

Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Draft Tiered Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (Draft SEA)
and Early Notice of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain
Proposed Harris County Texas Boat Ramp Project
Houston, Texas
Port Security Grant Program
Project # 2014-PU-00201-IJ-2 (19865)

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Harris County Sheriff's Office has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Port Security Grant Program for funding to assist with the construction of a Harris County Texas Boat Ramp to be built at the Washburn Tunnel near the Houston Ship Channel located at 3100 Federal Road Houston, Texas 77015 (Latitude: 29.7276, Longitude: -95.2119). The project will involve the construction of a boat ramp, mooring/wharf and floating boat docks will consist of separate interconnected elements with the total disturbed area of approximately 53,950 square feet (1.24 acres). These elements include the following: a paved boat ramp (approximately 1,500 square feet) that will consist of reinforced concrete paving, retaining walls and will require soils excavation and grading; a wharf (approximately 11,000 square feet) that will require the installation of steel or concrete sheet piling, soils excavation/dredging, paving and a breakwater and floating boat docks (approximately 2,700 square feet) which will be a combination of floating platforms with associated concrete piling, paving and revetments.

A Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Grant Programs Directorate Programs was prepared and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued in July 2010 (<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/18407?id=4143>), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing regulations of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508), the National Historic Preservation Act, and the implementing regulations of FEMA (44 CFR Parts 9 and 10). FEMA's environmental planning and historic preservation review concluded that all environmental areas of concern are appropriately accounted for in the PEA with the exception of floodplain impacts. A Draft Tiered Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been prepared in accordance with the July 2010 PEA to focus on Executive Order 11988 requirements and floodplain impacts of the proposed project.

The Draft SEA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences for the proposed action. The Draft SEA is available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents> and on the Harris County Engineering Department's (HCED) website at <http://www.eng.hctx.net/>. A copy of the document can also be viewed Monday through Friday, between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, at the HCED Office, 1001 Preston Avenue, 7th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002.

This notice also serves as the Early Public Notice for a Proposed Activity in the 100-Year Floodplain. This notice is provided pursuant to 44 CFR Part 9.12, (Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands), and FEMA's implementing regulation for Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, concerning FEMA's funding assistance for activities within and/or affect a floodplain. According to the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map Community Panel 48201C0930M, with the effective date March 29, 2013, the proposed project site is located within Flood Zone AE; defined as Base Flood Elevations determined.

The comment period will end 15 days from the initial notice publication date of September 25, 2015. Written comments on the Draft SEA or the proposed work in the floodplain can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft SEA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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