

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FEMA NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
THE AUDUBON NATURE CENTER, MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING PROJECT,
ORLEANS PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the proposed reconstruction and reconfiguration of the Audubon Nature Center (ANC) non-profit natural resource educational multi-purpose facility. The facilities are located at 11000 Lake Forest Boulevard, New Orleans, 70127, Orleans Parish, Latitude 30.031730, Longitude -89.964461.

The ANC, a private not-for-profit organization serving the general public, seeks federal grant funds for a proposed project eligible under a Presidential disaster declaration, signed on August 29, 2005 (FEMA-1603-DR-LA). Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a DEA has been prepared to evaluate the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. This DEA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, alternatives to the proposed action including no action, rebuild in the same footprint, or the preferred alternative to rebuild in a modified footprint to the north on the lot, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action.

The proposed action would demolish and consolidate seven (7) of the nine (9) existing buildings on the site into a newly constructed facility on the northwest corner of the property. The new ANC facility would measure 20,430 square feet and include an Entry Pavilion, Gift Shop, Classrooms, Science and Research Center, Administrative Facilities, Interpretive Center, and Planetarium. The existing access road on the site would be extended to the new building, and a new parking lot would be constructed on ANC property. A Botany Building and Maintenance Building would be restored in their original footprints.

Based on FEMA's findings to date, no significant adverse environmental effects are anticipated. If no substantive comments are received, the DEA and associated draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final, and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

The DEA and draft FONSI will be available for public review at the New Orleans Public Library, Alvar Branch located at 913 Alvar Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70117 (10:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Mon.-Thurs. and 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Sat.). The DEA can also be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website: [this link describes FEMA policy, codes and regulations in response to Katrina](#). The public notice will run in the local newspaper, *The Times-Picayune*, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, October 20th, 22nd, and 24th. Written comments on the DEA/Draft FONSI can be faxed to the FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office (LRO) at (225) 346-5848; emailed to FEMA-NOMA@fema.dhs.gov; or mailed to FEMA-EHP, Audubon Nature Center, 1500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802.