCRA)	X				Project involves construction of a new building and its appurtenant facilities at the preferred site. No Hazardous waste sites or superfund sites, etc are located on or around the property.	LDEQ email dated 8/19/13. (See Appendix C)	All debris must be disposed of in an approved landfill. If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3954 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents. 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 and/or toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies. See also Conditions Section 6.0.

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Noise	X				The preferred ANC site is not located in proximity to any identified noise sensitive receptors. During the construction period there will be a short-term increase in noise levels. Orleans Parish noise ordinances state that construction activities shall be exempt from daytime decibel restrictions, but the maximum nighttime sound levels shall apply in all instances.	Orleans, Louisiana – Code of Ordinances Article IV Sec. 14 - 035.00	The work schedule at the site is to follow Orleans Parish Code of Ordinances for noise. See also Conditions Section 6.0.
Public Safety and Access	X				All work is occurring on city owned land. During construction activities, public access would be strictly controlled		To minimize worker and public health and safety risks from project construction and closure, all construction and closure work will be done using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of construction equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, all activities will be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with the standards specified in OSHA regulations and the USACE safety manual. The contractor would post appropriate signage and fencing to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns. See also Conditions Sections 6.0.

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Traffic and Transportation	X				<p>Project related work would take place within the property fence. The only anticipated traffic impacts would be due to construction materials and equipment accessing the site. Traffic volumes along the respective work access areas would increase temporarily during work activities. And traffic would be temporarily impacted during construction of the entrance way.</p> <p>After the facility is complete and open to visitors, long-term traffic volumes would increase slightly. Vehicles accessing the site would include workers, visitors, delivery trucks, etc. This impact is expected to be nominal.</p>	<p>Applicant would meet traffic demands by reconfiguring the proposed parking. These new plans were provided to USACE in an amended CUP dated March 28, 2014.</p>	<p>Appropriate signage and barriers should be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes.</p> <p>To minimize worker and public health and safety risks from project construction and closure, all construction and closure work will be done using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of construction equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, all activities will be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with the standards specified in OSHA regulations and the USACE safety manual. The contractor must implement traffic control measures, as necessary.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>

Resource Area	Negligible Impact	Minor Impact	Moderate Impact	Major Impact	Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation and Conditions
Hazardous Materials and Toxic Wastes	X				<p>A review of online data sources (e.g., EPA EnviroMapper, NEPAAssist, and the Louisiana Electronic Document Management System™) may need to be consulted to determine if the project site is not on federal and/or state agency's lists concerning hazardous material Voluntary Remediation Programs, Brownfield Programs, underground storage tank decommissioning, waste/debris disposal facilities, or oil/gas well sites.</p> <p>The ANC has no record or indication of past or present hazardous waste activities including notification as a hazardous waste generator or other regulated activity. The EPA reviewed the project site and the preferred alternative, performed a database search for records associated with the site, and provided comment on the preferred alternative. No adverse records were identified and the USEPA comments were incorporated into the EA analysis and documentation.</p>	EPA EnviroMapper, NEPAAssist, and the Louisiana Electronic Document Management System accessed on August 19, 2013	<p>If any solid or hazardous waste materials, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contamination will be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. The contractor would be required to take appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control the spill of hazardous materials in the construction area. The LDEQ Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) will be contacted at (225) 219-3640 to initiate appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contaminated material. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.</p> <p>All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region. All debris should be disposed of in an approved landfill.</p> <p>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 and/or toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies.</p> <p>To minimize worker and public health and safety risks from project construction and closure, all construction and closure work will be done using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of construction equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, all activities will be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with the standards specified in OSHA regulations and the USACE safety manual. The contractor must implement traffic control measures, as necessary.</p> <p>See also Conditions Section 6.0.</p>

Alternative 1: No Action

This Alternative would not have any impacts on EHP resources, however, it would leave the community without vital outdoor educational resources.

