

APPENDIX A
Figures



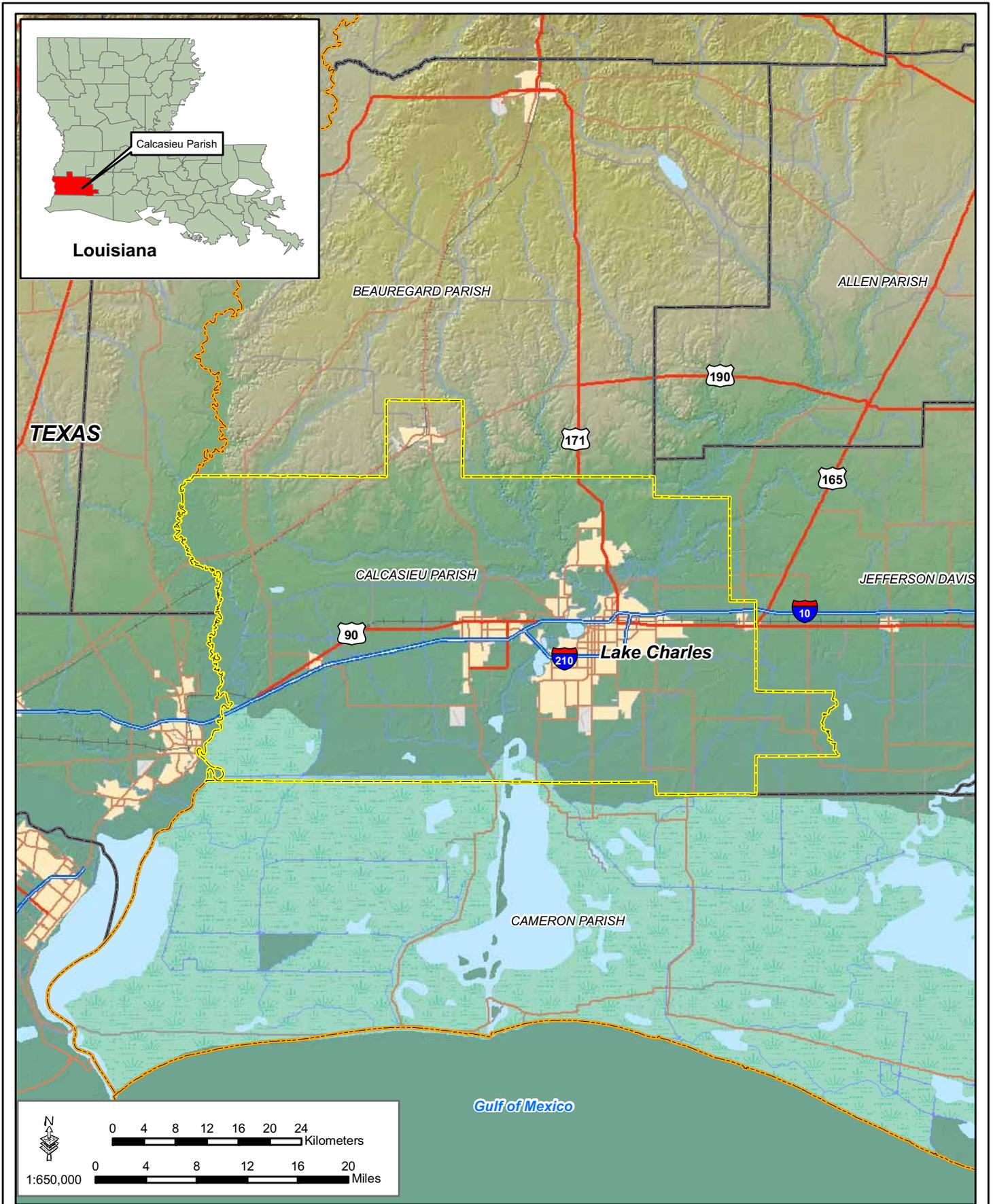


Figure 1: Vicinity Map

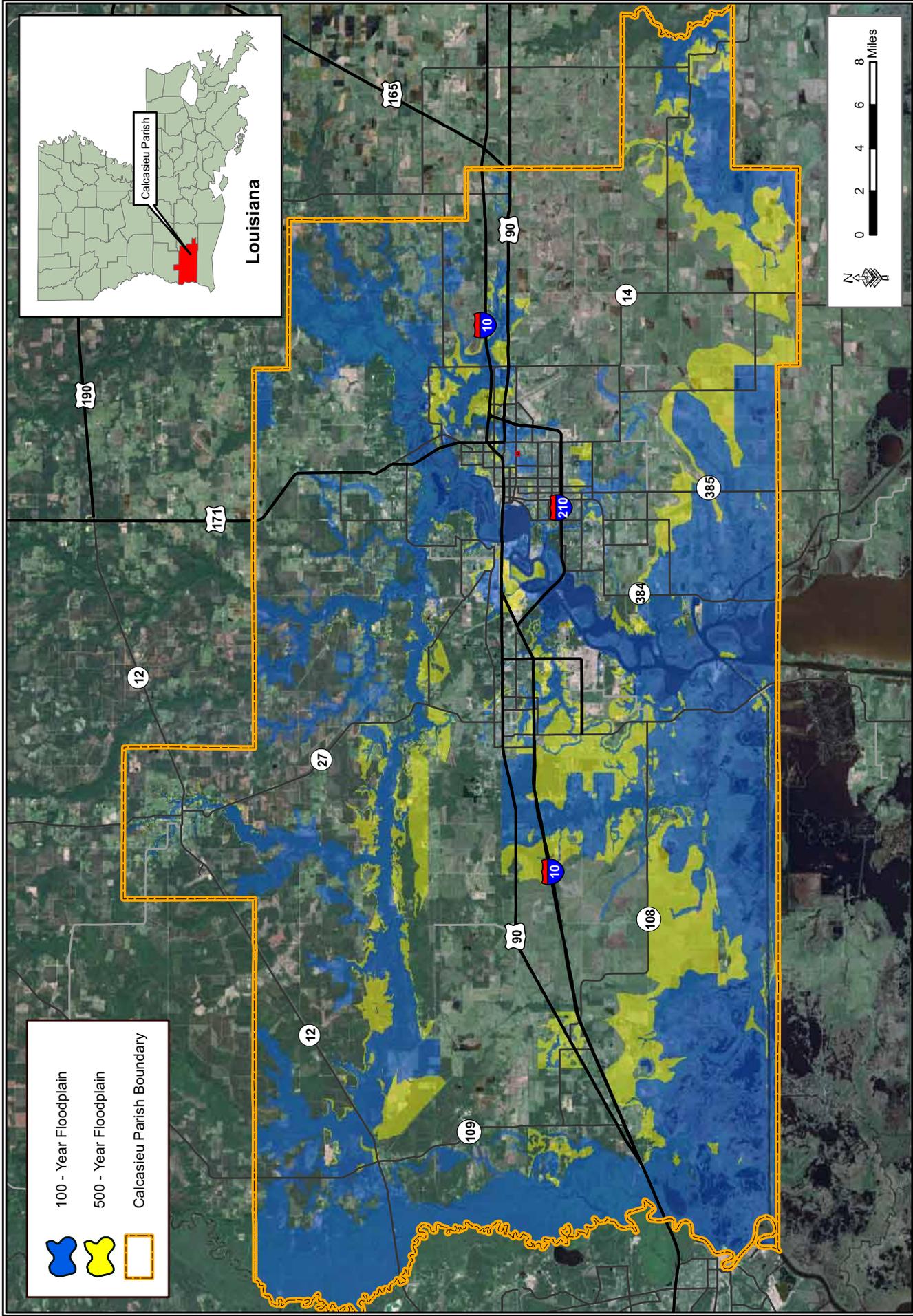


Figure 2: Calcasieu Parish Floodzones

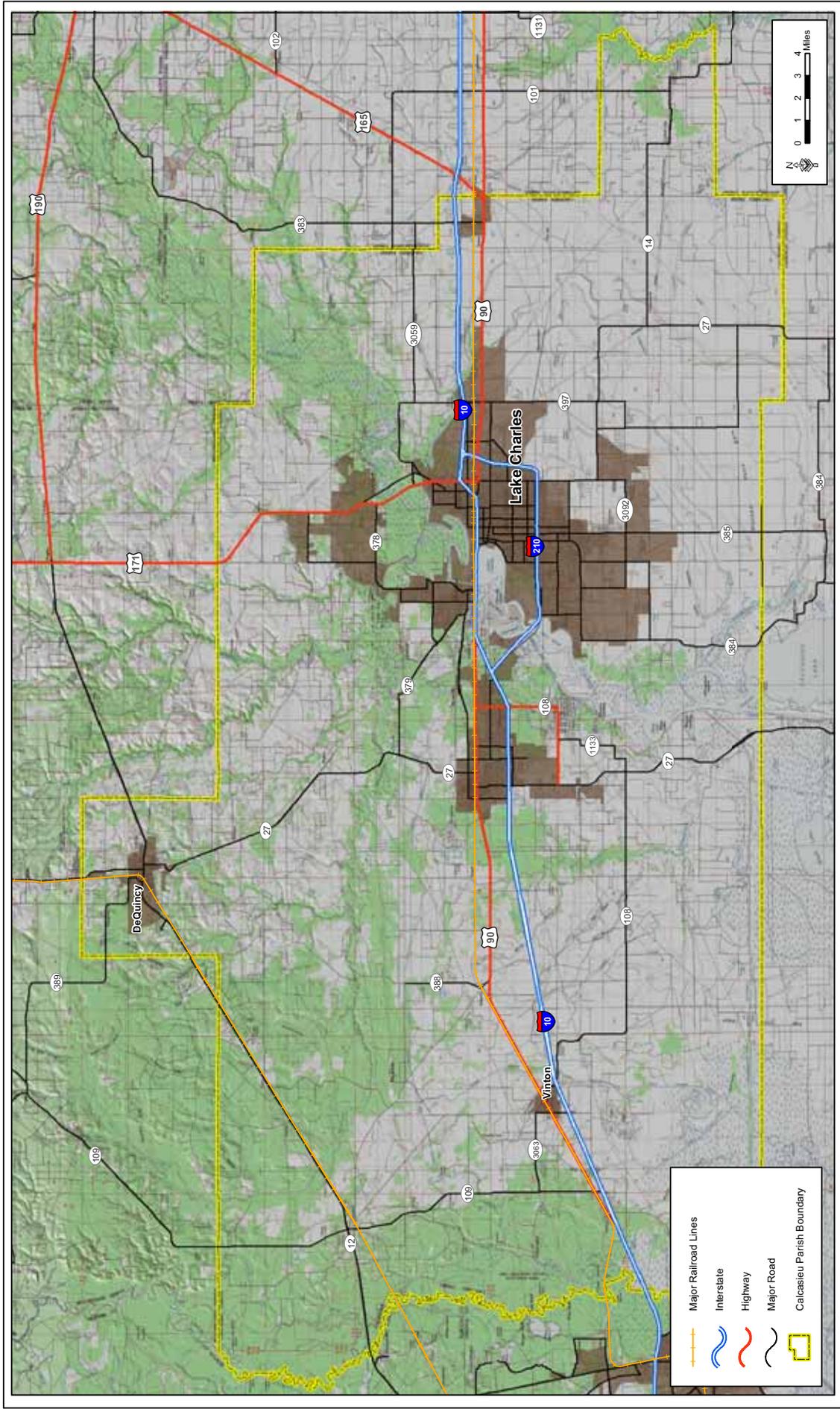


Figure 3: Transportation Map

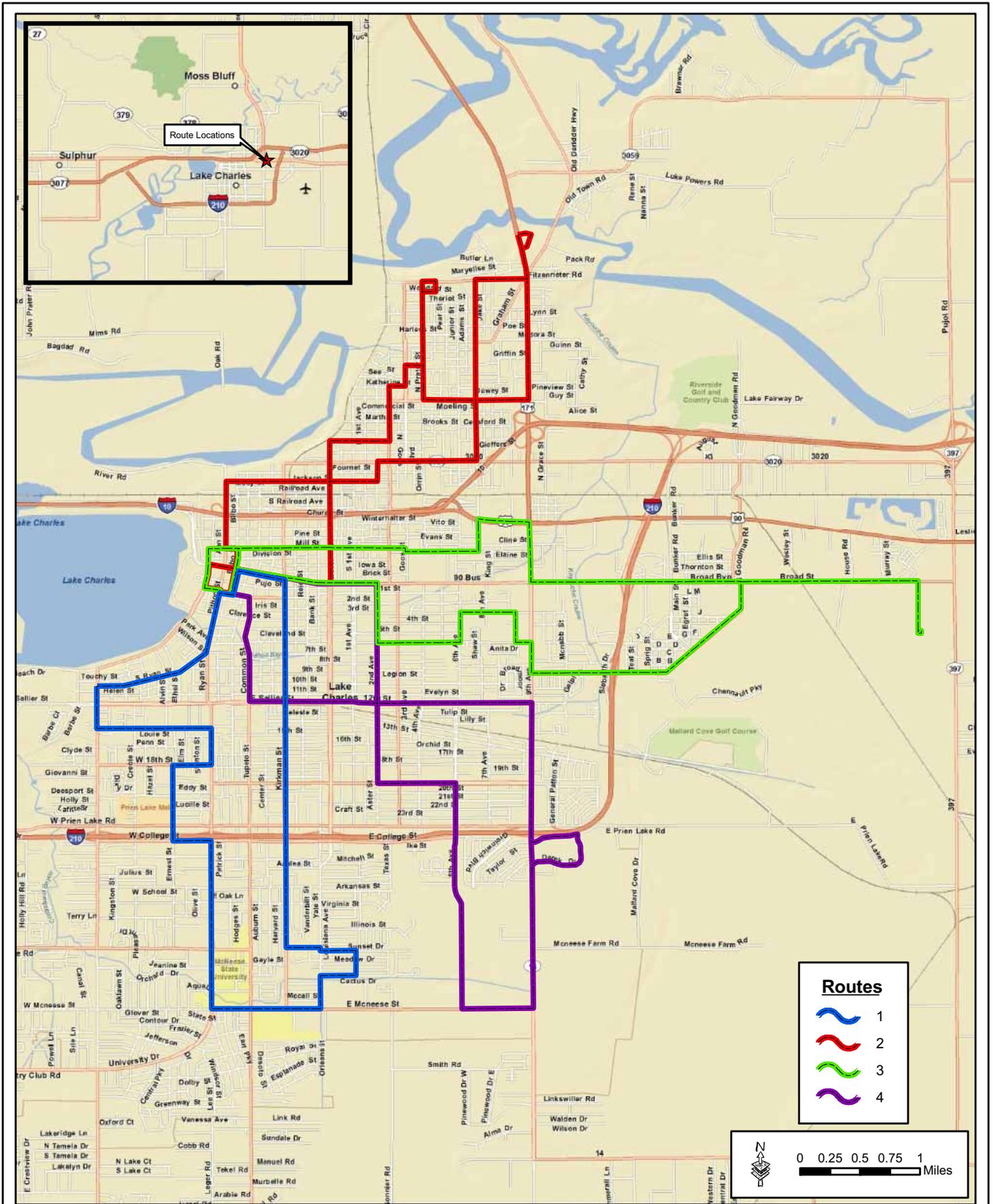


Figure 4: Mass Transit Routes within the City of Lake Charles

APPENDIX B
Correspondence



Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the "Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) in Calcasieu Parish, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The purpose of the PEA is to provide alternative disaster housing for families displaced during the 2005 hurricane season in southwest Louisiana that includes long-term and permanent solutions..

Three alternatives were proposed in the PEA, the No Action Alternative, Installation of Permanent AHPP Units on Previously Disturbed Land, and Installation of Permanent AHPP Units on Undeveloped Land. EPA reviewed the DEA relevant to the Clean Water Act, Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines and offers:

- EPA has no objection to the Installation of Permanent AHPP Units on Previously Disturbed Land Alternative due to the fact that "no wetlands would be impacted under this alternative," and would include land that was previously residential or agricultural. However, if there are any wetlands that may be affected by the proposed project, the appropriate permit application from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must be applied for and obtained and appropriate mitigation would be required for any wetlands that may be affected.

Thanks again for the opportunity to review and comment. If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to call.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

March 17, 2009

F/SER46/KC:jk
225/389-0508

Ms. Cynthia Teeter,
FEMA Deputy Environmental Officer
Environmental and Historic Preservation
1250 Poydras, 14th Floor
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

Dear Ms. Teeter:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received the draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) titled "Alternative Housing Pilot Program Permanent Housing, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana." The draft PEA evaluates the potential impacts associated with the land acquisition and construction of scattered homesites within Calcasieu Parish, predominately within the City of Lake Charles but potentially outside of the city.

