

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
CHANGE OF LOCATION OF THE CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL
COMMUNITY SYNAGOGUE FACILITY, JEFFERSON PARISH,
LOUISIANA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed relocation and reconstruction of the Hurricane Katrina damaged Congregation Beth Israel Community Synagogue formerly located at 7000 Canal Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana. The proposed Community Synagogue would replace the functions and capacity eligible for repair at the original facility in a new location adjacent to the Congregation Beth Israel Synagogue located at 4000 West Esplanade Avenue, Metairie, LA at latitude 30.015147, longitude -90.176936. Congregation Beth Israel seeks federal grant funds for this action eligible for repairs under a Presidential Disaster Declaration, signed on August 29, 2005 (FEMA-1603-DR-LA).

This proposed action would include developing an approximately 1-acre site (termed "Proposed Congregation Beth Israel Community Synagogue Reconstruction Site") adjacent to and on the south side of West Esplanade Avenue approximately 200 feet west of its intersection with Richland Street, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. This would include constructing an approximately 6,000 square foot building, to mainly service the current needs in this community and the surrounding areas. Activities would include, where necessary, site clearing, grading, driveway construction, and placement of appurtenant utilities (electricity, telephones, water, and sewer) for the site. Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a Draft EA has been prepared to evaluate the 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 public comment period will be 15 days – **October 28, 2010 through** November 11, 2010. Written comments on the Draft EA or related matters can be faxed to FEMA's Transitional Recovery Office at (504) 762-3232; emailed to: FEMA-NOMA@dhs.gov; or mailed to FEMA Transitional Recovery Office, 1 Seine Court, New Orleans, Louisiana 70114. The Draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtml> . A public notice will be published for 3 days in the local newspaper, *The Times-Picayune* announcing the availability of the Draft EA for public review at the Jefferson Parish Main Library at 4747 West Napoleon Avenue, Metairie, LA (hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Mon-Fri).

Based on FEMA's findings to date, no significant adverse environmental effects are anticipated. However, if FEMA receives new information that results in a change from no adverse effects then FEMA would revise the findings and issue a second public notice allowing time for additional comments. However, if there are no changes, this Draft EA will become the Final EA.

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. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.