

**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 Boat Launch Ramp Project
Gretna, Louisiana
Port Security Grant Program
Project # 2014-PU-00074 (20073)**

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Parish of Jefferson has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Port Security Grant Program for funding to assist with the construction of a proposed Boat Launch Ramp to be built on the west bank of the Mississippi River, located at Mile Marker 97.1 Gretna, Louisiana 70053 (Latitude: 29.918501, Longitude: -90.066562), across the river from the Port of New Orleans on the east bank. The project will involve the construction of a boat ramp to be built on the river bature, between the Gretna Ferry Landing and the Gretna Amphitheater. This is a 2 acre site on the bature of the Mississippi River that has seen extensive disturbance during the construction of the ferry landing and amphitheater. The boat launch will connect to an existing road through flood gate and will extend from the elevated ferry parking deck down across the bature into the Mississippi River. The launch will be a pile supported bridge deck to extend into the water at the minus 5 – foot contour. The launch will be an elevated structure above the existing grade of the bature beginning at existing elevated parking deck, at elevation 18.3 NAVD. Approximately 22 piles will be driven to a depth of up to 75 feet. Pile driving is estimated to disturb approximately 100 square feet of the existing ground surface.

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>. A copy of the document can also be viewed Monday through Friday, between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM, at the Joseph S. Yenni Government Building, located at 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Jefferson, LA 70123 and at the General Government Building, located at 200 Derbigny Street, Gretna, LA 70053.

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 22051C0220F, with the effective date November 9, 2012, 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 October 14, 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.

Federal Emergency Management Agency, EHP, Region 6
FEMA-R6-EHP@fema.dhs.gov
800 North Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209
Fax: 940-383-7299