NMFS has reviewed the draft PEA and agrees that the project is not located in an area classified as essential fish habitat or supportive of marine fishery resources. As such, we have no comments to provide on the draft EA and do not object to the completion of the FONSI.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the draft PEA and FONSI.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miles M. Croom".

for Miles M. Croom
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

c:
F/SER46, Swafford
Files





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
646 Cajundome Blvd.
Suite 400
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506



March 10, 2009

Ms. Cynthia Teeter
Environmental and Historic Preservation
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1250 Poydras Street, 14th Floor
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

Dear Ms. Teeter:

Please reference the letter dated March 3, 2009, requesting our review and comments regarding the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (DPEA) for the Alternative Housing Pilot Program, Permanent Housing for Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the DPEA and offers the following comments pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (54 Stat. 250, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 668a-d), and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (40 Stat. 775, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

The DPEA adequately describes fish and wildlife resources that occur in the project areas, as well as the purpose and need for the proposed action, and potential impacts associated with each alternative. The species addressed in this evaluation, which are federal trust resources under the jurisdiction of the Service's Louisiana Ecological Services Office are the red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), and the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).

The red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW), federally listed as an endangered species, is known to inhabit areas of Calcasieu Parish. RCWs inhabit open, park-like stands of mature (i.e., greater than 60 years of age) pine trees containing little hardwood understory or midstory. RCWs can tolerate small numbers of overstory hardwoods or large midstory hardwoods at low densities found naturally in many southern pine forests, but they are not tolerant of dense hardwood midstories resulting from fire suppression. RCWs excavate roost and nest cavities in large living pines (i.e., 10 inches or greater in diameter at breast height). The cavity trees and the foraging area within 200 feet of those trees are known as a cluster. Foraging habitat is defined as pine and pine-hardwood (i.e., 50

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percent or more of the dominant trees are pine trees) stands over 30 years of age that are located contiguous to and within one-half mile of the cluster.

If a proposed project area does not contain suitable nesting and/or foraging habitat as defined above, further consultation with the Service for this project will not be necessary. If suitable nesting and/or foraging habitat does exist, however, all suitable nesting habitat within a one-half mile radius from the project boundary should be carefully surveyed by a qualified biologist for the presence of RCW clusters in accordance with the RCW Recovery Plan (2003) survey protocol. We recommend that you provide this office with a copy of the survey report, which should include the following details:

1. survey methodology including dates, qualifications of personnel, size of survey area, and transect density;
2. pine stand characteristics including number of acres of suitable nesting and/or foraging habitat, tree species, basal area and number of pine stems 10 inches or greater per acre, percent cover of pine trees greater than 60 years of age, species of dominant vegetation within each canopy layer, understory conditions and species composition (several representative photographs should be included);
3. number of active and inactive RCW cavity trees observed and the condition of the cavities (e.g., resin flow, shape of cavity, start-holes);
4. presence or absence of RCWs; and
5. topographic quadrangle maps which illustrate areas of adequate RCW nesting and/or foraging habitat, cluster sites, and cavity tree locations relative to proposed construction activities.

If no RCW clusters are found within a one-half mile radius of a project boundary, a request for our concurrence with your effect determination, as well as the basis for your determination, should be included with the survey report. If we concur with a determination of "no effect" or "not likely to adversely affect", no further consultation with this office will be necessary. If RCW clusters are found in the surveyed areas, however, then further consultation with this office is recommended.

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), which has officially been removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species, continues to be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). Bald eagles nest in Louisiana from October through mid-May. Eagles typically nest in mature trees (e.g., bald cypress, sycamore, willow, etc.) near fresh to intermediate marshes or open water in the southeastern Parishes. Currently, there are known bald eagle nests in Clacasiou Parish. Since bald eagles can move their nests from one season to the next, and since other eagles could have moved into the area, there may be other bald eagle nests present that are not currently registered in our database.

Areas with high numbers of nests include the Lake Verret Basin south to Houma, the marsh/ridge complex south of Houma to Bayou Vista, the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, and the Lake Salvador area. Eagles also winter, and infrequently nest, in mature pine trees near large lakes in central and northern Louisiana. Major threats to this species include habitat alteration, human disturbance, and environmental contaminants (i.e., organochlorine pesticides and lead).

Breeding bald eagles occupy "territories" that they will typically defend against intrusion by other eagles, and that they likely return to each year. A territory may include one or more alternate nests that are built and maintained by the eagles, but which may not be used for nesting in a given year. Potential nest trees within a nesting territory may, therefore, provide important alternative bald eagle nest sites. In forested areas, bald eagles often select the tallest trees with limbs strong enough to support a nest that may weigh more than 1,000 pounds. Most nests are located in the upper 30 feet of the tree; the cone-shaped nest may be 6 to 8 feet in diameter and 6 to 8 feet from top to bottom. Nest sites typically include at least one perch with a clear view of the water or area where the eagles usually forage. Shoreline trees or snags located near large waterbodies provide the visibility and accessibility needed to locate aquatic prey. Bald eagles are vulnerable to disturbance during courtship, nest building, egg laying, incubation, and brooding. Disturbance during this critical period may lead to nest abandonment, cracked and chilled eggs, and exposure of small young to the elements. Human activity near a nest late in the nesting cycle may also cause flightless birds to jump from the nest tree, thus reducing their chance of survival.

