

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
Draft Environmental Assessment
Vernonia K-12 School Project, Vernonia, Columbia County, Oregon**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide funding to Columbia County for the Vernonia K-12 School Project (Project) in Vernonia, Oregon. Funding would be provided as authorized by the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program as authorized by the National Flood Insurance Reform Act (42 U.S.C. 4101). Additionally, the project involves the removal of federal protection under Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act from Spencer Park and the development of a new park to replace Spencer Park.

A draft environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed project was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the implementing regulations of FEMA (44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10), the National Park Service (NPS) (56 Departmental Manual (DM) Chapter 12), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (33 CFR Part 230). The EA evaluates alternatives for compliance with applicable environmental laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and Executive Orders #11990 (Protection of Wetlands), #11988 (Floodplain Management), and #12898 (Environmental Justice). The alternatives evaluated in the EA are the (1) No Action Alternative; (2) Boot Site (Proposed Action Alternative), and (3) Northwest Corner Site.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued a separate public notice as part of their permitting action under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Permit #NWP-2009-631).

The EA is available for review online at the FEMA environmental web site at: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments> under Region X. The draft EA is also available for review on the City of Vernonia website (<http://www.vernonia-or.gov>), the Vernonia School District website (<http://www.vernonia.k12.or.us>), and at the Vernonia School District offices, 475 Bridge Street, Vernonia, Oregon between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. More detailed information about the project is available by contacting:

Responsible Official:	Applicant Contact:
Science Kilner Deputy Regional Environmental Officer FEMA Region 10 130 228th St SW Bothell, WA 98021-9796 Science.kilner@dhs.gov (425) 487-4613 fax	Christy McDonough PBS Engineering + Environmental 4412 SW Corbett Avenue Portland, OR 97239 Vernonia@pbsenv.com (866) 727-0140 fax

Written comments on the draft EA should directed no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 2, 2010 to Christy McDonough, PBS Engineering + Environmental, 4412 SW Corbett Avenue, Portland, OR 97239, or by e-mail at vernonia@pbsenv.com. Comments also can be faxed to 866-727-0140. If no significant issues are identified during the comment period, FEMA, NPS and the USACE will each finalize the EA, issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and FEMA will fund the project. Unless substantive comments are received, another notice for this project will not be published. However, should a FONSI be issued, it will be available for public viewing at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments> under Region X, <http://www.vernonia.k12.or.us>, and <http://www.vernonia-or.gov>.