



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

July 22, 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 Environmental Assessment (EA) titled "Alternative Housing Pilot Program, Fisher (Algiers) Group Housing Site, New Orleans, Louisiana." The draft EA evaluates the potential impacts associated with construction of approximately 124 permanent single-family units within the Fischer Group Housing Site located in the New Orleans West Bank neighborhood of Algiers in Orleans Parish, Louisiana.

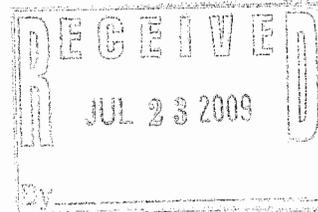
NMFS has reviewed the draft EA and agrees that the project is not located in an area classified as essential fish habitat or supportive of marine fishery resources. As such, we have no comments to provide on the draft EA.

Sincerely,

for Miles M. Croom
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

c:
F/SER46, Swafford
Files





July 15, 2009

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. Jim Boggs
646 Cajundome Boulevard, Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506-4290

RE: Draft Environmental Assessment for the Alternative Housing Pilot Program, Fischer (Algiers) Group Housing Site, New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Boggs:

Recognizing the extensive and complex housing challenges facing victims and communities as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and acknowledging the limitations on Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) 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 Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) represents a one-time exception to FEMA's existing authority under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance 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 states of the Gulf Coast region, including the State of Louisiana, and specifically in the southernmost parishes.

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) has applied for FEMA funding under the AHPP to provide permanent housing solutions for eligible applicant families displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and its implementing regulations 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1500 and 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA has prepared a draft EA to evaluate the environmental consequences of providing permanent housing to displaced residents of New Orleans and other southern parishes by the AHPP. This draft environmental assessment (EA) analyzes a no action alternative and a proposed action alternative. The proposed action alternative would include construction of approximately 124 permanent single-family AHPP units (Louisiana Cottages) within the Fischer Group Housing Site located in the New Orleans West Bank neighborhood of Algiers, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The proposed project site is owned by Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) and comprised of approximately 128 lots, not all of which would have AHPP housing.

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-90.042037

Jim Boggs
July 15, 2009
Page 2

The approximate 20-acre plot has previously been utilized by HANO in the mid 1960s as high density multi-family government housing, which has since been demolished. Living areas of the proposed Louisiana Cottages would range from 874 square feet (sq ft) to 1,525 sq ft. In general, utilities, roads, and lights have been previously constructed per earlier HANO redevelopment plans; however, installation of electrical power would be required for all areas to the west of LB Landry Avenue and would require trenching to install power to each individual housing unit lot. The Louisiana Cottages would be built on piers to bring them up to the required advisory base flood elevation of 3 feet above mean sea level, as necessary. A fence would partially enclose the project area and driveways would be constructed to facilitate access and parking for the AHPP cottages.

Based on the NEPA analysis, FEMA has determined that this draft EA and the associated draft Finding of No Significant Impact fully and accurately describes the impacts to the human and natural environment.

At this time, FEMA requests that your agency review the enclosed document which is also available to your agency and the public by downloading from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm>. Any concerns raised will be addressed in the EA, and formal consultation, if necessary, will allow for your review of the final document.

We would appreciate any available information under your agency's jurisdiction to assist us in efforts to aid in the approval of this EA. The 15-day public comment period will begin on July 17, 2009 and end on July 31, 2009. Please submit your comments to Cynthia Teeter by mail to Environmental and Historic Preservation, 1250 Poydras Street, 14th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70114, Fax to (504) 762-2670, or email to Cynthia.Teeter@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



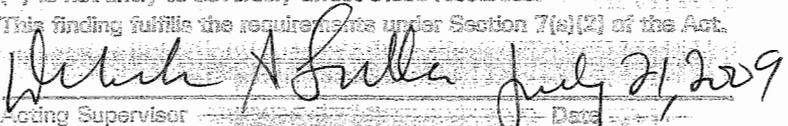
Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

Enclosure

RE: 80420001s

This project has been reviewed for effects to Federal trust resources under our jurisdiction and currently protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act). The project, as proposed, will have no effect on those resources is not likely to adversely affect those resources.

This finding fulfills the requirements under Section 7(e)(2) of the Act.


Acting Supervisor
Louisiana Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Ms. Wynecta Fisher
CZM Administrator, City of New Orleans
Office of Environmental Affairs, Local Coastal Program
1340 Poydras Street, 10th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70112

July 10, 2009

RE: Project Review for the Environmental Assessment for Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish, Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program Group Housing Project

Dear Ms. Fisher:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the construction of the Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish, Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Group Housing Project.

Recognizing the extensive and complex housing challenges facing victims and communities as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, 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 (DHS) 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 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act which legally binds FEMA to a temporary housing mission, 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 states of the Gulf Coast region, including the State of Louisiana, especially in the southernmost parishes such as Orleans Parish. The LRA has applied for FEMA funding under the AHPP to provide permanent housing solutions within Orleans Parish for eligible applicant families displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In Orleans Parish, as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, there were approximately 89,799 individuals housed in 23,343 temporary housing units. As of May 1, 2009, the FEMA mission for temporary housing solutions has phased out; however, there are still 667 temporary housing units occupied in Orleans Parish. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

The LRA proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the construction of approximately 124 single-family, permanent housing units within an approximate 20-acre plot of land in the New Orleans West Bank neighborhood of Algiers, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The proposed project site is bound by Semmes Street to the north, General De Gaulle Drive to the south, the U S Highway 90 to the east, and Thayer Avenue to the west (Figure 1). LB

Landry Avenue runs through the center of the proposed site. The approximately 20-acre plot was previously utilized by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), as multi-family government housing from the 1960s, which has since been demolished. The proposed project site is presently owned by HANO and comprised of approximately 129 lots, although not all of the lots are a part of the FEMA AHPP project. Portions of the proposed project site have been partially redeveloped by HANO through separate phases of the overall redevelopment of the property. Existing infrastructure including roads and municipal utility services are present at the proposed project site. The proposed site consists of previously disturbed land, which has been filled, cleared, and graded and is sparsely re-vegetated with grass.

