

Draft Environmental Assessment

# LV05 Watson Bend Group Housing Site

FEMA-4277-DR-LA

Livingston Parish, Louisiana

*October 2016*



**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
**Federal Emergency Management Agency**  
Region 6  
800 North Loop 288  
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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

APE	Area of Potential Effect
BMP	Best Management Practices
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CWA	Clean Water Act
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GSA	General Services Administration
IHP	Individuals and Households Program
LDEQ	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
MHU	Manufactured Housing Unit
MLRP	Multi-Family Lease and Repair Program
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
UFAS	Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USCB	United States Census Bureau
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

## **1. Introduction**

During the Incident Period of August 11, 2016, to August 31, 2016, prolonged rainfall occurred over the state of Louisiana dropping unprecedented rain, exceeding 20 inches. On August 14, 2016, President Obama declared a major disaster (FEMA-4277-DR-LA) for the State of Louisiana, due to the severe storms and subsequent flooding, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance in designated areas. FEMA proposes to administer this disaster assistance pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), Public Law 93-288, as amended. Section 408 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Individual and Households Program (IHP) to provide emergency and temporary housing for eligible disaster victims, whose homes are uninhabitable or destroyed as a result of the declared event.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations to implement NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508), and FEMA's procedures for implementing NEPA (FEMA Instruction 108-1-1). FEMA is required to consider potential environmental impacts before funding or approving actions and projects. This Draft EA will analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed temporary group housing, LV05, Watson Bend Group Site, as part of an expedited review process. FEMA will use the findings in this Draft EA to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

## **2. Purpose and Need**

Catastrophic damage from severe storms and flooding has resulted in an extraordinary demand for housing assistance in communities within Livingston Parish, one of the hardest hit areas in Louisiana. The August 2016 prolonged rainfall resulted in catastrophic flooding and has been called the nation's worst natural disaster since Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Thousands of homes and businesses were submerged and officials estimated that 75 percent of homes in Livingston Parish were a total loss. Many rivers and waterways, particularly the Amite and Comity rivers, reached record levels, and rainfall exceeded 20 inches in multiple parishes.

Louisiana's governor, John Bel Edwards, called the disaster a "historic, unprecedented flooding event" and declared a state of emergency. Because of the large number of homeowners without flood insurance that were affected, the federal government is providing disaster aid through FEMA.

The purpose of this action is to fulfill FEMA's mandate under the IHP to expeditiously provide temporary housing for eligible disaster victims. As of October 10, 2016, the State had received 149,110 requests for federal assistance and of these requests, approximately 8,227 (total Pre-Placement Interviews) are for temporary housing assistance in the Livingston Parish area. As of October 11, 2016, the population approved and pending for rental resources, private sites, commercial sites, and Multi-Family Lease and Repair Program (MLRP) for Livingston Parish was 367.

Most of this demand will be met by repairing and improving existing multi-family housing to be utilized as temporary housing, placing a manufactured housing unit (MHU) on an applicant's private site, or providing them with a MHU on an available pad leased in a commercial park.

However, once these options are exhausted, FEMA estimates many applicants still will remain in need of direct housing, thus supporting the need to develop a temporary group-housing site, hereafter “group site.”

### **3. Environmental Review Process**

In order to meet the urgent needs of disaster survivors requiring temporary housing, FEMA has implemented an expedited environmental review process. The purpose of this document is to assist FEMA in fulfilling its environmental review responsibilities under NEPA and serve as a vehicle to document compliance under other applicable environmental and historic laws and orders. Laws and orders addressed through this Draft EA include: the Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Endangered Species Act; National Historic Preservation Act; Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management); EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands); EO 12898 (Environmental Justice); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); and Farmland Protection Policy Act. Agency coordination/consultation is being conducted on a site by site basis as necessary.

The scope of FEMA’s environmental review includes evaluating project alternatives, characterizing the affected environment, identifying potential environmental impacts, and outlining ways to reduce or minimize adverse effects. This Draft EA examines the site-specific environmental impacts associated with building a proposed FEMA group-housing site on private or publicly owned land to be leased by the General Service Administration (GSA) for this purpose.

This Draft EA was prepared based on a site evaluation, document research, and resource agency information. The public participation period will be brief as necessitated by the emergency circumstances. Agency coordination and consultation will be deemed complete at the end of the public comment period. FEMA believes that this process will allow for sufficient action analysis and meet the goal of providing timely federal assistance to disaster survivors.

