

PUBLIC NOTICE
FEMA NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS PARK CAMPUS
CONSTRUCTION OF FIVE (5) BUILDINGS
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of the EA is to assess the effects on the human and natural environment for the construction of five (5) buildings on the Southern University of New Orleans' (SUNO) campus in New Orleans, Louisiana, a proposed action for which FEMA is considering providing funding assistance.

Southern University of New Orleans (SUNO), founded in 1956, is located on two (2) campuses, the Park Campus and the Lake Campus, in the Gentilly area of New Orleans. These campuses are within the vicinity of Lake Pontchartrain and the Industrial Canal. The office address is 6400 Press Dr. New Orleans, Louisiana 70126. The Park Campus buildings sustained significant flooding during Hurricane Katrina. Each building on the campus was extensively damaged. The damage was compounded by standing, brackish, contaminated water that remained for a number of weeks, preventing access to the site. FEMA has previously approved numerous repair/replacement and mitigation projects on the Park Campus. Prior to 2005, SUNO did not have buildings on the Lake Campus; however, the site did not sustain flooding during Hurricane Katrina. After Hurricane Katrina, temporary trailers were set up on the Lake Campus to provide temporary classroom and support space for SUNO.

The purpose of the draft EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the preferred action and alternatives. The draft EA evaluates a No Action Alternative; the Preferred Action Alternative, which is to demolish Multi-Purpose Classroom building, Brown Hall, New Classroom building, and the Central Plant and construct five (5) new buildings, and an Alternative Action which is to replace the Multi-Purpose Classroom building, Brown Hall, New Classroom building, Clark Hall, and the Central Plant in their pre-disaster footprints.

The draft FONSI is FEMA's finding that the preferred action will not have a significant effect on the human and natural environment.

The draft EA and draft FONSI are available for review at the following locations: 1) Norman Myer Branch Library Monday-Thursdays 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Fridays - Saturdays 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and 2) the Leonard S. Washington Memorial Library on the SUNO campus Monday-Tuesday 7:50 a.m. – 5:50p.m., Wednesday- Friday 7:50 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The documents can also be downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/resource-document-library>. There will be a 15 day comment period, beginning on December 13, 2014, and concluding on December 28, 2014 at 4 p.m. Comments may be mailed to: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY-FEMA EHP-SUNO, 1500 MAIN STREET, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802. Comments may be emailed to: FEMA-NOMA@dhs.gov or faxed to 225-346-5848. Verbal comments will be accepted or recorded at 504-427-8000. If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA and associated FONSI will become final.