The proposed AHPP units would be designed in the Louisiana Cottage style and would consist of a mixture of units with living areas ranging from 874 square feet (sq ft) to 1,200 sq ft, with several cottages which can be expanded to a living area of 1,525 sq ft. Project activities would include minimal grading, the tie-in of utilities to the cottages from existing lot site utilities, and the construction of driveways. Main access to the proposed development would be from LB Landry Avenue. The proposed site is within the 100-year floodplain, and the advisory base flood elevation (ABFE) is approximately 3 feet above mean sea level. As required by FEMA, the AHPP units would be built above the ABFE. The ABFE would be attained through the construction the AHPP units on elevated piers, as necessary. FEMA is currently evaluating the potential floodplain impacts through both the NEPA process and the Eight-Step Planning Process as described in 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, to ensure its actions are consistent with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management.

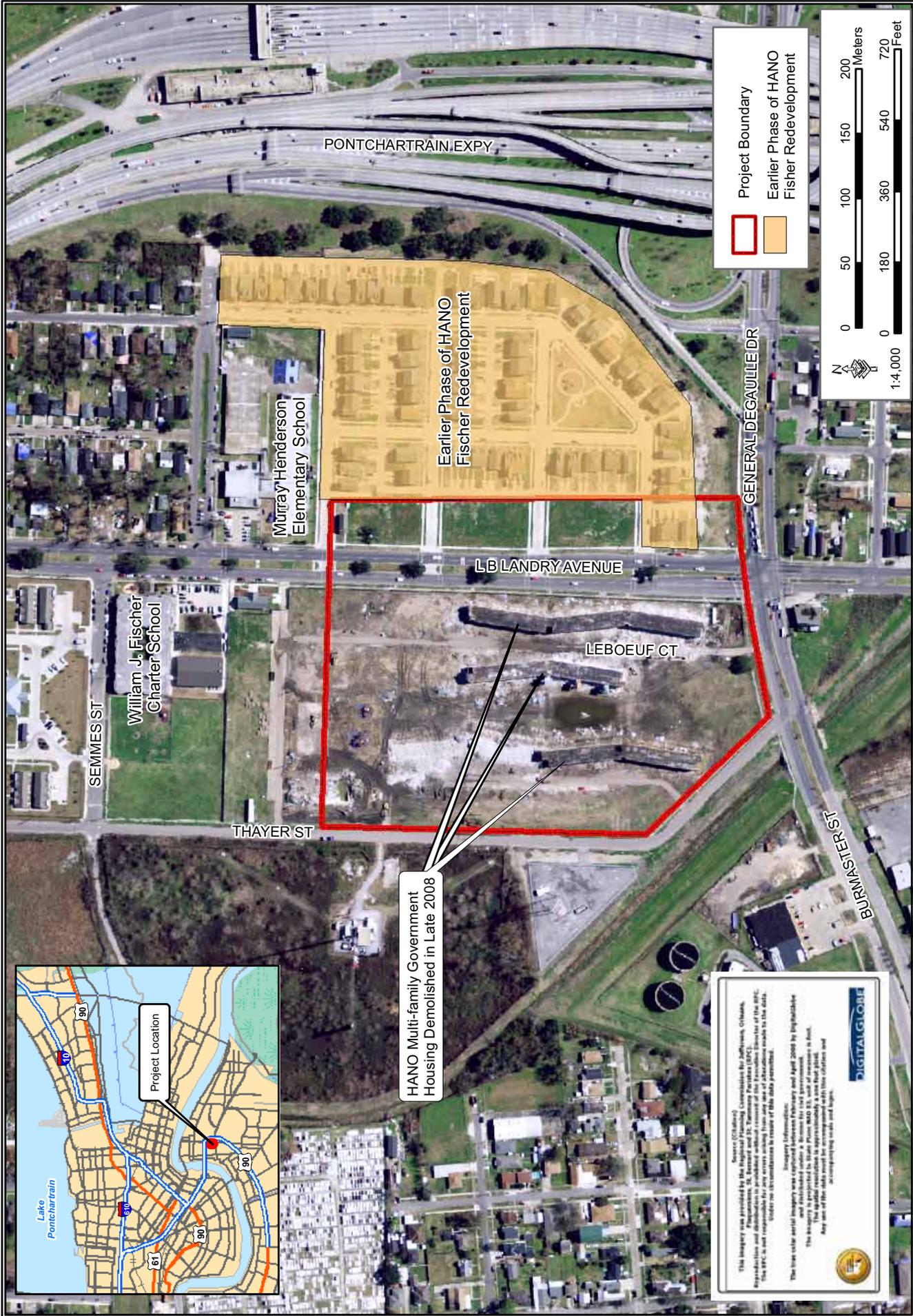
Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC) has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment for the proposed project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, GSRC requests that your agency review the proposed project and provide comments and any available 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 fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

Enclosure
RE: 80420001s



HANO Multi-family Government Housing Demolished in Late 2008

This imagery was provided by the following companies for Jefferson, Oklahoma, Fayetteville, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes (BPC), and the Louisiana and Mississippi state departments of Transportation (DOT) and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD). The data was provided to us under no circumstances to be used for any other purpose.

Imagery Information:
 The base color aerial imagery was captured between February and April 2008 by DigitalGlobe and distributed under a license to the user. The imagery is provided as a service to the user. The user acknowledges that the imagery is not guaranteed to be accurate and that the user assumes all liability for any use of the data. Any use of the data must be accompanied with the citation used.

