

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR  
Rincon Temporary Housing Site  
Rincon Site #2 Baker Street Extension,  
Village of Rincon, Doña Ana County, New Mexico**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed Temporary Housing Site. The site would house disaster victims displaced as a result of damages from severe storms and flooding that began on July 26, 2006. Two New Mexico counties – Doña Ana and Otero – were declared eligible for federal disaster assistance. The Town of Hatch, Doña Ana County, sustained the most damage. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized under a Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-1659-DR-NM) to provide Federal assistance to designated disaster areas in New Mexico.

The proposed action includes developing an approximately 14-acre site (termed “Baker Street Extension”) for approximately 50 manufactured housing units to be located adjacent to and west of I-25 in Rincon, New Mexico. This property is contained within the Village of Rincon, New Mexico. Activities would include, where necessary, site clearing, grading, road construction, the placement of utilities (electricity, telephones, water, and sewer), and the transport and hook-up of manufactured homes to the site. Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a Draft EA was written to evaluate the proposed action’s potential impacts on the human and natural environment. In order to meet the urgent need of flood victims to find temporary housing, FEMA has conducted an expedited environmental review process to identify and address environmental issues. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action.

Due to the emergency nature of this action, the public comment period will be brief – October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Written comments on the Draft EA can be faxed to FEMA’s Area Field Office in Las Cruces, New Mexico at (505) 523-2124; or sent via email to NMEA@fema.gov. When responding by email, enter site number Rincon Site #2 in the subject field. Verbal comments will be accepted at (505) 523-2288 and TTY for hearing or speech impaired at 800-462-7585; between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. The draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA’s website at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm> The Draft EA is also available for public review at post office locations in Las Cruces, Hatch, Rincon, Rodey and Salem; the Hatch Public Library, 503 E. Hall Street, Hatch, NM 87937; and the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) located at 133 Franklin Street, Hatch, NM 87937. The DRC hours are 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Monday through Friday.

If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated 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.

***All other questions regarding disaster assistance or the availability of emergency housing should be directed to FEMA’s Teleregistration line at 800-621-3362.***