### **4. Site Selection Process and Alternatives**

NEPA requires investigation and evaluation of reasonable project alternatives as part of the project environmental review process. At a minimum, FEMA’s NEPA implementing regulations require the No Action and Proposed Action be evaluated. Concurrent to the Proposed Action, other federally assisted housing options are being utilized first. These options include minor home repairs, rental assistance, and installing a manufactured housing unit on a private site or in an existing commercial site but these options are rapidly depleting due to the high demand. Therefore, a remaining alternative is to build an emergency, temporary group-housing site when the above options do not satisfy the demand.

In order to expedite the group housing site selection process, FEMA is working closely with local officials and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to identify potential sites, followed by a site reconnaissance and research to determine site suitability. Important factors considered in choosing a site include: demand for temporary housing in that area, group acceptance, proximity of group services/amenities (schools, healthcare facilities, public transportation, etc.), engineering and construction feasibility, access to utilities, land use

compatibilities, property owner terms, costs to develop and maintain the site, and environmental/cultural resource sensitivities. FEMA will continue to evaluate alternative sites in Livingston Parish. Although various alternatives have been and continue to be identified, the amount of needed housing has limited this Draft EA to analysis of one suitable site alternative at this time. The LV05 Watson Bend Site was selected for further detailed analysis because it meets the basic site feasibility and selection criteria.

### **Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action alternative, FEMA would not develop a temporary group housing site at this location. Displaced residents would continue to stay with relatives/friends, in hotels, or other temporary locations until they resolve their own long-term housing needs.

### **Alternative 2 – Develop the LV05 Group Site at Watson Bend with MHU’s (Proposed Action)**

The Proposed Action would provide temporary housing for eligible disaster victims displaced by August floods in southeastern Louisiana. Disaster survivors would be temporarily relocated to the site with an expected occupancy up to 18 months (which includes a site deactivation period) while they resolve their permanent housing solution.

## **4.1 Project Location and Site Description**

The proposed site is located in the Town of Watson, Livingston Parish, Louisiana (30.571005, -90.958587). Figures 1 and 2 are an area map and an aerial photo, respectively, of the proposed site and vicinity. The site consists of approximately 13 acres of land bordered on the north by Bend Road Extension and residential development. To the east, it consists of commercial and residential development facing Highway 16. The western and southern boundaries are characterized by forested areas comprised of live oak trees with large shrub understory species. Access to the site is from Bend Road Extension, a two lane local road. The site has been cleared and stripped of all vegetation within the last two years in preparation for development of a residential subdivision, except for two wetland areas. Vegetation is reestablishing and is from 6 inches to 5 feet tall, consisting of a variety of upland and wetland plants. The site is relatively level and drains to the southeast corner of the property. A channelized drainage ditch is adjacent to the western border of the site. The vegetative cover of the site is dominated primarily by upland herbaceous grass species. Some hydrophytic wetland plant species are present along the southern fringe of the site and the northeast corner. Hydrophytic vegetation is plant-life that thrives in wet conditions. A USACE wetlands jurisdictional determination letter and map has been received by the site owner and is included as Attachment 1. The wetlands on the site would be avoided based on the current site plans. Therefore, no wetlands would be impacted by this proposed action. Typical existing site conditions are depicted in photos included as Figures 3 and 4.

## **4.2 Proposed Project Description**

The proposed action would utilize the owner's design to contract for the construction of 43 manufactured home pads. These would be used for the placement of mobile home units to house displaced families. Development of the site would require the installation of utilities on the site, asphalt for the roads and handicap parking lot and crushed rocks for trailer pads and residents parking.

The following specific site development components would be included with this project:

- Site preparation would include clearing, grading, and removal of woody vegetation and debris.
- Infrastructure for water, sewer, and electrical services exist off of Bend Road Extension but would have to be extended onto the site.
- New lines and hydrants would be installed on the property for all units.
- Storm water drainage would be developed within the site as well.
- Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard (UFAS) site features include 20% of the units meeting UFAS, and 100% of onsite essential services/facilities (such as mailbox kiosk) would be UFAS compatible.
- Erosion control would be established during the construction period and a perimeter fence would be constructed around the project site.