DIGITALGLOBE

Project Boundary
 Earlier Phase of HANO Fisher Redevelopment

0 50 100 150 200 Meters
 0 180 360 540 720 Feet
 1:4,000

Figure 1: Project Location Map



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

ANGELE DAVIS
COMMISSIONER
OF ADMINISTRATION

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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150 North 3rd Street Suite 200
Baton Rouge, LA 70801
225.342.1700 [p] • 225.342.1726 [f]
www.lra.louisiana.gov

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



July 9, 2009

Cynthia Teeter
Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer
Federal Emergency Management Administration
Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office

Dear Ms. Teeter,

For the purpose of using the State Historic Preservation Office information compiled for the 2004 HUD review of the Fischer site, this letter verifies that all 20 acres of the site are intended to be used by the Alternative Housing Pilot Program in the same manner as it was intended to be used for HANO housing.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Wil Jacobs
Housing Policy Director

cc: Denise Rousseau Ford
Sherron Jones
Jessica Anderson

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302

(318) 473-7795
Fax: (318) 473-7750

May 12, 2009

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

Dear Ms. Ford:

RE: **FISHER (ALGIERS) GROUP SITE
ORLEANS PARISH, LOUISIANA ALTERNATIVE
HOUSING PILOT PROGRAM GROUP HOUSING PROJECT**

Thank you for providing our agency with the opportunity to respond to your letter wherein you requested our comments regarding the above-mentioned project.

The area is considered an urban area and is "built-up", thus there will be no impact to prime farmland and it appears the project will not impact any NRCS work in the immediate area. Also, this project will not impact any farmland protection efforts in the area.

Further, we do not believe there will be an adverse effect on the surrounding environment provided appropriate erosion control measures are taken during construction.

Should you have questions regarding the above comments, please feel free to contact Mike Trusclair, District Conservationist in our Boutte Field Office, at phone number (985) 758-2162, Ext. 3.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. J. Giering III".

E. J. "Ed" Giering III, P.E.
State Conservation Engineer

cc: Mike Trusclair, District Conservationist, NRCS, Boutte, Louisiana



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

APR - 9 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 10, 2009, on behalf of Louisiana Recovery Authority, concerning the construction of the Fischer (Algiers) group site at New Orleans, Louisiana, in Orleans Parish.

We have reviewed 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.

Based on review of recent maps, aerial photography, and soils data, we have determined that this property is not in a wetland subject to Corps of Engineers jurisdiction. A Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will not be required for the deposition or redistribution of dredged or fill material on this site.

Please be advised that this property is in the Louisiana Coastal Zone. For additional information regarding coastal permit requirements, contact Ms. Christine Charrier, Coastal Management Division, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources at (225) 342-7591.

You and your client are advised that this approved 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.

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. Michael Farabee by telephone at (504) 862-2292 or by e-mail at Michael.V.Farabee@usace.army.mil.

Future correspondence concerning this matter should reference our account number MVN-2009-00627-SK. This will allow us to more easily locate records of previous correspondence, and thus provide a quicker response.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Oberlies
Solicitation of Views Manager

Copy Furnished:

Ms. Christine Charrier
Coastal Zone Management
Department of Natural Resources
Post Office Box 44487
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4487

Denise Rousseau Ford

From: Diane Hewitt [Diane.Hewitt@LA.GOV]
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 12:44 PM
To: Denise Rousseau Ford
Subject: DEQ SOV:090316/0530 Fischer (Algiers) Group Site

April 6, 2009

Denise Rousseau Ford, Proj. Mgr.
Gulf South Research Corp.
1081 GSRI Ave.
Baton Rouge, LA 70820
dford@gsrcorp.com

RE:

090316/0530	Fischer (Algiers) Group Site
	FEMA
	Orleans Parish

Dear Ms. Ford:

The Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment and Office of Environmental Services received your request for comments on the above referenced project. Please take the appropriate steps to obtain and/or update all necessary approvals and environmental permits regarding this proposed project.

There were no objections based on the limited information submitted to us. However, the following comments have been included. Should you encounter a problem during the implementation of this project, please make the appropriate notification to this Department.

The Office of Environmental Services/Permits Division recommends that you investigate the following requirements that may influence your proposed project:

- If your project results in a discharge to waters of the state, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) application may be necessary.
- If the project results in a discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify their LPDES permit before accepting the additional wastewater.
- LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that you contact Melissa Conti at (225) 219-3078 to determine if your proposed improvements require one of these permits.
- All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities.
- If any of the proposed work is located in wetlands or other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you should contact the Corps to inquire about the possible necessity for permits. If a Corps permit is required, part of the application process may involve a Water Quality Certification from LDEQ.
- All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.
- Please be advised that water softeners generate waste waters that may require special limitations depending on local water quality considerations. Therefore if your water system improvements include water softeners, you are advised to contact DEQ, Water Permits to determine if special water quality based limitations will be necessary
- Any renovation or remodeling must comply with LAC 33:III.Chapter 28.Lead-Based Paint Activities, LAC 33:III.Chapter 27.Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools and State Buildings (includes all training and accreditation) and LAC 33:III.5151.Emission Standard for Asbestos for any renovations or demolitions.

Currently, Orleans Parish is classified as an attainment parish with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for all criteria air pollutants.

Please forward all future requests to Ms. Diane Hewitt, LDEQ/Performance Management/ P.O. Box 4301, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301 and we will expedite it as quickly as possible.