4.2 Wetlands

The new building would be constructed in an area that is recently restored wetlands, and the new associated parking lot would be constructed in remnant wetlands. The new parking lot would measure approximately 0.45-acre. Each end of the parking lot would have a culvert installed under the entrance and exit roads. The two (2) culverts would measure 40-feet in length by 12-inches in diameter each. Each end of the culverts would have a rock rip rap apron measuring 12-foot long by 12-foot wide by 12-inches deep installed as erosion prevention.

These wetlands are losing hydrology due to pumping of water out of this area, which in turn is diminishing hydric vegetation and soil characteristics. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is not considering most of this area to be jurisdictional wetlands due to the artificial pumping of water out of the site. FEMA will require best management practices be used during construction in this area.

The Clean Water Act and associated federal regulations (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations 123.25 (a)(9), 122.26(a), 122.26(b)(14)(x), and 122.26(b)(15)) require nearly all construction site operators engaged in clearing, grading, and excavating activities that disturb one (1) acre or more, including smaller sites in a larger common plan of development or sale, to obtain coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for their stormwater discharges (EPA, 2007). Louisiana has been authorized by the EPA to implement the federal stormwater requirements and have issued their own permits for discharges associated with construction activities (LDEQ, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 2012).

Project activities will be required by the LDEQ to observe precautions to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities and further will be required to develop the required Clean Water Act Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and implement the required conditions. The provision of FEMA funding to complete this proposed project will be conditioned to obtain necessary permits and remain in compliance with the permit requirements.

Alternative 1- No Action Alternative: The No Action alternative would not change site drainage or have an effect on wetlands in the area.

Alternative 2: Rebuild the ANC in the pre-disaster footprint: This alternative would be on a previously disturbed site. During a site visit on November 6, 2013, the USACE determined artificial hydrology, namely pumping of water into and from the site, rendered the wetlands non-jurisdictional for their permitting process. BMPs would be required for any project carried forth on this site, to protect surrounding resources.

Alternative 3: Relocate the ANC to the northwest corner of the property: The preferred project is located within the Floodplains and Low Terraces ecoregion, which is nearly level, veneered by Holocene alluvium, and contains natural levees, swales, oxbow lakes, and meander scars (Daigle et al, 2006). Many parts of this ecoregion are frequently flooded, and forested wetlands are characteristic. There is a distinct vegetation change from adjacent upland ecoregions into bottomland hardwood forest, with similarities to the Mississippi Alluvial Plain. Water oak, willow oak, sweetgum, blackgum, American elm, red maple, and swamp chestnut oak are typical. Bald cypress and water tupelo occur in semi-permanently flooded areas. These bottomlands provide important habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife. Major land uses include increasing urban and residential development. Winters are mild and summers are hot, with temperatures and precipitation increasing from north to south.

The property is currently zoned as RS-1 (Single-Family Residential District). However, the large size of the site will allow for the preservation of the natural environment, the creation of open space, and the conservation of the rural character of the surrounding area.

During a site visit on November 6, 2013, the USACE determined artificial hydrology, namely pumping of water into and from the site, rendered the wetlands non-jurisdictional for their permitting process. One small tributary in the northwest corner of the property is considered jurisdictional, and the applicant has reconfigured the new parking lot to avoid the tributary.

The provision of the federal grant to complete this proposed project will be conditioned to obtain necessary permits and remain in compliance with the permit requirements. It is anticipated that the preferred project including the construction of the new ANC complex will require a 404 Clean Water Act permit from the LDEQ. BMPs would be required for any project carried forth on this site, to protect surrounding resources.

5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations state that cumulative impacts represent the "impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions." Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 C.F.R. § 1508.7).

In its comprehensive guidance on cumulative impacts analysis under NEPA, the CEQ notes that: "[t]he range of actions that must be considered includes not only the project proposal, but all connected and similar actions that could contribute to cumulative effects" (CEQ, 1997). The term "similar actions" may be defined as "reasonably foreseeable or proposed agency actions [with] similarities that provide a basis for evaluating the environmental consequences together, such as common timing or geography." 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(a)(3); *see also* 40 C.F.R. §§ 1508.25(a)(2) and (c). Not all potential issues identified during cumulative effects scoping need be included in an EA. Because some effects may be irrelevant or inconsequential to decisions about the proposed action and alternatives, the focus of the cumulative effects analysis should be narrowed to important issues of national, regional, or local significance.

