

APPENDIX B
AGENCY COORDINATION

June 11, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO: See Distribution

SUBJECT: Scoping Notification/Solicitation of Views

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is mandated by the U.S. Congress to administer Federal disaster assistance pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. The Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance Program to provide emergency temporary administrative, educational, medical, or other support facilities for areas impacted by disasters while repairs and reconstruction of storm damaged facilities are being undertaken.

The attached scope of work and drawings correspond to a proposed project for which FEMA funding has been requested.

On August 29, 2005, the tidal surge and high velocity winds from Hurricane Katrina resulted in extensive damage to City Park in New Orleans. The applicant proposes an approximate 3 acre improvement to the Tri-Centennial Place area of City Park will provide a multi-use area for park visitors. The project is on axis with the existing P.T. Parker building and Peristyle. The existing site is presently a parking lot (formerly the Tennis Center). A new parking lot will be developed adjacent to and north of the proposed improvements, servicing the Great Lawn and other facilities.

The improvements include the development of a lawn area flanked by a double alley of palm trees on both sides of the lawn. Between the palm trees, a promenade with seating areas will provide access from Dreyfous Avenue and Victory Avenue. On the north end of the lawn area a major terrace parterre with a stepped arbor will provide the structure for development of a feature of cascading water from the arbor and wall runnels, all ending in a bottom basin with a spray jet.

Lighting for the Great Lawn will be provided by up lighting along the promenade. Electrical services for special events will be provided on bollard lighting along the promenade. Electrical services for special events will be provided on three sides of the lawn. A site prep package will precede the construction contract and will include construction fencing, demolition of concrete curbs, concrete paving, asphalt paving, light poles, over head electrical lines, trees and shrubs, etc. Removal of two electrical vaults will require the installation of a new pad mounted transformer to service the area.

To ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Executive Orders (EOs), and other applicable Federal regulations, we will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). To assist us in preparation of the EA, we request that your office review the attached documents for a determination as to the requirements of any formal consultations, regulatory permits, determinations, or authorizations.

Please respond within 15 calendar days of the date of this scoping notification. If our office receives no comments at the close of this period, we will assume that your agency does not object to the project as proposed.

Comments may be faxed to (504) 762-2527, emailed to tiffany.spann@dhs.gov or mailed to the attention of Tiffany Spann, Environmental Department, at the address above.

For questions regarding this matter, please contact Christina Gray, Environmental Specialist at (832) 588-0175.

Cynthia Teeter
Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer

Distribution: LDEQ, USEPA, NOAA-NMFS, USFWS, USACE, LWFD, LDNR

Tiffany Spann
Environmental Specialist
FEMA LA Transitional Recovery Office
1250 Poydras, 14th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70112
Cell Phone: 832-588-0175
Tiffany.spann@dhs.gov

From: Gray, Christina (CTR)
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 15:59
To: 'Deborah_fuller@fws.gov'
Cc: Clark, Brandon; Spann, Tiffany
Subject: FEMA Scoping Notification/Solicitation of Views - City Park Great Lawn Project

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
FEMA-DR 1603 LA
1250 Poydras Street, 17th floor
New Orleans, LA 70112

June 23, 2009

MEMORANDUM TO:

SUBJECT: Scoping Notification/ Solicitation of Views – City Park Great Lawn Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is mandated by the U.S. Congress to administer Federal disaster assistance pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. The Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance Program to provide emergency temporary administrative, educational, medical, or other support facilities for areas impacted by disasters while repairs and reconstruction of storm damaged facilities are being undertaken.

The following scope of work and attached site plan correspond to a proposed project for which FEMA funding has been requested. The project is the creation of a Great lawn in City Park, New Orleans.

The City of New Orleans (applicant) proposes a 3 acre improvement to the Tri-Centennial Place area of City Park which will provide a multi-use area for park visitors. The project is on axis with the existing P.T. Parker building and Peristyle. The existing site is presently a parking lot (formerly the Tennis Center). A new parking lot will be developed adjacent to and north of the proposed improvements, servicing the Great Lawn and other facilities.