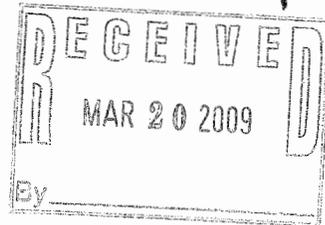
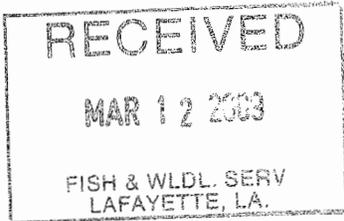
4/29/2009

If you have any questions, please contact me at (225)219-4079 or by email at diane.hewitt@la.gov. Permitting questions should be directed to the Office of Environmental Services at 225-219-3181.

Sincerely,

Diane Hewitt
LDEQ/Community and Industry Relations
Business and Community Outreach Division
Office of the Secretary
P.O. Box 4301 (602 N. 5th Street)
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301
Phone: 225-219-4079
Fx: 225-325-8208
Email: diane.hewitt@la.gov

Patti



This project has been reviewed for effects to Federal trust resources under our jurisdiction and currently protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act). The project, as proposed, Will have no effect on those resources is not likely to adversely affect those resources. This finding fulfills the requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the Act.

March 10, 2009

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

Debra A. Fuller March 18, 2009
Acting Supervisor Date
Louisiana Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

RE: Request for Project Review—Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish, Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program Group Housing Project

Dear Mr. Marceaux:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the construction of the Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish, Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Group 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 (AHPP) (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2006, PL 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 Orleans Parish. As of March 3, 2009, there were 1,167 families leased into temporary housing units in Orleans Parish due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. There are currently 13 mobile homes, 1,101 travel trailers, and 53 park model units occupied by residents in Orleans Parish displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

The LRA proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the construction of approximately 105 single-family, permanent housing units within an approximate 20-acre plot of land in the New Orleans West Bank neighborhood of Algiers, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The

proposed project site is bound by Semmes Street to the north, General De Gaulle Drive to the south, the Mississippi River to the east, and Thayer Avenue to the west (Figure 1). LB Landry Avenue runs through the center of the proposed site. The approximately 20-acre plot has previously been utilized by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), as multi-family government housing from the 1960s, which has since been demolished. The proposed project site is presently owned by HANO and comprised of approximately 129 lots, although not all of the lots are a part of the FEMA AHPP project. Portions of the proposed project site have been partially redeveloped by HANO through separate phases of the overall redevelopment of the property. Existing infrastructure including roads and municipal utility service are present at the proposed project site. The proposed site consists of previously disturbed land, which has been filled, cleared, and graded and is sparsely re-vegetated with grasses.

The proposed AHPP units would be designed in the Louisiana Cottage-style and would consist of a mixture of units with living areas ranging from 874 square feet (sq ft) to 1,200 sq ft, with several cottages which can be expanded to a living area of 1,525 sq ft. Project activities would include minimal grading, the tie-in of utilities to the cottages from existing lot site utilities, and the construction of driveways. Main access to the proposed development would be from LB Landry Avenue. The proposed site is within the 100-year floodplain, and the advisory base flood elevation (ABFE) is approximately 3 feet above mean sea level. As required by FEMA, the AHPP units would be built above the ABFE. The ABFE would be attained through the addition of fill material, the construction the AHPP units on piers, or through a combination of both. FEMA is currently evaluating the potential floodplain impacts through both the NEPA process and the Eight-Step Planning Process as described in 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, to ensure its actions are consistent with Executive Order 11988.

Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC) has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In compliance with 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,



Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure
RE: 80420001s



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY
JIMMY L. ANTHONY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Date March 16, 2009

Name Denise Rousseau Ford

Company Gulf South Research Corporation

Street Address 8081 GSRI Avenue

City, State, Zip Baton Rouge, LA 70820

Project Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program Group Housing Project
Fischer (Algiers) Group Site
Orleans Parish, LA

Project ID 1132009

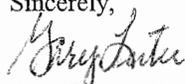
Invoice Number 09031604

Personnel of the Habitat Section of the Coastal & Non-Game Resources Division have reviewed the preliminary data for the captioned project.

The proposed project lies within the designated coastal management zone. Contact Christine Charrier with the Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Division at 225-342-7591 or 1-800-267-4019 concerning coastal use permits.

After careful review of our database, no other impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the proposed projects. No state or federal parks, wildlife refuges, scenic streams, or wildlife management areas are known at the specified site within Louisiana's boundaries.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) has compiled data on rare, endangered, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, plant communities, and other natural features throughout the state of Louisiana. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known at the time of the request regarding the location in question. The quantity and quality of data collected by the LNHP are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals. In most cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; many natural areas in Louisiana have not been surveyed. This report does not address the occurrence of wetlands at the site in question. Heritage reports should not be considered final statements on the biological elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. LNHP requires that this office be acknowledged in all reports as the source of all data provided here. If at any time Heritage tracked species are encountered within the project area, please contact the LNHP Data Manager at 225-765-2643. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please call 225-765-2357.

Sincerely,

Gary Lester, Coordinator
Natural Heritage Program

cc: Christine Charrier

Denise Rousseau Ford

From: Kimberly Clements [Kimberly.Clements@noaa.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 10:08 AM
To: Denise Rousseau Ford
Subject: Project Review:Fisher (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish, Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program Group Housing Project

Denise,

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received your letter dated March 10, 2009, to review and provide comments on the project proposal located on the Fisher (Algiers) Group Site in Orleans Parish under the Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP). The letter states that the Louisiana Recovery Authority proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the construction of approximately 105 single-family, permanent housing units within an approximate 20-acre plot of land in the New Orleans West Bank neighborhood of Algiers, Orleans Parish, Louisiana.