The Service developed the National Bald Eagle Management (NBEM) Guidelines to provide landowners, land managers, and others with information and recommendations to minimize potential project impacts to bald eagles, particularly where such impacts may constitute "disturbance," which is prohibited by the BGEPA. A copy of the NBEM Guidelines is available at:

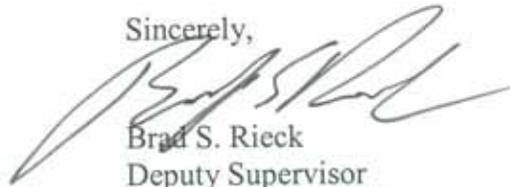
<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle/NationalBaldEagleManagementGuidelines.pdf>

f. Those guidelines recommend: (1) maintaining a specified distance between the activity and the nest (buffer area); (2) maintaining natural areas (preferably forested) between the activity and nest trees (landscape buffers); and (3) avoiding certain activities during the breeding season. On-site personnel should be informed of the possible presence of nesting bald eagles within the project boundary, and should identify, avoid, and immediately report any such nests to this office. If a bald eagle nest is discovered within or adjacent to the proposed project area, then an evaluation must be performed to determine whether the project is likely to disturb nesting bald eagles. That evaluation may be conducted on-line at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle>. Following completion of the evaluation, that website will provide a determination of whether additional consultation is necessary. The Division of Migratory Birds for the Southeast Region of the Service (phone: 404/679-7051, e-mail: SEmigratorybirds@fws.gov) has the lead role in conducting such consultations. Should you need further assistance interpreting the guidelines or performing an on-line project evaluation, please contact this office.

The proposed project may impact wetlands. For a complete jurisdictional wetland delineation of the proposed project sites, please contact Mr. Robert Heffner (504/861-2274) at the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). If the Corps determines that the proposed project is within their regulatory jurisdiction, official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service comments will be provided in response to the corresponding Public Notice.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments in the planning stages of these proposed activities. If you need further assistance, please contact Jim Gruhala (337/291-3110) of this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad S. Rieck', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Brad S. Rieck
Deputy Supervisor
Louisiana Field Office

cc: LDWF, Natural Heritage Program, Baton Rouge, LA



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MAR 06 2009

Operations Division
Operations Manager
Completed Works

Ms. Denise Rousseau Ford
Gulf South Research Corporation
8081 GSRI Avenue
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70820

Dear Ms. Ford:

This is in response to your Solicitation of Views request dated March 3, 2009, concerning the acquisition of land and the construction of 40 to 55 scattered homesites within Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, as part of Federal Emergency Management Agency, Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP).

We have performed a cursory review of your request for potential Department of the Army regulatory requirements and impacts on any Department of the Army projects.

We do not anticipate any adverse impacts to any Corps of Engineers projects.

Insufficient information has been provided to make a complete and accurate determination of our Department of the Army regulatory jurisdiction or to assess the need for a Department of the Army permit. Please note that any mechanized land clearing or deposition of fill material or debris in a wetland or other waters of the United States would require a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. All work in navigable or tidal waters will also require a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Additional information for each individual site will be needed before a final determination can be made.

Off-site locations of activities such as borrow, disposals, haul-and detour-roads and work mobilization site developments may be subject to Department of the Army regulatory requirements and may have an impact on a Department of the Army project.

Please contact Mr. Robert Heffner, of our Regulatory Branch by telephone at (504) 862-2274, or by e-mail at Robert.A.Heffner@usace.army.mil for questions concerning wetlands determinations or need for on-site evaluations. Questions concerning regulatory permit requirements may be addressed to Mr. Ronnie Duke by telephone at (504) 862-2261 or by e-mail at Ronnie.W.Duke@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Oberlies
Solicitation of Views Manager



February 26, 2009

Josh Marceaux
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
646 Cajundome Boulevard, Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506-4290

RE: Project review for the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Alternative Housing Pilot Program in Calcasieu Parish, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Dear Mr. Marceaux:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the acquisition of land and the construction of scattered homesites within Calcasieu Parish, predominately within the City of Lake Charles but potentially outside of the city, on the Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Housing Project.

Recognizing the extensive and complex housing challenges facing victims and communities as a result of the 2005 hurricane season and acknowledging the limitations on FEMA's ordinary statutory authority to provide non-temporary housing solutions, Congress appropriated funds to the Department of Homeland Security to support alternative housing pilot programs (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2006, Public Law 109-234). The AHPP represents a one-time exception to FEMA's existing authority under the Stafford Act, which legally binds FEMA to a temporary housing mission reliant primarily on travel trailers and manufactured homes, by providing an opportunity to explore, implement, and evaluate innovative approaches to housing solutions, and to address ongoing housing challenges created by the 2005 hurricane season in the U.S. Gulf Coast region, including the State of Louisiana and specifically Calcasieu Parish. As of January 2009, there are 144 mobile homes, 349 manufactured housing, and 25 park model houses still occupied by residents displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Calcasieu Parish. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

The LRA proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the land acquisition and construction of approximately 55 single-family, permanent housing units (Louisiana Cottages) scattered throughout Calcasieu Parish but predominately within the City of Lake Charles (Figure 1).

FEMA determined that the recurring proposed actions that require an Environmental Assessment can be grouped by the nature and location of the proposed actions. These actions can be evaluated through a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR Part 1500 and 44 CFR Part 10) without developing an EA for every action. FEMA determined that a PEA can be prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts of LRA's proposed housing initiative in Calcasieu Parish.

Currently, FEMA and the LRA are proposing three alternatives for this project, one no action and two action alternatives which are defined below.

Alternative 1: No Action Alternative. Persons who are receiving temporary resources would continue to do so. The No Action Alternative is defined as maintaining the *status quo*, with no FEMA funding for long-term or permanent housing. This alternative evaluates the effects of not providing long-term or permanent housing and provides a benchmark against which the action alternatives may be evaluated.