The improvements include the development of a lawn area flanked by a double alley of palm trees on both sides of the lawn. Between the palm trees, a promenade with seating areas will provide access from Dreyfous Avenue and Victory Avenue. On the north end of the lawn area a major terrace parterre with a stepped arbor will provide the structure

for development of a feature of cascading water from the arbor and wall runnels, all ending in a bottom basin with a spray jet.

Lighting for the Great Lawn will be provided by up lighting along the promenade. Electrical services for special events will be provided on bollard lighting along the promenade. Electrical services for special events will be provided on three sides of the lawn. A site prep package will precede the construction contract and will include construction fencing, demolition of concrete curbs, concrete paving, asphalt paving, light poles, over head electrical lines, trees and shrubs, etc. Removal of two electrical vaults will require the installation of a new pad mounted transformer to service the area.

To ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Executive Orders, and other applicable Federal regulations, we will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). To assist us in preparation of the EA, we request that your office review this project information for a determination as to the requirements of any formal consultations, regulatory permits, determinations, or authorizations.

Please respond within 15 calendar days of the date of this scoping notification. If our office receives no comments at the close of this period, we will assume that your agency does not object to the project as proposed.

Comments may be faxed to (504) 762-2527, emailed to Christina.Gray@associates.dhs.gov, or mailed to the attention of Christina Gray, Environmental Section, at the address above.

For questions regarding this matter, please contact Christina Gray at (504) 762-2291.

Cynthia Teeter
Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer

Scott Hutcheson
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Culture Recreation and Tourism
Post Office Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
Undertaking: Use of Remaining Funds to Develop “The Great Lawn,” New Orleans City Park, Victory Avenue and Dreyfous Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana (Alternate Project, PWs 8671 and 7162)
Applicant: City of New Orleans
Determination: **No Adverse Effect**

Dear Mr. Hutcheson:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the following major Disaster Declaration:

- 1) FEMA-DR-1603-LA, dated August 29, 2005, as amended
- 2) FEMA-DR-1607-LA, dated September 23, 2005.

FEMA is initiating Section 106 review for the above referenced property in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement among FEMA, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (LOHSEP) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation dated December 3, 2004. Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) intends to use the remainder of funds allocated for damages to the Wisner Tennis Center for the development of a lawn area and arbor known as “The Great Lawn” in the same general area as the tennis complex (Undertaking), as part of an Alternate Project.

The Wisner Tennis Center, comprised of a one-story brick building constructed in 1969 and 24 tennis courts, is located the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible New Orleans City Park Historic District (Figure 1). FEMA determined the Wisner Tennis Center was a non-contributing element of the NRHP-eligible New Orleans City Park Historic District in a letter dated April 22, 2008. Further, FEMA determined the demolition, slab removal, and return to green space of the Wisner Tennis Center would have No Adverse Effect to the New Orleans City Park Historic District. SHPO concurred with this finding on May 6, 2008.

FP&C now proposes to develop an approximately three-acre portion of the planned Tri-Centennial Place lawn and arbor known as “The Great Lawn.” The proposed

development will be on an axis with the existing C.T. Parker Building and the Peristyle. A double alley of palm trees will flank the west and east sides of the lawn. A promenade with benches for seating areas will provide access from Victory Avenue (on the north) and Dreyfous Drive (on the south). On the north end of the lawn, a terraced ornamental garden with a stepped arbor will provide the structure for development of a feature of cascading water from the arbor and water runnels, all ending in a bottom basin with a spray jet. "The Great Lawn" will be lit by uplighting of palm trees and bollard lighting along the promenade. Electrical services for special events will be provided on three sides of the lawn area. A site prep package will precede the construction contract and will include construction fencing and demolition of concrete curbs, concrete paving, asphalt paving, light poles, overhead electrical lines, trees, and shrubs. The removal of two electrical vaults will require the installation of a new pad mounted transformer to service the area (Figures 2-4).