NMFS has reviewed the letter and agrees that the project boundary is located in area of previously disturbed land that is not classified as essential fish habitat or supportive of marine fishery resources. As such, we have no comments to provide on the letter for this project review.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments on the project. If you wish to discuss the project further or have questions, please contact Kimberly Clements at (225) 389-0508, extension 204.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Clements
NOAA Fisheries



March 10, 2009

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

**RE: Request for Project Review—Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish,
Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program Group Housing Project**

Dear Mr. Hartman:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the construction of the Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish, Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Group 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 (AHPP) (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2006, PL 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 Orleans Parish. As of March 3, 2009, there were 1,167 families leased into temporary housing units in Orleans Parish due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. There are currently 13 mobile homes, 1,101 travel trailers, and 53 park model units occupied by residents in Orleans Parish displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

The LRA proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the construction of approximately 105 single-family, permanent housing units within an approximate 20-acre plot of land in the New Orleans West Bank neighborhood of Algiers, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The

proposed project site is bound by Semmes Street to the north, General De Gaulle Drive to the south, the Mississippi River to the east, and Thayer Avenue to the west (Figure 1). LB Landry Avenue runs through the center of the proposed site. The approximately 20-acre plot has previously been utilized by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), as multi-family government housing from the 1960s, which has since been demolished. The proposed project site is presently owned by HANO and comprised of approximately 129 lots, although not all of the lots are a part of the FEMA AHPP project. Portions of the proposed project site have been partially redeveloped by HANO through separate phases of the overall redevelopment of the property. Existing infrastructure including roads and municipal utility service are present at the proposed project site. The proposed site consists of previously disturbed land, which has been filled, cleared, and graded and is sparsely re-vegetated with grasses.

The proposed AHPP units would be designed in the Louisiana Cottage-style and would consist of a mixture of units with living areas ranging from 874 square feet (sq ft) to 1,200 sq ft, with several cottages which can be expanded to a living area of 1,525 sq ft. Project activities would include minimal grading, the tie-in of utilities to the cottages from existing lot site utilities, and the construction of driveways. Main access to the proposed development would be from LB Landry Avenue. The proposed site is within the 100-year floodplain, and the advisory base flood elevation (ABFE) is approximately 3 feet above mean sea level. As required by FEMA, the AHPP units would be built above the ABFE. The ABFE would be attained through the addition of fill material, the construction the AHPP units on piers, or through a combination of both. FEMA is currently evaluating the potential floodplain impacts through both the NEPA process and the Eight-Step Planning Process as described in 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, to ensure its actions are consistent with Executive Order 11988.

Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC) has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In compliance with 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,



Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure
RE: 80420001s



March 10, 2009

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

**RE: Request for Project Review—Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish,
Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program Group Housing Project**

Dear Ms. Mick:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the construction of the Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish, Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Group 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 (AHPP) (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2006, PL 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 Orleans Parish. As of March 3, 2009, there were 1,167 families leased into temporary housing units in Orleans Parish due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. There are currently 13 mobile homes, 1,101 travel trailers, and 53 park model units occupied by residents in Orleans Parish displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

The LRA proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the construction of approximately 105 single-family, permanent housing units within an approximate 20-acre plot of land in the New Orleans West Bank neighborhood of Algiers, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The

proposed project site is bound by Semmes Street to the north, General De Gaulle Drive to the south, the Mississippi River to the east, and Thayer Avenue to the west (Figure 1). LB Landry Avenue runs through the center of the proposed site. The approximately 20-acre plot has previously been utilized by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), as multi-family government housing from the 1960s, which has since been demolished. The proposed project site is presently owned by HANO and comprised of approximately 129 lots, although not all of the lots are a part of the FEMA AHPP project. Portions of the proposed project site have been partially redeveloped by HANO through separate phases of the overall redevelopment of the property. Existing infrastructure including roads and municipal utility service are present at the proposed project site. The proposed site consists of previously disturbed land, which has been filled, cleared, and graded and is sparsely re-vegetated with grasses.

The proposed AHPP units would be designed in the Louisiana Cottage-style and would consist of a mixture of units with living areas ranging from 874 square feet (sq ft) to 1,200 sq ft, with several cottages which can be expanded to a living area of 1,525 sq ft. Project activities would include minimal grading, the tie-in of utilities to the cottages from existing lot site utilities, and the construction of driveways. Main access to the proposed development would be from LB Landry Avenue. The proposed site is within the 100-year floodplain, and the advisory base flood elevation (ABFE) is approximately 3 feet above mean sea level. As required by FEMA, the AHPP units would be built above the ABFE. The ABFE would be attained through the addition of fill material, the construction the AHPP units on piers, or through a combination of both. FEMA is currently evaluating the potential floodplain impacts through both the NEPA process and the Eight-Step Planning Process as described in 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, to ensure its actions are consistent with Executive Order 11988.

Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC) has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In compliance with 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,



Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure
RE: 80420001s



March 10, 2009

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

**RE: Request for Project Review—Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish,
Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program Group Housing Project**

Dear Ms. Powell:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the construction of the Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish, Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Group 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 (AHPP) (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2006, PL 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 Orleans Parish. As of March 3, 2009, there were 1,167 families leased into temporary housing units in Orleans Parish due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. There are currently 13 mobile homes, 1,101 travel trailers, and 53 park model units occupied by residents in Orleans Parish displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

The LRA proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the construction of approximately 105 single-family, permanent housing units within an approximate 20-acre plot of land in the New Orleans West Bank neighborhood of Algiers, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The

proposed project site is bound by Semmes Street to the north, General De Gaulle Drive to the south, the Mississippi River to the east, and Thayer Avenue to the west (Figure 1). LB Landry Avenue runs through the center of the proposed site. The approximately 20-acre plot has previously been utilized by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), as multi-family government housing from the 1960s, which has since been demolished. The proposed project site is presently owned by HANO and comprised of approximately 129 lots, although not all of the lots are a part of the FEMA AHPP project. Portions of the proposed project site have been partially redeveloped by HANO through separate phases of the overall redevelopment of the property. Existing infrastructure including roads and municipal utility service are present at the proposed project site. The proposed site consists of previously disturbed land, which has been filled, cleared, and graded and is sparsely re-vegetated with grasses.