Alternative 2: Installation of Permanent AHPP Unit(s) on Previously Disturbed Land. This alternative would require the purchase of land and the installation of AHPP cottage units on previously disturbed land. Previously disturbed land would include land that was previously residential or agricultural. The site would be cleared of all debris and vegetation, then grubbed, contoured, and graded, if necessary. Projects under this alternative may require ground disturbing activities, including the demolition of former housing structures, slab/foundation removal, the modification of utilities (*i.e.*, utility lines, septic systems, water wells), and the construction of entryways (driveways, sidewalks, *etc.*). All units would be located outside of the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA). If located within the 100-year floodplain, the City of Lake Charles would require AHPP units be elevated above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Outside of Lake Charles city limits, units would be elevated above the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE).

Alternative 3: Installation of Permanent AHPP Unit(s) on Undeveloped Land. Under this alternative, the LRA would purchase the land and install AHPP cottage units on undeveloped land. The site would be cleared of all debris and vegetation, then grubbed, contoured, and graded, if necessary. Projects under this alternative may require ground disturbing activities including site preparation (clearing of debris and vegetation), the modification of utilities (*i.e.*, utility lines, septic systems, water wells), and the construction of entryways (driveways, sidewalks, *etc.*). All units would be located outside of the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA). If located within the 100-year floodplain, the City of Lake Charles would require AHPP units be elevated above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Outside of Lake Charles city limits, units would be elevated above the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE).

Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC) has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the proposed project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, GSRC requests that your agency review the proposed project and provide comments and any available information or resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Denise Rousseau Ford by phone: (225) 757-8088, by email: dford@gsrcorp.com, or by fax: (225) 761-8077.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Rousseau Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "R".

Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure

RE: 80420001s

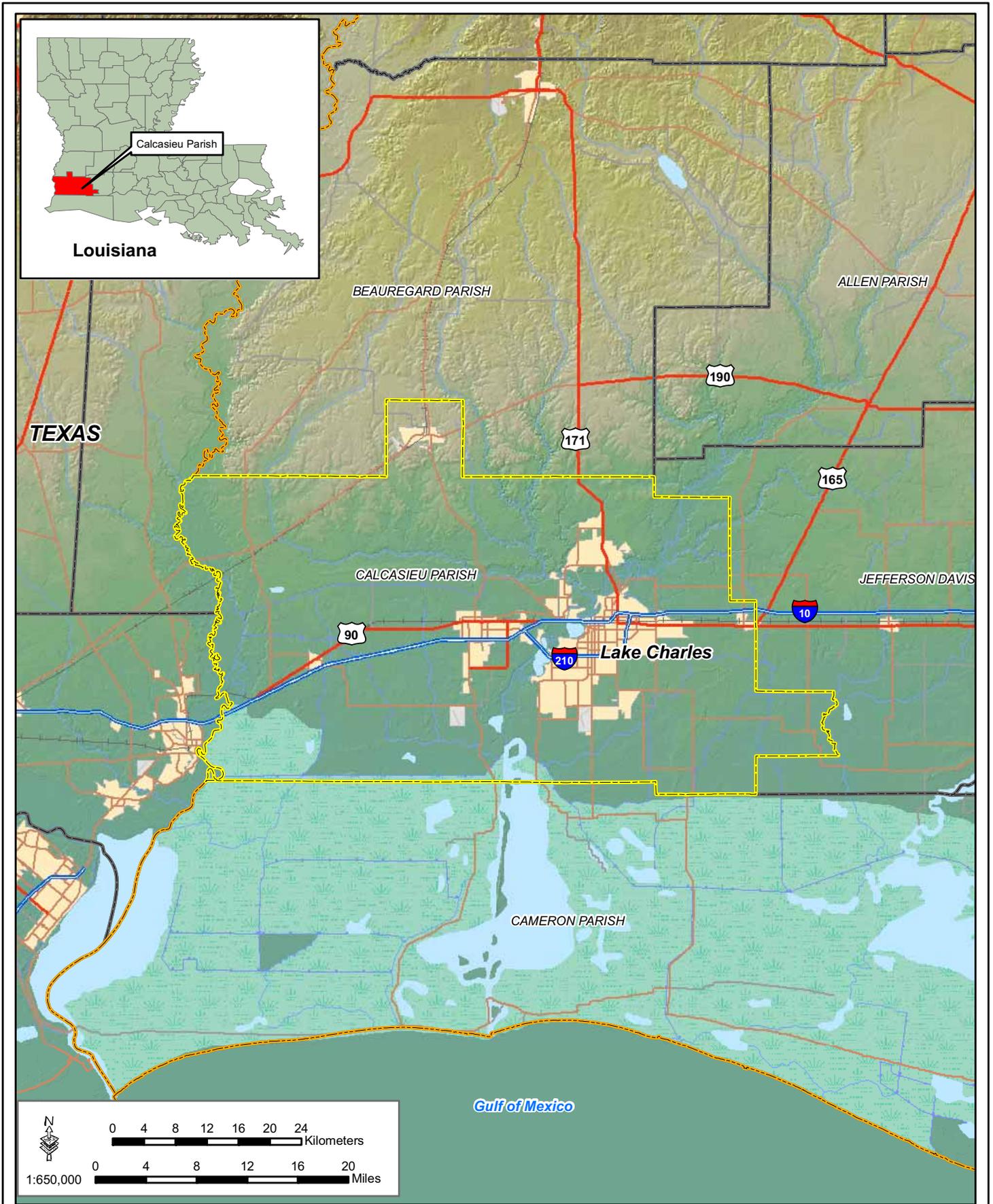


Figure 1: Vicinity Map



February 26, 2009

Richard Hartman
National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
NMFS CASC Route: Atmospheric Administration
C/O LSU Center for Wetland Research
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-7535

RE: Project review for the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Alternative Housing Pilot Program in Calcasieu Parish, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Dear Mr. Hartman:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the acquisition of land and the construction of scattered homesites within Calcasieu Parish, predominately within the City of Lake Charles but potentially outside of the city, on the Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Housing Project.