To assist agencies in this narrowing process, CEQ lists seven (7) basic questions, including: (1) is the proposed action one of several similar past, present, or future actions in the same geographic area; (2) do other activities (governmental or private) in the region have environmental effects similar to those of the proposed action; (3) have any recent or ongoing NEPA analyses of similar actions or nearby actions identified important adverse or beneficial cumulative effect issues; (4) has the impact been historically significant, such that the importance of the resource is defined by past loss, past gain, or investments to restore resources; (5) have any recent or ongoing NEPA analyses of similar actions or nearby actions identified important adverse or beneficial cumulative effect issues; (6) Has the impact been historically significant, such that the importance of the resource is defined by past loss, past gain, or investments to restore resources; (7) might the proposed action involve any air quality cumulative effects issues (CEQ, 1997, Table 2-1).

It is normally insufficient when analyzing the contribution of a proposed action to cumulative effects to merely analyze effects within the immediate area of the proposed action (CEQ, 1997, pg. 12). Geographic boundaries should be expanded for cumulative effects analysis, and conducted on the scale of human communities, landscapes, watersheds, or airsheds. Timeframes should be extended to encompass additional effects on the resources, ecosystems, and human communities of concern. A useful concept in determining appropriate geographic boundaries for a cumulative effects analysis is the project impact zone; *i.e.*, the area (and resources within that area) that could be affected by the proposed action. The appropriate area for analysis of cumulative effects will, in most instances, be a larger geographic area occupied by resources outside of the project impact zone.

The proposed project site at 11000 Lake Forest Boulevard is located in New Orleans' Read Boulevard East neighborhood, within the 70127 zip code geographic area, and directly adjacent to the 70128 zip code area. A Cumulative Impacts Analysis of FEMA funded projects has been done for the 70127 zip code (Figure 12). FEMA has also determined that the area within a 1 mile radius of the site constitutes an appropriate project cumulative impact analysis zone (Figure 13) and the larger geographic area consisting of the 70127 and 70128 zip codes constitutes an appropriate boundary, for a cumulative impact analysis of the proposed action and alternatives.



Figure 11: FEMA-funded projects occurring within the 70127 zip code

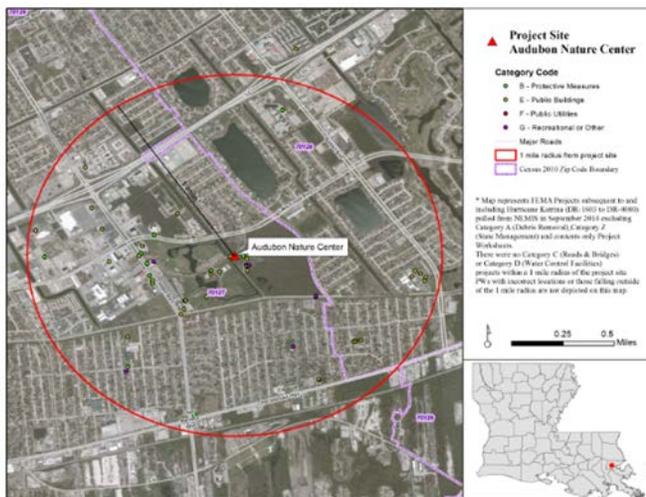


Figure 12: FEMA-funded projects occurring within a one mile radius of the ANC

Within the 70127 geographic area, approximately 188 FEMA PA program funded projects have occurred, are occurring, or are reasonably foreseen to occur. These include debris removal, protective measures, building, utility and recreational infrastructure replacement and repair. These undertakings are divided into six categories: Cat A- debris removal, Cat B- emergency protective measures, Cat C- roads and bridges, Cat E- public buildings, Cat F- public utilities, and Cat G- recreational or other. These projects were developed with enough specificity to provide useful information to a decision maker and the interested public to buildings, roads and bridges, educational facilities, public services, waterways, and more (Figures 12 and 13 and Table 3).