The proposed AHPP units would be designed in the Louisiana Cottage-style and would consist of a mixture of units with living areas ranging from 874 square feet (sq ft) to 1,200 sq ft, with several cottages which can be expanded to a living area of 1,525 sq ft. Project activities would include minimal grading, the tie-in of utilities to the cottages from existing lot site utilities, and the construction of driveways. Main access to the proposed development would be from LB Landry Avenue. The proposed site is within the 100-year floodplain, and the advisory base flood elevation (ABFE) is approximately 3 feet above mean sea level. As required by FEMA, the AHPP units would be built above the ABFE. The ABFE would be attained through the addition of fill material, the construction the AHPP units on piers, or through a combination of both. FEMA is currently evaluating the potential floodplain impacts through both the NEPA process and the Eight-Step Planning Process as described in 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, to ensure its actions are consistent with Executive Order 11988.

Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC) has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In compliance with 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,



Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure
RE: 80420001s



March 10, 2009

Ed Giering
Soil Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Services
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, LA 71302-3327

**RE: Request for Project Review—Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish,
Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program Group Housing Project**

Dear Mr. Giering:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the construction of the Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish, Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Group 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 (AHPP) (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2006, PL 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 Orleans Parish. As of March 3, 2009, there were 1,167 families leased into temporary housing units in Orleans Parish due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. There are currently 13 mobile homes, 1,101 travel trailers, and 53 park model units occupied by residents in Orleans Parish displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

The LRA proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the construction of approximately 105 single-family, permanent housing units within an approximate 20-acre plot of land in the New Orleans West Bank neighborhood of Algiers, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The

proposed project site is bound by Semmes Street to the north, General De Gaulle Drive to the south, the Mississippi River to the east, and Thayer Avenue to the west (Figure 1). LB Landry Avenue runs through the center of the proposed site. The approximately 20-acre plot has previously been utilized by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), as multi-family government housing from the 1960s, which has since been demolished. The proposed project site is presently owned by HANO and comprised of approximately 129 lots, although not all of the lots are a part of the FEMA AHPP project. Portions of the proposed project site have been partially redeveloped by HANO through separate phases of the overall redevelopment of the property. Existing infrastructure including roads and municipal utility service are present at the proposed project site. The proposed site consists of previously disturbed land, which has been filled, cleared, and graded and is sparsely re-vegetated with grasses.

The proposed AHPP units would be designed in the Louisiana Cottage-style and would consist of a mixture of units with living areas ranging from 874 square feet (sq ft) to 1,200 sq ft, with several cottages which can be expanded to a living area of 1,525 sq ft. Project activities would include minimal grading, the tie-in of utilities to the cottages from existing lot site utilities, and the construction of driveways. Main access to the proposed development would be from LB Landry Avenue. The proposed site is within the 100-year floodplain, and the advisory base flood elevation (ABFE) is approximately 3 feet above mean sea level. As required by FEMA, the AHPP units would be built above the ABFE. The ABFE would be attained through the addition of fill material, the construction the AHPP units on piers, or through a combination of both. FEMA is currently evaluating the potential floodplain impacts through both the NEPA process and the Eight-Step Planning Process as described in 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, to ensure its actions are consistent with Executive Order 11988.

Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC) has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In compliance with 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,



Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure
RE: 80420001s



March 10, 2009

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

**RE: Request for Project Review—Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish,
Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program Group Housing Project**

Dear Mr. Balkum:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the construction of the Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish, Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Group 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 (AHPP) (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2006, PL 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 Orleans Parish. As of March 3, 2009, there were 1,167 families leased into temporary housing units in Orleans Parish due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. There are currently 13 mobile homes, 1,101 travel trailers, and 53 park model units occupied by residents in Orleans Parish displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

The LRA proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the construction of approximately 105 single-family, permanent housing units within an approximate 20-acre plot of land in the New Orleans West Bank neighborhood of Algiers, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The

proposed project site is bound by Semmes Street to the north, General De Gaulle Drive to the south, the Mississippi River to the east, and Thayer Avenue to the west (Figure 1). LB Landry Avenue runs through the center of the proposed site. The approximately 20-acre plot has previously been utilized by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), as multi-family government housing from the 1960s, which has since been demolished. The proposed project site is presently owned by HANO and comprised of approximately 129 lots, although not all of the lots are a part of the FEMA AHPP project. Portions of the proposed project site have been partially redeveloped by HANO through separate phases of the overall redevelopment of the property. Existing infrastructure including roads and municipal utility service are present at the proposed project site. The proposed site consists of previously disturbed land, which has been filled, cleared, and graded and is sparsely re-vegetated with grasses.

The proposed AHPP units would be designed in the Louisiana Cottage-style and would consist of a mixture of units with living areas ranging from 874 square feet (sq ft) to 1,200 sq ft, with several cottages which can be expanded to a living area of 1,525 sq ft. Project activities would include minimal grading, the tie-in of utilities to the cottages from existing lot site utilities, and the construction of driveways. Main access to the proposed development would be from LB Landry Avenue. The proposed site is within the 100-year floodplain, and the advisory base flood elevation (ABFE) is approximately 3 feet above mean sea level. As required by FEMA, the AHPP units would be built above the ABFE. The ABFE would be attained through the addition of fill material, the construction the AHPP units on piers, or through a combination of both. FEMA is currently evaluating the potential floodplain impacts through both the NEPA process and the Eight-Step Planning Process as described in 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, to ensure its actions are consistent with Executive Order 11988.

Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC) has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In compliance with 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,



Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure
RE: 80420001s



March 10, 2009

Diane Hewitt
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Department of the Secretary
P.O. Box 4301
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301

**RE: Request for Project Review—Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish,
Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program Group Housing Project**

Dear Ms. Hewitt:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the construction of the Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish, Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Group 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 (AHPP) (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2006, PL 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 Orleans Parish. As of March 3, 2009, there were 1,167 families leased into temporary housing units in Orleans Parish due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. There are currently 13 mobile homes, 1,101 travel trailers, and 53 park model units occupied by residents in Orleans Parish displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

The LRA proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the construction of approximately 105 single-family, permanent housing units within an approximate 20-acre plot of land in the New Orleans West Bank neighborhood of Algiers, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The

proposed project site is bound by Semmes Street to the north, General De Gaulle Drive to the south, the Mississippi River to the east, and Thayer Avenue to the west (Figure 1). LB Landry Avenue runs through the center of the proposed site. The approximately 20-acre plot has previously been utilized by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), as multi-family government housing from the 1960s, which has since been demolished. The proposed project site is presently owned by HANO and comprised of approximately 129 lots, although not all of the lots are a part of the FEMA AHPP project. Portions of the proposed project site have been partially redeveloped by HANO through separate phases of the overall redevelopment of the property. Existing infrastructure including roads and municipal utility service are present at the proposed project site. The proposed site consists of previously disturbed land, which has been filled, cleared, and graded and is sparsely re-vegetated with grasses.

The proposed AHPP units would be designed in the Louisiana Cottage-style and would consist of a mixture of units with living areas ranging from 874 square feet (sq ft) to 1,200 sq ft, with several cottages which can be expanded to a living area of 1,525 sq ft. Project activities would include minimal grading, the tie-in of utilities to the cottages from existing lot site utilities, and the construction of driveways. Main access to the proposed development would be from LB Landry Avenue. The proposed site is within the 100-year floodplain, and the advisory base flood elevation (ABFE) is approximately 3 feet above mean sea level. As required by FEMA, the AHPP units would be built above the ABFE. The ABFE would be attained through the addition of fill material, the construction the AHPP units on piers, or through a combination of both. FEMA is currently evaluating the potential floodplain impacts through both the NEPA process and the Eight-Step Planning Process as described in 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, to ensure its actions are consistent with Executive Order 11988.

Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC) has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In compliance with 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,



Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure
RE: 80420001s



March 10, 2009

Paul May
Floodplain Manager, Orleans Parish
1300 Perdido Street
City Hall, Room 7E07
New Orleans, LA 70112

**RE: Request for Project Review—Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish,
Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program Group Housing Project**

Dear Mr. May:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the construction of the Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish, Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Group 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 (AHPP) (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2006, PL 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 Orleans Parish. As of March 3, 2009, there were 1,167 families leased into temporary housing units in Orleans Parish due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. There are currently 13 mobile homes, 1,101 travel trailers, and 53 park model units occupied by residents in Orleans Parish displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

The LRA proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the construction of approximately 105 single-family, permanent housing units within an approximate 20-acre plot of land in the New Orleans West Bank neighborhood of Algiers, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The

proposed project site is bound by Semmes Street to the north, General De Gaulle Drive to the south, the Mississippi River to the east, and Thayer Avenue to the west (Figure 1). LB Landry Avenue runs through the center of the proposed site. The approximately 20-acre plot has previously been utilized by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), as multi-family government housing from the 1960s, which has since been demolished. The proposed project site is presently owned by HANO and comprised of approximately 129 lots, although not all of the lots are a part of the FEMA AHPP project. Portions of the proposed project site have been partially redeveloped by HANO through separate phases of the overall redevelopment of the property. Existing infrastructure including roads and municipal utility service are present at the proposed project site. The proposed site consists of previously disturbed land, which has been filled, cleared, and graded and is sparsely re-vegetated with grasses.

The proposed AHPP units would be designed in the Louisiana Cottage-style and would consist of a mixture of units with living areas ranging from 874 square feet (sq ft) to 1,200 sq ft, with several cottages which can be expanded to a living area of 1,525 sq ft. Project activities would include minimal grading, the tie-in of utilities to the cottages from existing lot site utilities, and the construction of driveways. Main access to the proposed development would be from LB Landry Avenue. The proposed site is within the 100-year floodplain, and the advisory base flood elevation (ABFE) is approximately 3 feet above mean sea level. As required by FEMA, the AHPP units would be built above the ABFE. The ABFE would be attained through the addition of fill material, the construction the AHPP units on piers, or through a combination of both. FEMA is currently evaluating the potential floodplain impacts through both the NEPA process and the Eight-Step Planning Process as described in 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, to ensure its actions are consistent with Executive Order 11988.

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Sincerely,



Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure
RE: 80420001s



March 10, 2009

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

**RE: Request for Project Review—Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish,
Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program Group Housing Project**

Dear Mr. Marceaux:

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the construction of the Fischer (Algiers) Group Site, Orleans Parish, Louisiana Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) Group 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 (AHPP) (Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2006, PL 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 Orleans Parish. As of March 3, 2009, there were 1,167 families leased into temporary housing units in Orleans Parish due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. There are currently 13 mobile homes, 1,101 travel trailers, and 53 park model units occupied by residents in Orleans Parish displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Consequently, there maintains a need to provide a permanent housing solution.

