

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)
for the City of Bayou La Batre Redevelopment
Mobile County, Alabama
FEMA-1604-DR-AL**

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to assist in the funding of the redevelopment of the City of Bayou La Batre's housing and domestic and industrial wastewater infrastructure following extensive damages incurred from Hurricane Katrina.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's storm surge severely damaged the City of Bayou La Batre, Alabama. When the storm had passed, nearly 1,000 residents of the City's 2,300 citizens were homeless. Approximately 65% of all occupied housing units in the City were damaged or destroyed. In addition, the existing municipal wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) suffered severe damage from the storm surge and now runs at a reduced capacity.

Under the Proposed Action, FEMA would fund the development of two community housing projects, Safe Harbor Estates and Safe Harbor Landing. In addition, FEMA and HUD would fund the relocation of the City's WWTP to higher ground, and the construction of new influent/effluent lines and a lift station.

The City would use funds from FEMA's AHPP for the acquisition and development of a 13-acre parcel (Safe Harbor Landing) located adjacent to the Safe Harbor Estates site. The City would also use FEMA AHPP funds for the installation of AHPP housing units on land acquired and prepared using CDBG funds on a 39-acre site (Safe Harbor Estates) located at the intersection of Shine Road and State Highway 188 in Bayou La Batre.

These developments would be connected to the City's wastewater collection and treatment system. The City would use CDBG funds for the demolition and construction activities involved in the relocation of the WWTP. FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds will be added to the project to ensure the relocated WWTP is adequately protected from future hazards. In particular, FEMA's HMGP funding will be used for the elevation of the facility to the 500-year floodplain (the area subject to inundation from a flood having a 0.2 percent chance of occurring in any given year) requirements, minor flood control measures to protect the new WWTP, and construction of a new sewer pumping station (lift station) in the location of the demolished WWTP. Additional components that would be constructed in order for the new WWTP to be a functional system include: new influent lines, a lift station that would carry wastewater from the new pumping station to the new WWTP, and a new effluent pipe that would combine the City's waste discharge with the discharge of two seafood industry facilities. The new effluent line would discharge into the Mississippi Sound.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environmental, and potential environmental consequences for the proposed action. The Draft EA and its associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region4.shtm> or viewed and copied at the following locations:

- Bayou La Batre City Hall - 13785 South Wintzell Avenue, Bayou La Batre, Alabama
- City of Bayou La Batre Public Library - 12747 Padgett Switch Road Bayou La Batre, Alabama

This public notice also constitutes the final notice for the proposed action within the 100-year floodplain (*areas that have been determined to have a 1 percent probability of flooding in any given year*). Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), as implemented in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 9, requires FEMA to review its actions in floodplains or affecting the base floodplain elevation for practicable alternatives outside of the floodplain and to minimize future vulnerability from flooding. Mitigation measures have been identified within the EA and have been incorporated into the proposed action. Project location maps are available for viewing within the Draft EA.

The comment period will end 15 days from the initial notice publication date of December 11, 2007. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated FONSI will become final. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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