FEMA will operate and maintain the site during the term of occupancy. When the temporary housing need has ended, FEMA expects that the MHUs would be hauled from the site and returned to a FEMA storage facility. The project site would be reasonably restored to its previous condition and then seeded, or otherwise left per the lease terms with the landowner.

## **5. Affected Environment and Potential Impacts**

This section is organized by individual resources. It includes a description of the existing conditions at the project area and provides an analysis of potential environmental impacts for each alternative. Impacts to the following resources as a result of the Proposed Action were found to be discountable and are not evaluated further in this Draft EA: geology, soils and seismicity, air quality, climate change, coastal zones, wildlife and fish, noise, traffic, public service and utilities, and public health and safety. Where potential impacts exist, conditions or mitigation measures to offset these impacts are detailed. Table 1 summarizes the results of the environmental review process. No safety issues were identified on the project site.

### **5.1 Water Resources**

This section provides an overview of the affected area and potential environmental effects of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives on water resources, including water quality, streams, wetlands, and floodplains.

### **5.1.1 Water Quality**

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) was established under the Clean Water Act (CWA) and regulates wastewater discharges from point sources. NPDES regulations require that construction sites resulting in greater than one acre of disturbance obtain a permit from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or the corresponding state agency where the permitting role has been assumed by the state. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) is the state agency that has assumed this responsibility.

#### **Alternative 1- No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action alternative, there would be no short- or long-term impacts to water quality. In 2015, the site was clearcut of timber and de-stumped. Efforts are underway to grade the land for house sites and for the installation of utilities. Due to the flat nature of the site, there is little to no erosion evidenced on the site. The wetlands on the property are more of a recharge area and are not connected to a larger system. Thus, any runoff with turbidity or sediment would be minor. Thus, there would be no short- or long-term impacts to water quality.

#### **Alternative 2 - Develop the LV05 Group Site at Watson Bend with MHUs (Proposed Action)**

Under the Proposed Action alternative, impacts to water quality, if any, would be minor. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented during site development to minimize sediment migration from the site into nearby water bodies. Surface runoff would be controlled by using siltation controls such as silt fencing around the construction site to minimize erosion of materials into adjacent wetlands and/or waterways. Any disturbed soil would be protected with seed or sod after construction in order to decrease the amount of soil eroded by rainfall and runoff. If fill is stored on site, the contractor would appropriately cover it to prevent erosion. In order to control storm water runoff, the contractor would be required to construct drainage features so that flows would not cause nuisance flooding during heavy rainfall events. The drainage system would be required to meet local and parish requirements.

These actions would prevent any degradation of water quality as a result of silt-laden runoff from the construction site. The Proposed Action alternative would have no significant impacts to water quality in the area of the site.

### **5.1.2 Wetlands**

The CWA and EO 11990 define wetlands as “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.”

### **Alternative 1- No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action alternative, the proposed site will continue to be developed into a residential subdivision which has already been designed and approved for construction. In 2015, the site was clearcut of timber and de-stumped. Efforts are underway to grade the land for house sites and for the installation of utilities. The wetlands on the site would be avoided. Due to the flat nature of the site, there is little to no erosion evidenced on the site. Thus, there would be no short- or long-term impacts to wetlands.

### **Alternative 2 - Develop the LV05 Group Site at Watson Bend with MHUs (Proposed Action)**

Under the Proposed Action alternative, based on the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map accessed on October 5, 2016, available online at (<https://fws.gov/wetlands/>), no wetlands were identified in the project area. During the field review, two large saturated areas with hydrophilic vegetation were identified. Much of the vegetation in these two saturated areas consisted of Carex species and other unidentified wetland plants. One of the areas is a 100-foot strip along the northeastern boundary of the site that would be avoided by proposed construction of infrastructure. The other saturated area is located in the southern end of the site and would not be impacted by the proposed project.

A USACE wetlands jurisdictional determination letter and map has been received by the site owner and is included as Attachment 1. No wetlands areas would be incorporated into the proposed project design. Therefore, no wetlands would be impacted by this proposed action. However, a USACE Section 404 Permit would be required if site construction encroaches on the wetlands.

### **5.1.3 Floodplains**

EO 11988 Floodplain Management was issued to avoid or minimize long and short- term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains.

### **Alternative 1- No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action alternative, there would be no short- or long-term impacts to floodplains.

