



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Fire and Emergency Services Station

City of Payette, Idaho

FEMA-EMW-2009-FC-01858

The City of Payette Fire Department (City) and Payette Rural Fire Department (PRFD) 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 and emergency services 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.

The Proposed Action includes construction of an approximately 15,000 square foot fire station on a 2 acre city owned parcel located at the southeast corner of US95 and 7th Avenue North in Payette. The building will be designed to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certification. There will be six apparatus bays; and an administrative wing that has dedicated space for offices, a classroom, living quarters, and a kitchen. The facility will function as the City's emergency operations center for response operations. In addition to the fire station, the site will include space for parking, maneuvering space for the trucks, and stormwater management features.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and FEMA's implementation regulations, FEMA prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives presented in the EA and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impacts Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Alternatives evaluated in the EA include: 1) no action, i.e. continued use of the existing fire station; 2) construction of a new fire station (proposed). Other alternatives were considered but not carried forth and are described in the EA. The proposed action is the preferred alternative due to the new sites location in providing fire services and that the property is already owned by the City. The Draft EA was made available for public review and comment from May 19 to June 23, 2010. FEMA did not receive substantive comments on the Draft EA.

FINDINGS

Based upon the grant application, site and building design, EA (incorporated by reference), 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, based upon the findings above, may proceed.

APPROVAL



Mark G. Eberlein
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region X

6-24-10

Date

Attachment A:

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 City/PRFD shall secure and comply with federal, state and local project permitting.
- A National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit will be required since site work exceeds 1 acre, thus the City/PRFD is responsible for selecting, implementing, monitoring, and maintaining best management practices to control erosion and sediment, reduce spills and pollution, and provide habitat protection.
- Site soils will be covered and/or wetted during construction as needed to minimize fugitive dust.
- Construction activities will be conducted during the daytime, to reduce adverse noise impacts.
- 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.
- If any hazardous materials are found during construction; these shall be characterized, remediated, and disposed of as appropriate, and otherwise handled in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
- The site stormwater management system shall be operated and maintained consistent with its intended design.
- Any change to the approved scope of work stated in the FEMA grant application and described in this EA as the proposed action will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other laws and Executive Orders.