Seven (7) of the nine (9) original buildings on this site would be demolished and have the footprint restored to native habitat. The newly constructed building would be similar in footprint to the original building's square footage, and as planned would be slightly smaller. The preferred alternative would retain the site ability for storm water retention during large storm events, and restore educational and recreational opportunities to the surrounding community. The applicant has reduced cumulative impacts on the site by reconfiguring the proposed parking to avoid a small tributary.

In accordance with NEPA, and to the extent reasonable and practicable, this EA considered the combined effects of the Proposed Action Alternative, as well as other actions undertaken by FEMA and other public and private entities that affect environmental resources the proposed action would affect, and occur within the considered geographic area and temporal frame(s).

Specifically, a range of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions undertaken by FEMA within the designated geographic boundary area were reviewed: (1) for similarities such as scope of work, common timing, and geography; (2) to determine environmental effects similar to those of the proposed action, if any; and (3) to identify the potential for cumulative impacts. As part of the cumulative effects analysis, FEMA also reviewed past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects of Federal resource agencies and other parties within the designated geographic boundary. These reviews were performed in order to assess their proposed actions and the effects of completed and ongoing actions, and to determine whether the incremental impact of the proposed action, when combined with the effects of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, are cumulatively considerable or significant.

After the devastation of the 2005 hurricane season, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN) was tasked with the planning, design, and construction of a 350-mile system of levees, floodwalls, surge barriers, and pump stations to reduce the flood risk associated with a storm event in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area. Referred to as the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), it is one of the largest civil works projects ever undertaken, at an estimated cost of \$14 billion (USACE 2013). Several levee and other related infrastructure projects specific to this effort occur within the zip code 70127. Table 3 below lists all projects known to FEMA to have recently occurred or are planned that have the potential for cumulative impacts when combined with the effects of the proposed action.

Table 3 – Projects that May Have the Potential to Contribute to Cumulative Impacts

Project Name / Status	Lead Agency	Location	Description	Cumulative Impact	Rationale
Reconstruction/Elevation and Hardening of 9 Sewage Pump Stations	FEMA	10451 Lake Forest Blvd.	Elevation/reconstruction and hardening of pump stations and components.	Negligible	Mitigation to existing infrastructure
Audubon Nature Center	FEMA	5601 Read Blvd	Restore and improve the function of this site while consolidating several of the pre-existing physical structures providing educational services. The capacity of services to be provided is comparable to those that existed prior to the event.	Less than significant impacts to floodplain	Consolidation and restoration of existing infrastructure
New Orleans East Streetscape	HUD	Eastern New Orleans	Addition of sidewalks, street lights, trees, a bike lane, and trash receptacles	Less than significant impacts to floodplain	Restoration and improvement to existing infrastructure
LPV-106 - Replace Levee	USACE	Citrus Lakefront Levee (West of Paris Road)	This reach is approximately 21,648 ft long. The work in this Reach involves raising the existing embankment section with a Sheetpile cutoff wall encased in concrete to elevation 14.5	Negligible	Restoration and improvement to existing infrastructure
LPV-115 - Citrus Back Levee	USACE	6500 Press Drive, 70126 Long/Lat. 30.02881, - 90.04205	Levee repair, Michoud Slip to IHNC	Negligible	Restoration and improvement to existing infrastructure
SELA-19	USACE	Florida Avenue	This contract involves removing the existing drainage path paralleling Florida Avenue and the construction of 1,300 feet of 43.5 x15 foot pile-founded concrete flume in the Florida Avenue Canal.	Negligible	Restoration and improvement to existing infrastructure
LPV-142 - Interim Measure - South Side of GIWW	USACE	Almonaster to Lakefront Floodwall	Install new relief walls; lower 21 existing wells; place new collector pipe; construct sheetpile cutoff wall to intercept seepage.	Negligible	Restoration and improvement to existing infrastructure
OPS-02 - Orleans Pump Stations - Motor Rewinds Pump Stations #2, #3, #5 and #7 OPS2: Motor Rewinds P.S. 2,3,5 & 7	USACE	Florida Avenue Canal	Remove existing drainage path paralleling Florida Avenue Canal; construct 1,300 feet of 43.5x15 foot pile-founded concrete flume in Florida Avenue Canal; construct 1,000 feet of lateral drainage culvert under Desire Street from new Florida Avenue flume to existing drainage at North Dorgenois Street.	Negligible	Restoration and improvement to existing infrastructure