### **Alternative 2 - Develop the LV05 Group Site at Watson Bend with MHUs (Proposed Action)**

Based on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel number 22063C0125E dated 04/03/2012, Zone X, accessed on October 5, 2016, at (<https://msc.fema.gov/portal>), the proposed project is located outside the flood zone and would not adversely affect floodplain values.

## **5.2 Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat**

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 directs federal agencies to utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of the Act by carrying out programs for the conservation of listed species or designated critical habitats. The USFWS is the agency that regulates compliance with the ESA. Furthermore, migratory birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Any activity that results in the take of migratory birds or eagles is prohibited unless authorized by the USFWS. There are no provisions for allowing the take of migratory birds that are unintentionally killed or injured. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in the take of migratory birds is responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations and implementing appropriate conservation measures.

### **Alternative 1- No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action alternative, the proposed site will continue to be developed into a residential subdivision which has already been designed and approved for construction. Some site preparation and installation of utilities is currently underway. There would be no short- or long-term impacts to threatened and endangered species or critical habitat.

### **Alternative 2 - Develop the LV05 Group Site at Watson Bend with MHUs (Proposed Action)**

The entire project site was clearcut of timber in 2015, and is now vegetated by a variety of pioneer herbaceous species. Soils consist of sand and silt. No fauna were observed on the site although bird species were observed in adjacent vegetation.

The USFWS's Information for Planning and Conservation website (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>) accessed on October 5, 2016 was reviewed for a list of threatened and endangered species in the project area. While there are four listed species and 26 migratory birds that occur in the Livingston Parish, the proposed housing site does not contain suitable habitat for any of these listed species. The entire project site has been essentially cleared cut within the last several years and is now mostly vegetated by a variety of pioneer herbaceous species.

A search of the USFWS Critical Habitat online mapper accessed on October 5, 2016 at (<http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html>) resulted in a finding of no designated critical habitats in the project area.

Based on the scope of work and lack of suitable habitat at the proposed site, FEMA has made the determination that the Proposed Action alternative would have no effect to federally listed species and would not adversely modify critical habitat.

## **5.3 Cultural Resources**

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 U.S.C. §470 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), require federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties.

### **Alternative 1- No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action alternative, the proposed site will continue to be developed into a residential subdivision which has already been designed and approved for construction. In 2015, the site was clearcut of timber and de-stumped. Efforts are underway to grade the land for house sites and for the installation of utilities. During this time, no evidence of cultural resources were reported. Thus, there would be no short- or long-term impacts to cultural resources.

### **Alternative 2 - Develop the LV05 Group Site at Watson Bend with MHUs (Proposed Action)**

FEMA has defined the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed undertaking as the maximum horizontal and vertical limits of excavation and construction, as well as all areas of ground disturbance, clearing and grubbing, staging, or equipment operation. Based on a review of the Louisiana Cultural Resources Mapper and site reconnaissance, FEMA has determined that the APE does not include any above or below ground historic properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). FEMA has determined that there would be no historic properties affected as a result of the Proposed Action. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with this determination on October 10 2016, and the letter is provided at Attachment 2.

If ground-disturbing activities occur during construction, the contractor would monitor ground disturbance and if any potential archeological resources are discovered, would immediately cease construction in that area and notify the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and FEMA.

## **5.4 Socioeconomic Resources**

The project site is located in the Livingston Parish, Louisiana. According to the United States Census Bureau (USCB), the population as of July 1, 2015 was 137,788 with a total of 52,104 housing units. The median household income was estimated at approximately \$57,478 (based on 2010 -2014 American Survey 5-year Estimates). According to the 2010 -2014 American Survey 5-year Estimates, approximately 13.7% of population lives below poverty levels.

According to the USCB, the population in the Town of Watson where the project site is proposed was 10,215 with a total of 4,241 housing units prior to the disaster. With the establishment of the site, up to approximately 43 residents could be temporarily relocated to the LV05 Watson Bend Group Site area. The potential site residents would be from the Parish areas which have been impacted by the flooding. The local community is aware of this action and may experience a slight localized increase in the need for public services, such as schools, fire and police services, childcare, and medical services. However, the overall demand for public and commercial services is not expected to be greater than the pre-disaster demand and potential impacts are expected to be minimal.

### **5.4.1 Environmental Justice**

EO 12898 requires that each federal agency identify and address the effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. The function of this EO is to avoid disproportionately high and adverse public health or environmental impacts to the target populations.

