

FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Environmental Assessment for The Relocation of St. Bernard Animal Shelter, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed relocation of St. Bernard Animal Shelter from 115 Agriculture Road, Chalmette to undeveloped property along East Judge Perez Drive (near Angelique Drive) in Violet, Louisiana. St. Bernard Parish has prepared and submitted an application to FEMA for funding under FEMA's Public Assistance Program being administered in response to Hurricane Katrina. The Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1603-DR-LA was signed on August 29, 2005 for this event.

St. Bernard Parish proposes to construct a new, one-story, 6,700-square-foot animal shelter and control facility at an undeveloped site currently owned by St. Bernard Parish. The proposed site is approximately one acre. Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a Draft EA was written to evaluate the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action. The Draft FONSI is FEMA's finding that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human and natural environment.

The public comment period will be July 24, 2009 to August 6, 2009. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed to the Environmental and Historic Preservation Section, FEMA LA Transitional Recovery Office, 1250 Poydras Street, 17th Floor, New Orleans, LA 70113, or faxed to (504) 762-2527. Verbal comments will be accepted at (504) 762-2361. The Draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm and is also available for public review at the St. Bernard Parish Government Complex, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, 8201 West Judge Perez Dr., Chalmette, LA 70043, (504) 278-4268. The Government Complex hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice for work in the floodplain in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9.12.