The LRA proposes to utilize AHPP funding for the construction of approximately 105 single-family, permanent housing units within an approximate 20-acre plot of land in the New Orleans West Bank neighborhood of Algiers, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The

proposed project site is bound by Semmes Street to the north, General De Gaulle Drive to the south, the Mississippi River to the east, and Thayer Avenue to the west (Figure 1). LB Landry Avenue runs through the center of the proposed site. The approximately 20-acre plot has previously been utilized by the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO), as multi-family government housing from the 1960s, which has since been demolished. The proposed project site is presently owned by HANO and comprised of approximately 129 lots, although not all of the lots are a part of the FEMA AHPP project. Portions of the proposed project site have been partially redeveloped by HANO through separate phases of the overall redevelopment of the property. Existing infrastructure including roads and municipal utility service are present at the proposed project site. The proposed site consists of previously disturbed land, which has been filled, cleared, and graded and is sparsely re-vegetated with grasses.

The proposed AHPP units would be designed in the Louisiana Cottage-style and would consist of a mixture of units with living areas ranging from 874 square feet (sq ft) to 1,200 sq ft, with several cottages which can be expanded to a living area of 1,525 sq ft. Project activities would include minimal grading, the tie-in of utilities to the cottages from existing lot site utilities, and the construction of driveways. Main access to the proposed development would be from LB Landry Avenue. The proposed site is within the 100-year floodplain, and the advisory base flood elevation (ABFE) is approximately 3 feet above mean sea level. As required by FEMA, the AHPP units would be built above the ABFE. The ABFE would be attained through the addition of fill material, the construction the AHPP units on piers, or through a combination of both. FEMA is currently evaluating the potential floodplain impacts through both the NEPA process and the Eight-Step Planning Process as described in 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, to ensure its actions are consistent with Executive Order 11988.

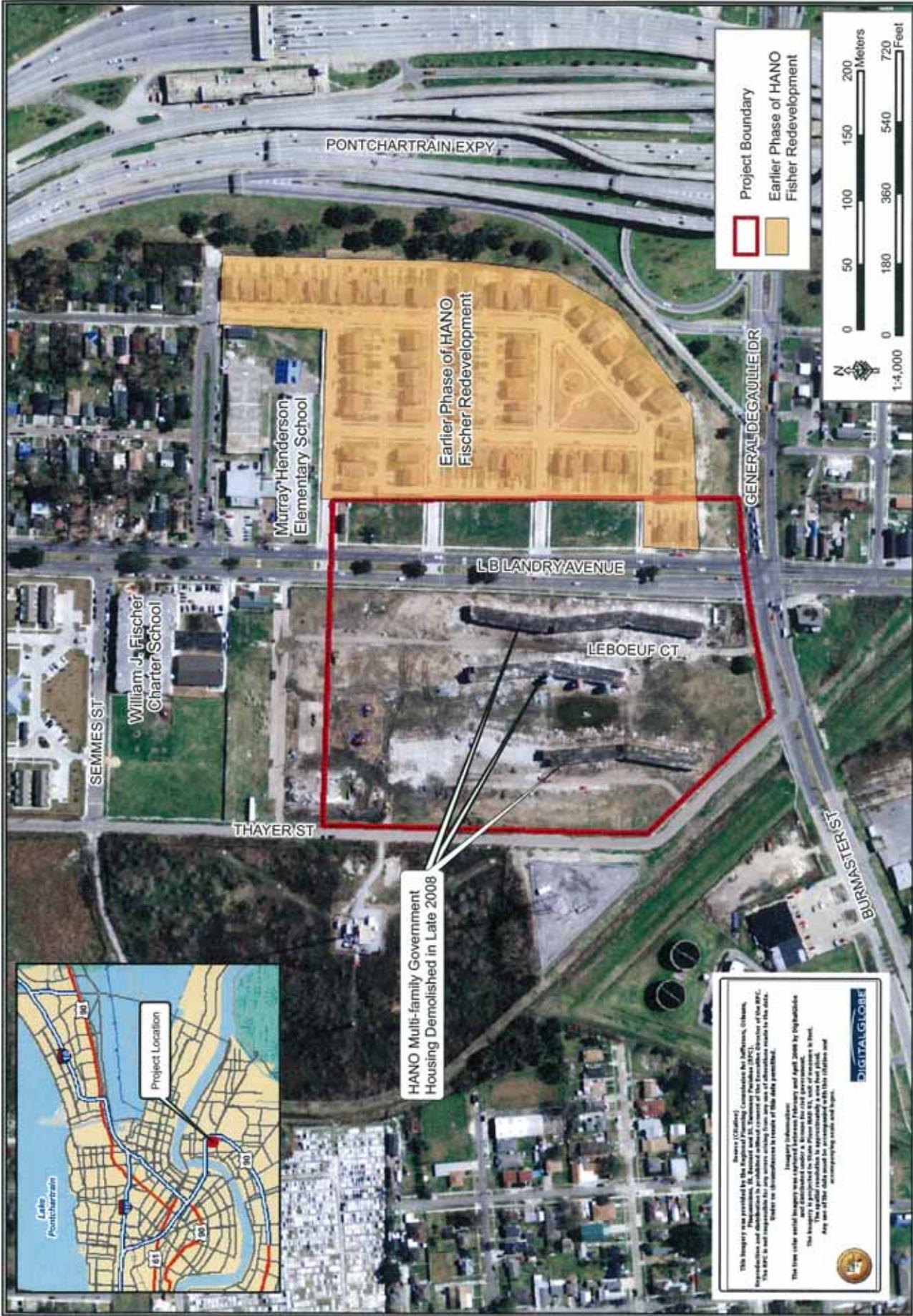
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Sincerely,



Denise Rousseau Ford
Project Manager

enclosure
RE: 80420001s



Source: USGS
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Project Boundary
 Earlier Phase of HANO
 Fisher Redevelopment



Figure 1: Project Location Map