The population within the Livingston Parish, Louisiana is comprised of about 91.9% Caucasian, 5.1% African American, 0.4% American Indian and Alaska Native, 0.5 % Asian, and 2.8% Hispanic. In comparison, the Town of Watson in Livingston Parish is comprised of 81.3% Caucasian, 14.9% African American, 0.4% American Indian and Alaska Native, 0.5% Asian, and 4.1% Hispanic.

#### **Alternative 1- No Action Alternative**

The No Action alternative would preclude the federal government from adequately addressing the urgency of providing temporary and transient emergency housing. Consequently, displaced disaster survivors would have to remain in the temporary housing they have acquired through their own resources and possibly far from their original home. The short- and long-term recovery of flood survivors and their communities would be further compounded by fewer housing options. They would continue to suffer social and economic stresses related to the disaster recovery.

#### **Alternative 2 - Develop the LV05 Group Site at Watson Bend with MHUs (Proposed Action)**

The availability of federal assistance, including temporary housing for displaced individuals, is consistent with EO 12898. All forms of FEMA disaster housing assistance are available to any affected household that meets the conditions of eligibility and demographics are not among the eligibility requirements. The MHUs unit's sites are a temporary housing solution and would be installed in the proposed sites for 18 months; therefore, long-term adverse effects to public health or to the environment would not be expected.

The specific demographics of group site occupants are not available at this time because specific individuals or families are in the process of being identified for this site. However, the demographic makeup of the group site residents is expected to be similar to the community as a whole. Further, the availability of temporary housing would result in a positive impact to displaced individuals, regardless of whether they are minority and/or low income. Therefore, the Proposed Action would not pose disproportionately high and adverse public health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

### **5.4.2 Hazardous Materials**

Two of the main federal laws that address hazardous and toxic materials issues are CERCLA and RCRA. CERCLA, commonly known as Superfund, has the major objectives to identify hazardous and toxic material sites, determine liability, and oversee the cleanup. RCRA addresses the handling, disposal and recycling of debris and solid waste, including hazardous materials.

Upon review of the Environmental Data Resources Radius Map Report with GeoCheck on October 5, 2016, there are no facilities or activities of concern on the proposed group site. This was confirmed by a site visit to the proposed site.

A review of the EPA NEPA Assist accessed on October 5, 2016 at (<https://www.epa.gov/nepa/nepaassist>) indicated that there are 4 RCRA permitted hazardous waste generators approximately 0.25 to the northeast and east of the site. There are no Superfund sites at or nearby the project location.

### **Alternative 1- No Action Alternative**

No impacts from hazardous materials are expected as a result of the No Action alternative.

### **Alternative 2 - Develop the LV05 Group Site at Watson Bend with MHUs (Proposed Action)**

Under the Proposed Action alternative, there are no anticipated impacts from hazardous materials and hazardous substances. Any unusable equipment, debris and material on site will be disposed of prior to occupancy in an approved manner and location. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project, the contractor shall handle, manage, and dispose of petroleum products, hazardous materials, and toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state, and federal agencies.

## **6. Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts are defined as environmental effects that are greater in magnitude, extent, or duration than the direct and indirect effects of the proposed FEMA-associated action when combined with the effects of other current and future actions, regardless of the proponent. Given the Proposed Action is temporary, long-term (up to 18 months) cumulative affects to the area surrounding the site as a result of site development and occupancy are not anticipated.

## **7. Public Involvement**

Public involvement is being performed in compliance with NEPA, FEMA's Instruction 108-1-1 for implementing NEPA, and EO 12898, 11988, and 11990. A Notice of Availability of the Draft EA will be published in the local newspaper of record, the Livingston Parish News, and on FEMA's website at (<https://www.fema.gov/library>) requesting public comments. Additionally, the Draft EA will be made available for review at the Livingston Parish Office of Homeland Security and Security Preparedness, 20355 Government Blvd. Suite D, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Livingston, LA 70754. Due to the emergency nature of this action, the public comment period will be limited to 3 days. FEMA will consider and respond to all public comments in the Final EA. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and a FONSI will be issued for the project.

