



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Fire Station Construction

Gates Rural Fire Protection District, Gates, Oregon

FEMA-EMW-2009-FC-01462

The Gates Rural Fire Protection District (GRFPD) applied to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) for funding assistance to build a new fire station. Funding was authorized through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The ARRA is an economic stimulus package and the purpose of the Fiscal Year 2009 funds is to create or save jobs in recession-hit areas which includes supporting 'shovel-ready' projects. ARRA will further help achieve AFG goals of firefighter safety and improved response capability/capacity based on need, through the construction, renovation, or modification of fire stations.

In 2005, the GRFPD also applied to the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development program for assistance with fire station construction. The USDA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the action and issued its Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on January 11, 2006. The USDA award is insufficient to complete the project, additional FEMA funding will enable project completion.

The Proposed Action includes construction of an approximately 8,000 square foot fire station on a 1.5 acre parcel located on Sorbin Avenue at the intersection of Riverview Street SE in Gates. The fire station will be designed to at least meet the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold level. The building will include dedicated space for training/meetings, living, offices, equipment storage, and apparatus bays. The facility will have a back-up generator in the event of power outages. In addition to the fire station, the site will include space for parking, maneuvering space for the trucks, and a small stormwater detention area.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and FEMA's implementation regulations; FEMA reviewed the USDA EA and FONSI (attached) and supporting documentation, and current resource data; to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives presented and ensure sufficiency with FEMA's NEPA regulations 44 CFR Part 10. Alternatives sites and fire station designs were evaluated in the EA, including No Action. The USDA EA was made available for public review in 2005 and USDA did not receive substantive comments. FEMA concurs with USDA's findings and provided its draft FONSI for public review from April 10 through 25, 2010, no substantive comments were received.

FINDINGS

Based upon the grant application, site and building design, USDA EA, and attached Mitigation and Conservation Measures; and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10 for environmental consideration, including Executive Orders (EO) addressing floodplains (EO 11988), wetlands (EO 11990), and environmental justice (EO 12898), FEMA determined the proposed project will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the project as described in the GRFPD's AFG application may proceed.

APPROVAL

 4-30-10
Mark G. Eberlein Date
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region X

MITIGATION AND CONSERVATION MEASURES

Mitigation and conservation measures refer to actions that would minimize or eliminate potential adverse environmental impacts that could result from the Proposed Action:

- The applicant must comply with USDA FONSI Summary Mitigation measures.
- The applicant is responsible for selecting, implementing, monitoring, and maintaining best management practices to control erosion and sediment, reduce spills and pollution, and provide habitat protection.
- Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other laws and Executive Orders.
- In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity shall be discontinued, the area secured, and the SHPO and FEMA notified.