For the purposes of this Undertaking, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for standing structures includes all elements within the New Orleans City Park Historic District from which "The Great Lawn" will be visible (Figure 1). Please note that a formal inventory of the New Orleans City Park Historic District has not been completed. In lieu of a formal inventory, FEMA reviews the eligibility of individual resources located within the district as requests are made. Previously identified contributing elements within the view shed of "The Great Lawn" project include the Old Tennis Lounge. One previously identified non-contributing resource, the Wisner Tennis Center building as well as several non-contributing tennis courts associated with the complex, have been demolished. Newly identified contributing elements within the APE for "The Great Lawn" project include the C.T Parker Building, the Peristyle, and Popp's Bandstand. These newly identified contributing elements all date to the period of significance (ca. 1891 to 1957) and convey significance under Criterion C for their representation of Classical Revival and Art Deco-style architecture. Please see the attached Determination of Eligibility for more information about these three resources.

The development of "The Great Lawn" will introduce green space consisting of a manicured lawn and palm trees into a space formerly occupied by tennis courts and/or asphalt parking lots. This new vista will complement the existing picturesque park setting that is defined by mature oak trees, manicured lawns, plantings, understory vegetation, lagoons, and winding roadways. The development of the "The Great Lawn" will not alter the New Orleans City Park Historic District's integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, location, feeling or association. The development of "The Great Lawn" will not alter the integrity of the C.T. Parking Building, the Peristyle, and Popp's Bandstand and will maintain and enhance the picturesque settings of these contributing elements through the integration of compatible landscaping.

The scope of work indicates ground disturbing activities associated with the development of a lawn area and arbor know as "The Great Lawn" (Figure 5). Upon consultation of data provided by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), there are no known archaeological sites within .5 miles of the APE (Figure 6). Site visits to the project area

were conducted on 4/2/08 by FEMA archaeologist Hanan Browning and 4/17/08 by SHPO Liaison Jason Emery and FEMA archaeologists Hanan Browning and Jerame Cramer. These site visits were conducted in order to assess the impact to historic properties by the demolition, slab removal, and return to green space of the adjacent Wisner Tennis Center Building and Court Complex. Pedestrian survey, including soil cores taken at each of the four corners of that APE, revealed a top layer of stiff mottled silty clay fill (50-60 cm), with plastics and modern construction materials. The subsoil varied from Commerce silt loam, in the Southern half of the APE, to Commerce silty clay loam in the Northern half. This is consistent with soil survey maps that show the APE to be at the junction of a ridge and a backswamp. Additionally, no cultural resources were found during this site visit. Based on the results of this survey and the absence of mapped historic structures, FEMA determined and SHPO concurred (4/28/2008) that there would be no adverse effect to historic properties as a result of this undertaking.

An additional site visit was conducted on 6/5/2009 by FEMA archaeologists Hanan Browning and Mike Wilder to “The Great Lawn” APE (Figure 7). This area, being directly adjacent to and partially within the previously reviewed project area, shares the same soil characteristics. As with the previous site visits, no artifacts or cultural resources were found. Given that the project area appears to be partially located on the back edge of a ridge with no documented historic settlement (Figures 8-9), that the footprint of the associated structures appears to be completely contained with a modern layer of fill dirt, that no cultural resources were seen in the field inspection, and that the proposed undertaking will not adversely affect the eligible historic district, FEMA requests SHPO concurrence with its “**No Adverse Effect**” determination.

Your prompt review of this project is greatly appreciated. Should you need additional information please contact Catherine M. Dluzak, Historic Preservation Specialist, at catherine.dluzak@associates.dhs.gov or 703-350-2735 or Hanan Browning, Historic Preservation Specialist/Archaeologist, at hanan.browning@dhs.gov or 205-568-8412.

Sincerely,

Marc Roy
Environmental Liaison Officer
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA,
FEMA-DR-1792, FEMA-DR-1786

The Division of Archaeology Reviewer concurs with the finding of **No Adverse Effect** as a result of this Undertaking.

Division of Archaeology Reviewer

Date