## **8. Mitigation**

The following conditions must be met as part of this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

1. Appropriate BMPs will be implemented during site development to minimize sediment migration from the site into nearby water bodies. Surface runoff would be controlled by using siltation controls such as silt fencing around the construction site to minimize erosion of materials into adjacent wetlands and/or waterways. Any disturbed soil would be protected with seed or sod after construction in order to decrease the amount of soil eroded by rainfall and runoff. If fill is stored on site, the contractor should appropriately cover it to prevent erosion.
2. In order to control storm water runoff, the contractor will be required to design drainage features so that flows will not cause nuisance flooding during heavy rainfall events. The drainage system will be required to meet local and county requirements
3. If ground-disturbing activities occur during construction, the contractor will monitor ground disturbance and if any potential archeological resources are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify the State and FEMA.
4. Unusable equipment, debris and material shall be disposed of prior to occupancy in an approved manner and location. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project, the contractor shall handle, manage, and dispose of petroleum products, hazardous materials, and toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state, and federal agencies.
5. To minimize dust, site soils should be wetted during site preparation activities, and seeded following construction.
6. If necessary to reduce construction noise impacts, where there are adjacent sensitive noise receptors such as residential areas, construction activities with elevated noise levels should be limited from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Equipment and machinery used during construction must meet all local, State, and federal noise regulations.
7. The contractor will post appropriate signage and fencing to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns. 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.
8. Once the temporary housing need has ended, the site would be seeded and restored to previous conditions to the extent practical and/or in accordance with site lease terms.

## **9. List of Preparers**

EA Preparer: Thomas Lightcap, Environmental Engineer, USACE

Field Team: Steve Robinson, Environmental Specialist, USACE; Richard Beatty, Environmental Specialist, FEMA Reservist

Reviewers: Kevin Jaynes, Regional Environmental Officer, Region 6 FEMA; Alan Hermely, Environmental Specialist, Region 6 FEMA; Kenneth R. Sims, NEPA Team Lead, USACE

Table 1: Summary Table—Affected Environment, Impacts, and Mitigation

Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Alternative 2 Proposed Action: Develop the LV05 Group Site at Watson Bend with Mobile Home Units	Mitigation	Agency Coordination/Permits
Water Quality	No change from current conditions.	There is potential for localized increase in sedimentation as a result of site preparation activities. Potential impact to water quality in downstream swales, ditches, and streams (e.g., turbidity, siltation, biological oxygen demand).	Appropriate BMPs would be implemented during site development to minimize sediment migration from the site into nearby water bodies. Surface runoff would be controlled by using siltation controls such as silt fencing around the construction site to minimize erosion of materials into adjacent wetlands and/or waterways. Any disturbed soil would be protected with seed or sod after construction in order to decrease the amount of soil eroded by rainfall and runoff. If fill is stored on site, the contractor would appropriately cover it to prevent erosion. In order to control storm water runoff, the contractor would design and construct drainage features so that flows would not cause nuisance flooding during heavy rainfall events. The drainage system will be required to meet local and county requirements. These actions would prevent any degradation of water quality as a result of silt-laden runoff from the construction site. The Proposed Action alternative would have no significant impacts to water quality in the area of the site.	<p>Applicant must coordinate with the LDEQ and obtain required permits prior to initiating work.</p> <p>All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions would be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.</p>
Wetlands	No change from current conditions.	Two wetland areas would be outside the area of disturbance,	No MHUs would be installed on the Project site where wetlands occur.	None

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>No Action Alternative</b>	<b>Alternative 2 Proposed Action: Develop the LV05 Group Site at Watson Bend with Mobile Home Units</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Agency Coordination/Permits</b>
Floodplains	No change from current conditions.	No MHUs would be installed within the 100-year floodplain.	No MHUs would be installed within the 100-year floodplain.	None
Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat	No change from current conditions.	No Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat on the Proposed Site.	None.	None
Cultural Resources	No change from current conditions.	FEMA has determined that there would be no historical properties affected as a result of the Proposed Action. The SHPO concurred with this determination on October 10, 2016.	The contractor would monitor ground disturbance and if any potential archeological resources are discovered, would immediately cease construction in that area and notify the State and FEMA.	FEMA has consulted with SHPO and obtained concurrence on October 10, 2016
Environmental Justice	No change from current conditions.	The Proposed Action would not pose disproportionately high and adverse public health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.	None.	None
Hazardous Materials	No change from current conditions.	Under the Proposed Action, there are no anticipated impacts from hazardous materials and hazardous substances.	None. Unusable equipment, debris, and material shall be disposed of prior to occupancy in an approved manner and location. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project, the contractor shall handle, manage, and dispose of petroleum products, hazardous materials, and toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state, and federal agencies.	None



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 60267  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEC 04 2013

Operations Division  
Surveillance and Enforcement Section

Mr. Charles Brannon  
1316 Jay St.  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70122

Dear Mr. Brannon:

Reference is made to your request for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) jurisdictional determination on property located in Section 52, Township 5 South, Range 2 East, Livingston Parish, Louisiana (enclosed map). Specifically, this property is identified as a 17.1 acre site Bend Road Extension just west of LA-16.