Project Name / Status	Lead Agency	Location	Description	Cumulative Impact	Rationale
OPS-06B - Orleans Pump Stations	USACE	Florida Avenue Canal; Peoples Canal	Bearing replacement	None	Repair of existing infrastructure
OPS-11 - Orleans Pump Stations - Elaine Pump Station Repair	USACE		Elaine Pump Station Repair	None	Repair of existing infrastructure
OSP-05 - Orleans Storm Proofing - Pump Station No. 5 - Two Pumps with Generator Pump Station No. 5 - Two Pumps with Generator	USACE	Dwyer Road Pump Station	Two elevated vertical pumps, at 300 cfs each will be installed. These pumps will be housed in a new elevated, storm-proofed structure.	None	Mitigation to existing infrastructure

As identified in Table 3, the cumulative effect of these undertakings is not anticipated to result in a significant impact to any resource. Each of the projects aims to restore the function of pre-existing infrastructure within an urban setting with minimal impacts to the natural and human environment. Projects related to USACE efforts to improve the levee protection system of the Greater New Orleans Area will result in short and long term impacts to the human and natural environment. To reduce these impacts, mitigation measures for impacted resources have been implemented where possible and where required (CED 2013).

These infrastructure actions, some of which have already occurred, and many of which will occur concurrent with and/or subsequent to the proposed action, are necessary as a result of the unprecedented devastation caused by the 2005 hurricanes, both Katrina and Rita, in order to restore pre-disaster conditions. In reviewing impacts, socioeconomic resources were identified as having the most potential to experience cumulative effects. Although devastating, the 2005 storms created an opportunity for the applicant to serve residents in the Greater New Orleans area and surrounding neighborhoods by enhancing local facilities, thus attracting more residents to return home.

The incremental effects of the other infrastructure recovery and improvement actions are likely to be similar to the impacts and effects described in this EA for the present proposed action. Therefore, considered in relation to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, the cumulative impact of the proposed action to the built and natural environment would be minimal, would be beneficial rather than detrimental, and is not expected to contribute to any adverse effects or to otherwise significantly affect the human environment.

All FEMA funded actions are subject to various levels of environmental review as a requirement for the receipt of Federal funding. An applicant's failure to comply with any required environmental permitting or other condition is a serious violation which can result in the loss of Federal assistance, including funding.

6.0 CONDITIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Based upon the studies and consultations undertaken in this EA, several conditions and mitigation measures must be taken by the applicant prior to and during project implementation. Failure to comply with these conditions will jeopardize receipt of FEMA funding.

- The project is within and directly adjacent to jurisdictional wetlands as per documentation provided by the USACE. Extreme care must be taken during the construction process through the appropriate use and maintenance of BMP's. Applicant must adhere to all conditions outlined in Clean Water Act Section 401 permits associated with the project.
- Proper signage must clearly identify the adjacent wetland boundaries to help prevent any potential adverse impacts from construction vehicles/equipment/supplies accidentally leaving the boundaries of the approved ROW.
- The Audubon Nature Center has contracted for purchase of 1.4 acres of Bottomland Hardwoods at the Comite Properties Wetlands Mitigation Bank, Tract "A". First Louisiana Resource, LLC has assumed responsibility for completing the mitigation in accordance with the Comite Properties Wetlands Mitigation Bank Mitigation Banking Instrument and has recorded the allocation of the mitigation required by this permit in the Regulatory In-lieu Fee & Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS).
- Precautions must be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one (1) acre. The applicant must contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3181 to determine if the proposed project requires a permit.
- All work shall be confined to the approved work areas shown on the attached drawings. Any alterations or changes in the scope of the project which would have impacts to additional jurisdictional waters, including wetlands, not considered under this authorization, would require a separate Department of the Army permit evaluation and decision.
- Construction activities shall not cause more than minimal and temporal water quality degradation of any adjacent wetland, stream, or water body. Appropriate erosion and siltation controls must be utilized during construction to prevent sediment runoff into adjacent wetlands and waterways. Sediment control techniques could include, but are not limited to, the use of secured hay bales, sediment fencing, wooden or vinyl barriers, and/or seeding of disturbed areas.
- Erosion Control Devices (ECD's) must be **used and maintained extensively** to prevent any potential direct or indirect adverse impacts to nearby wetland areas per the Clean Water Act and EO 11990. Any adverse impacts to adjacent wetlands resulting from the construction of this project will jeopardize receipt of federal funding.
- All excavated material and debris associated with the authorized work must be hauled off site and disposed of in a non-jurisdictional area.