Recognizing the extensive and complex housing challenges facing victims and communities as a result of the 2005 hurricane season and acknowledging the limitations on FEMA's ordinary statutory authority to provide non-temporary housing solutions, Congress appropriated funds to the Department of Homeland Security to support alternative housing pilot programs (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2006, Public Law 109-234). The AHPP represents a one-time exception to FEMA's existing authority under the Stafford Act, which legally binds FEMA to a temporary housing mission reliant primarily on travel trailers and manufactured homes, by providing an opportunity to explore, implement, and evaluate innovative approaches to housing solutions, and to address ongoing housing challenges created by the 2005 hurricane season in the U.S. Gulf Coast region, including the State of Louisiana and specifically Calcasieu Parish. As of January 2009, there are 144 mobile homes, 349 manufactured housing, and 25 park model houses still occupied by residents displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Calcasieu Parish. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

The LRA proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the land acquisition and construction of approximately 55 single-family, permanent housing units (Louisiana Cottages) scattered throughout Calcasieu Parish but predominately within the City of Lake Charles (Figure 1).

FEMA determined that the recurring proposed actions that require an Environmental Assessment can be grouped by the nature and location of the proposed actions. These actions can be evaluated through a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR Part 1500 and 44 CFR Part 10) without developing an EA for every action. FEMA determined that a PEA can be prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts of LRA's proposed housing initiative in Calcasieu Parish.

Currently, FEMA and the LRA are proposing three alternatives for this project, one no action and two action alternatives which are defined below.

Alternative 1: No Action Alternative. Persons who are receiving temporary resources would continue to do so. The No Action Alternative is defined as maintaining the *status quo*, with no FEMA funding for long-term or permanent housing. This alternative evaluates the effects of not providing long-term or permanent housing and provides a benchmark against which the action alternatives may be evaluated.

Alternative 2: Installation of Permanent AHPP Unit(s) on Previously Disturbed Land. This alternative would require the purchase of land and the installation of AHPP cottage units on previously disturbed land. Previously disturbed land would include land that was previously residential or agricultural. The site would be cleared of all debris and vegetation, then grubbed, contoured, and graded, if necessary. Projects under this alternative may require ground disturbing activities, including the demolition of former housing structures, slab/foundation removal, the modification of utilities (*i.e.*, utility lines, septic systems, water wells), and the construction of entryways (driveways, sidewalks, *etc.*). All units would be located outside of the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA). If located within the 100-year floodplain, the City of Lake Charles would require AHPP units be elevated above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Outside of Lake Charles city limits, units would be elevated above the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE).

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Rousseau Ford". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure

RE: 80420001s



February 26, 2009

Tammy Mick
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Fountain Place 11th Floor, MC 6WQ
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

RE: Project review for the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Alternative Housing Pilot Program in Calcasieu Parish, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Dear Ms. Mick:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the acquisition of land and the construction of scattered homesites within Calcasieu Parish, predominately within the City of Lake Charles but potentially outside of the city, on the Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Housing Project.

Recognizing the extensive and complex housing challenges facing victims and communities as a result of the 2005 hurricane season and acknowledging the limitations on FEMA's ordinary statutory authority to provide non-temporary housing solutions, Congress appropriated funds to the Department of Homeland Security to support alternative housing pilot programs (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2006, Public Law 109-234). The AHPP represents a one-time exception to FEMA's existing authority under the Stafford Act, which legally binds FEMA to a temporary housing mission reliant primarily on travel trailers and manufactured homes, by providing an opportunity to explore, implement, and evaluate innovative approaches to housing solutions, and to address ongoing housing challenges created by the 2005 hurricane season in the U.S. Gulf Coast region, including the State of Louisiana and specifically Calcasieu Parish. As of January 2009, there are 144 mobile homes, 349 manufactured housing, and 25 park model houses still occupied by residents displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Calcasieu Parish. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

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Currently, FEMA and the LRA are proposing three alternatives for this project, one no action and two action alternatives which are defined below.

Alternative 1: No Action Alternative. Persons who are receiving temporary resources would continue to do so. The No Action Alternative is defined as maintaining the *status quo*, with no FEMA funding for long-term or permanent housing. This alternative evaluates the effects of not providing long-term or permanent housing and provides a benchmark against which the action alternatives may be evaluated.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Rousseau Ford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" and "F".

Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure

RE: 80420001s



February 26, 2009

Amy Powell
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
PO Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160

RE: Project review for the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Alternative Housing Pilot Program in Calcasieu Parish, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Dear Ms. Powell:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the acquisition of land and the construction of scattered homesites within Calcasieu Parish, predominately within the City of Lake Charles but potentially outside of the city, on the Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Housing Project.

Recognizing the extensive and complex housing challenges facing victims and communities as a result of the 2005 hurricane season and acknowledging the limitations on FEMA's ordinary statutory authority to provide non-temporary housing solutions, Congress appropriated funds to the Department of Homeland Security to support alternative housing pilot programs (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2006, Public Law 109-234). The AHPP represents a one-time exception to FEMA's existing authority under the Stafford Act, which legally binds FEMA to a temporary housing mission reliant primarily on travel trailers and manufactured homes, by providing an opportunity to explore, implement, and evaluate innovative approaches to housing solutions, and to address ongoing housing challenges created by the 2005 hurricane season in the U.S. Gulf Coast region, including the State of Louisiana and specifically Calcasieu Parish. As of January 2009, there are 144 mobile homes, 349 manufactured housing, and 25 park model houses still occupied by residents displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Calcasieu Parish. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

The LRA proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the land acquisition and construction of approximately 55 single-family, permanent housing units (Louisiana Cottages) scattered throughout Calcasieu Parish but predominately within the City of Lake Charles (Figure 1).