A field inspection of the property was conducted on November 14, 2013. Based on the results of this investigation, we have determined that part of the property is wetland and may be subject to Corps' jurisdiction. The approximate limits of the wetland are designated in red on the map. A Department of the Army (DA) permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required prior to the deposition or redistribution of dredged or fill material into wetlands that are waters of the United States. Additionally, a DA permit will be required if you propose to deposit dredged or fill material into other waters subject to Corps' jurisdiction. Other waters that may be subject to Corps' jurisdiction are indicated in blue on the map.

You are advised that this preliminary jurisdictional determination is valid for a period of 5 years from the date of this letter unless new information warrants revision prior to the expiration date or the District Commander has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.

Should there be any questions concerning these matters, please contact Mr. Brian Oberlies at (504) 862-2275 and reference our Account No. MVN-2013-02389-SY. If you have specific questions regarding the permit process or permit applications, please contact our Central Evaluation Section at (504) 862-2577. The New Orleans District Regulatory Branch is committed to providing quality and timely service to our customers. In an effort to improve customer service, please complete the survey on our web site at <http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html>.

Sincerely,

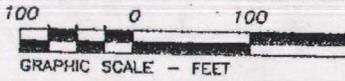
for Martin S. Mayer  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

# PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION

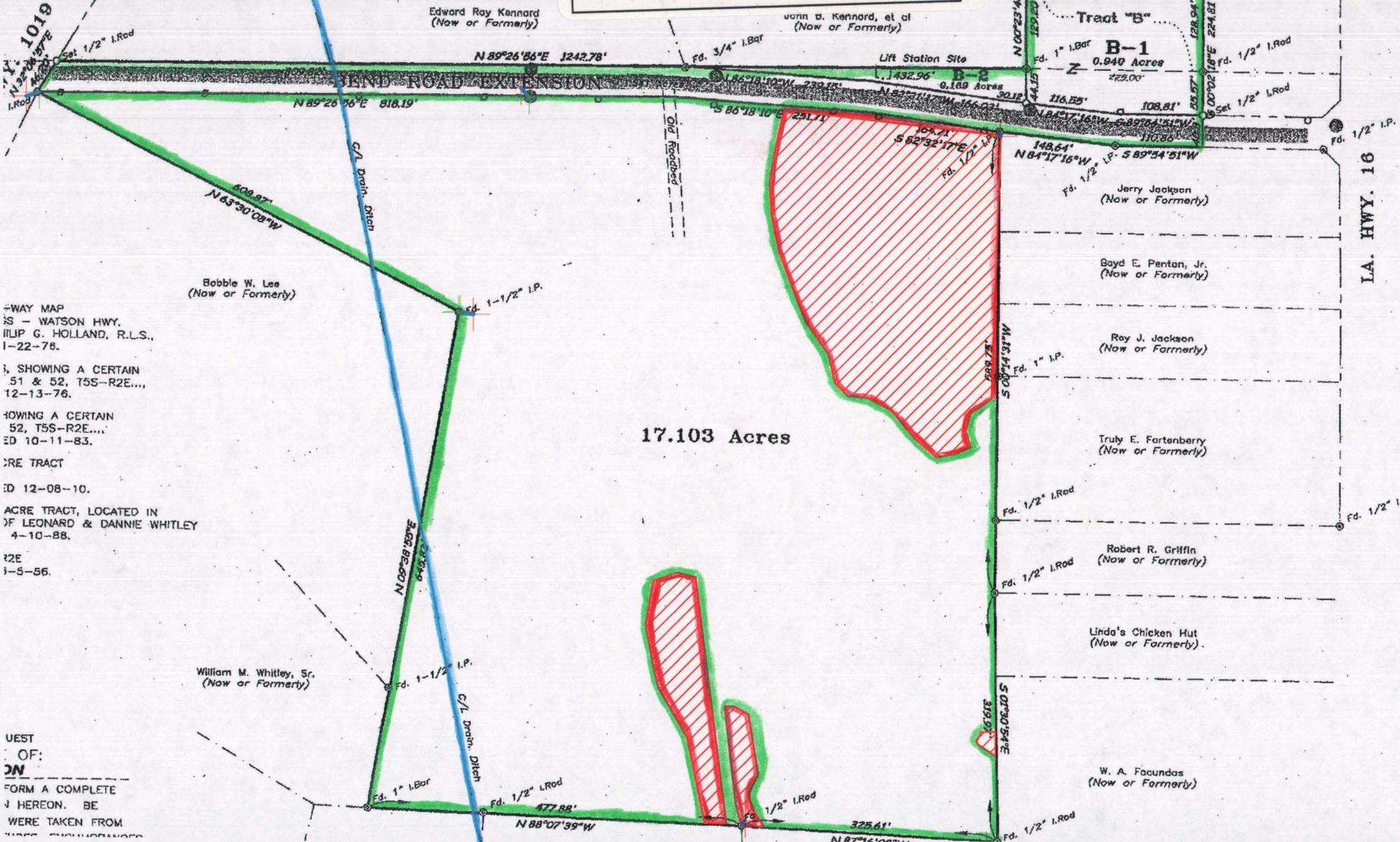
USACE  
 FSV / IH Date: 11-21-2013  
 Botanist: ms  
 Requestor: BRANNON  
 # MVN-2013-02389-SY