- Implement construction Best Management Practices (BMPs); The contractor will be responsible for keeping all excavated areas periodically sprayed with water, all equipment maintained in good working order, and all construction vehicles limited to 15 mph to minimize pollution/fugitive dust. If fill is stored on site as part of unit installation or removal, the contractor will be required to appropriately cover it.
- Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(3), there shall be no new construction or substantial improvement of structures unless the lowest floor of the structures (including basement) is at or above the level of the base flood.
- 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.
- 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.
- Applicant must ensure compliance with all parish and city ordinances. All correspondence must be submitted to FEMA and FEMA-EHP for inclusion in the project files. Should the site plans (including drainage design) change the applicant must submit changes to FEMA-EHP for review and approval prior to the start of construction.
- Applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding building permits, clearances, drainage studies, etc. Documentation of all coordination activities with the local floodplain administrator pertaining to this project should be submitted to the LA GOHSEP and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.
- If any solid or hazardous waste materials, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contamination will be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. The contractor would be required to take appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control the spill of hazardous materials in the construction area. The LDEQ Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) will be contacted at (225) 219-3640 to initiate appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contaminated material. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.
- All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region. All debris should be disposed of in an approved landfill.
- 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 and/or toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies.

- To minimize worker and public health and safety risks from project construction and closure, all construction and closure work will be done using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of construction equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, all activities will be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with the standards specified in OSHA regulations and the USACE safety manual. The contractor must implement traffic control measures, as necessary.
- If a bald eagle or its nest is spotted within 1,500 feet of the project site during the months of October through mid-May, the applicant must cease construction activities and contact LDWF and USFWS immediately. Documentation of all coordination activities with LDWF and the USFWS must be submitted to the LA GOHSEP and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.
- This project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Zone. In a letter dated September 28, 2012, the Louisiana Office of Coastal Management (OCM) determined that the granting of financial assistance is fully consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. The applicant is responsible for coordinating with and obtaining any required permit(s) from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' (LDNR) Coastal Management Division (CMD) prior to initiating work. The applicant shall comply with all conditions of the required permit. All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.
- Any fill or borrow material used must be sourced from areas that do not contain any buried cultural materials (e.g. brick foundations, prehistoric Indian artifacts, human burials, and the like).
- If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present with 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.
- 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 contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO.
- The Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana has stated that the project area is part of the aboriginal Chitimacha homelands. If during the course of work at the site, prehistoric and/or historic aboriginal cultural materials are discovered, the permittee shall contact the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana at P.O. Box 661, Charenton, LA 70523, and the CEMVN, Regulatory Branch. CEMVN, Regulatory Branch will initiate the required federal, state, and tribal coordination to determine the significance of the cultural materials and the need, if applicable, for additional cultural resource investigations.

7.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public will be invited to comment on the EA. A legal notice will be published in the Times Picayune October 20th, 22nd, and 24th, 2014. Additionally the Environmental Assessment will be made available at the New Orleans Public Library, Alvar Branch. The Environmental Assessment will be published on FEMA's website. A copy of the Public Notice will be attached in Appendix D.

8.0 AGENCY COORDINATION

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office
Tribal Historic Preservation Office and/or cultural offices

9.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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