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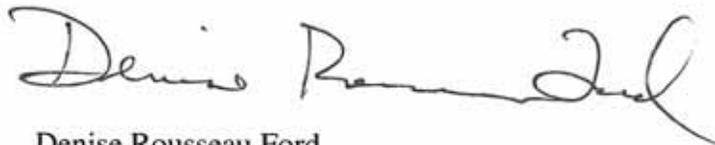
Alternative 1: No Action Alternative. Persons who are receiving temporary resources would continue to do so. The No Action Alternative is defined as maintaining the *status quo*, with no FEMA funding for long-term or permanent housing. This alternative evaluates the effects of not providing long-term or permanent housing and provides a benchmark against which the action alternatives may be evaluated.

Alternative 2: Installation of Permanent AHPP Unit(s) on Previously Disturbed Land. This alternative would require the purchase of land and the installation of AHPP cottage units on previously disturbed land. Previously disturbed land would include land that was previously residential or agricultural. The site would be cleared of all debris and vegetation, then grubbed, contoured, and graded, if necessary. Projects under this alternative may require ground disturbing activities, including the demolition of former housing structures, slab/foundation removal, the modification of utilities (*i.e.*, utility lines, septic systems, water wells), and the construction of entryways (driveways, sidewalks, *etc.*). All units would be located outside of the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA). If located within the 100-year floodplain, the City of Lake Charles would require AHPP units be elevated above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Outside of Lake Charles city limits, units would be elevated above the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE).

Alternative 3: Installation of Permanent AHPP Unit(s) on Undeveloped Land. Under this alternative, the LRA would purchase the land and install AHPP cottage units on undeveloped land. The site would be cleared of all debris and vegetation, then grubbed, contoured, and graded, if necessary. Projects under this alternative may require ground disturbing activities including site preparation (clearing of debris and vegetation), the modification of utilities (*i.e.*, utility lines, septic systems, water wells), and the construction of entryways (driveways, sidewalks, *etc.*). All units would be located outside of the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA). If located within the 100-year floodplain, the City of Lake Charles would require AHPP units be elevated above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). Outside of Lake Charles city limits, units would be elevated above the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE).

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Rousseau Ford". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure

RE: 80420001s



February 26, 2009

Ed Giering
Soil Conservationist
Natural Resource Conservation Services
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302

RE: Project review for the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Alternative Housing Pilot Program in Calcasieu Parish, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Dear Mr. Giering:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the acquisition of land and the construction of scattered homesites within Calcasieu Parish, predominately within the City of Lake Charles but potentially outside of the city, on the Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Housing Project.

Recognizing the extensive and complex housing challenges facing victims and communities as a result of the 2005 hurricane season and acknowledging the limitations on FEMA's ordinary statutory authority to provide non-temporary housing solutions, Congress appropriated funds to the Department of Homeland Security to support alternative housing pilot programs (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2006, Public Law 109-234). The AHPP represents a one-time exception to FEMA's existing authority under the Stafford Act, which legally binds FEMA to a temporary housing mission reliant primarily on travel trailers and manufactured homes, by providing an opportunity to explore, implement, and evaluate innovative approaches to housing solutions, and to address ongoing housing challenges created by the 2005 hurricane season in the U.S. Gulf Coast region, including the State of Louisiana and specifically Calcasieu Parish. As of January 2009, there are 144 mobile homes, 349 manufactured housing, and 25 park model houses still occupied by residents displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in Calcasieu Parish. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

The LRA proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the land acquisition and construction of approximately 55 single-family, permanent housing units (Louisiana Cottages) scattered throughout Calcasieu Parish but predominately within the City of Lake Charles (Figure 1).

FEMA determined that the recurring proposed actions that require an Environmental Assessment can be grouped by the nature and location of the proposed actions. These actions can be evaluated through a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR Part 1500 and 44 CFR Part 10) without developing an EA for every action. FEMA determined that a PEA can be prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts of LRA's proposed housing initiative in Calcasieu Parish.

Currently, FEMA and the LRA are proposing three alternatives for this project, one no action and two action alternatives which are defined below.

Alternative 1: No Action Alternative. Persons who are receiving temporary resources would continue to do so. The No Action Alternative is defined as maintaining the *status quo*, with no FEMA funding for long-term or permanent housing. This alternative evaluates the effects of not providing long-term or permanent housing and provides a benchmark against which the action alternatives may be evaluated.

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Sincerely,

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Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure

RE: 80420001s



February 26, 2009

Kyle Balkum
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Run
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

RE: Project review for the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Alternative Housing Pilot Program in Calcasieu Parish, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Dear Mr. Balkum:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the acquisition of land and the construction of scattered homesites within Calcasieu Parish, predominately within the City of Lake Charles but potentially outside of the city, on the Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Housing Project.

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Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure

RE: 80420001s



February 26, 2009

Jamie Phillippe
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
PO Box 4313
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313

RE: Project review for the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Alternative Housing Pilot Program in Calcasieu Parish, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Dear Mr. Phillippe:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the acquisition of land and the construction of scattered homesites within Calcasieu Parish, predominately within the City of Lake Charles but potentially outside of the city, on the Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Housing Project.

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Project Manager

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