- WETLAND  
 - NON-WETLAND  
 - WATERS OF THE US 40Y



#1)  
 ELEVATION: N/A  
 DATE: 4/03/12

TION WAS NOT REQUESTED AND IS SURVEY.



-WAY MAP  
 3S - WATSON HWY.  
 HILIP G. HOLLAND, R.L.S.,  
 1-22-76.  
 SHOWING A CERTAIN  
 51 & 52, T5S-R2E...,  
 12-13-76.  
 SHOWING A CERTAIN  
 52, T5S-R2E...,  
 ED 10-11-83.  
 CORE TRACT  
 ID 12-08-10.  
 ACRE TRACT, LOCATED IN  
 OF LEONARD & DANNIE WHITLEY  
 4-10-88.  
 T2E  
 1-5-56.

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No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. Therefore, our office has no objection to the implementation of this project. This effect determination could change should new information come to our attention.



Phil Boggan  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

10/10/2016

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-4277-DR-LA  
Joint Field Office  
415 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802



FEMA

October 6, 2016

Mr. Phillip E. Boggan II  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism  
P.O. Box 44247  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Mr. Boggan,

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in response to the Presidentially declared Major Disaster Declaration FEMA-DR-4277-LA (Incident Period- August 11, 2016 to August 31, 2016) will be providing direct temporary housing assistance, or “direct assistance,” under the Individuals and Households Program, Sections 408 and 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended. Per 44 CFR Part 206, FEMA is authorized to provide temporary housing units directly to individuals and households who, because of a lack of available resources, are unable to make use of rental assistance for temporary housing.

As per the Programmatic Agreement among FEMA, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer, the Louisiana Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Caddo Nation, the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, executed August 17, 2009, and amended on July 22, 2011 (2009 Statewide PA as amended) ground-disturbing activities related to the construction of temporary housing sites are not included in the temporary housing activities included in Section 408: Federal Assistance to Individuals and Households (42 U.S.C. 5174) for which FEMA has no further Section 106 responsibilities per Stipulation I.C.1. of the 2009 Statewide PA as amended.

Manufactured Housing Units (MHU’s) are provided to eligible applicants in parishes only as a last resort when no other reasonable alternative exists for emergency housing. These actions may include placing sets of MHU’s at newly developed “Group Sites” located in impacted parishes. Group Sites are only approved when setting individual MHU’s on private property, or utilizing a previously developed commercial site are not available options. Livingston Parish has been identified as eligible for the installation of “Group Sites”.



Figure 1 Area Map Showing Major Roads and Streets near Proposed Project



Figure 2 Aerial Photo of Proposed Site and Vicinity



Figure 3 Photo of Existing Site Conditions



Figure 4 Photo of Existing Site Conditions

