FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
PROPOSED CITY OF MUNFORD NEW FIRE STATION, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION GRANTS PROGRAM
FEMA EMW-2009-FC-01275R

BACKGROUND

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for FEMA, Subpart B, Agency Implementing Procedures, Part 10.9, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared Pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of the proposed project is to build a new fire station for the City of Munford, Tennessee Fire Department in Shelby County, Tennessee that provides for enhanced response for community and is compliant with national Occupational Safety and Health Administration and National Fire Prevention Association standards. An EA was prepared to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The City of Munford, Tennessee has applied for FEMA – Fire Station Construction Grants program funding under application number EMW-2009-FC-01275R. FEMA provides funds under this program for activities that help to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations.

Two project alternatives were explored in depth in the EA for Fire Station project

1) No Action; and,
2) Preferred Action Alternative:

The preferred action alternative will result in construction of a new fire station to replace the existing fire station which is not large enough to serve the needs of the community and that has been cited with numerous OSHA and NFPA violations making it uninhabitable. The new Fire Station would consist of a 20,000 sq. ft. building with 4 large bays, offices, training space, kitchen facilities, and ample space and separate sleeping quarters for 24 hr. occupancy by both male and female firefighters. The fire station would also be constructed to better withstand seismic and other natural disasters common to the area providing for a better response capability in the event of such an occurrence in the area.

The No Action alternative would result in no construction of a new fire station in this location and continued citations from OSHA and NFPA that could result in mounting fines to the City. Response times would continue to be influenced by delays associated with Reserve Firefighters responding from their homes during unstaffed hours. Response times are expected to further increase with the predicted population growth and associated increased call-volume. The no action alternative results in a lower level of overall public safety than the preferred action alternative.

A public notice was posted in The Covington Leader on November 11, 2010 and the draft EA was available for review for a period of 15 days at the Munford Memorial Library. The draft EA was also available online at the http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region4.shtm website. The

public was invited to comment on the proposed action and the draft EA. No comments were received from the public during the 15 day comment period.

FINDINGS

The preferred action as described in the EA will not adversely impact geology, groundwater, floodplains, wetlands, environmental justice, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, hazardous materials, or socioeconomic resources. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soil, downstream surface water, traffic, air quality, and noise are anticipated. All short-term impacts require utilizing best management practices to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

CONDITIONS

Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other Laws and Executive Orders.

In accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, the applicant is responsible for acquiring any necessary permits prior to commencing construction at the preferred project site. All permit conditions and/or Best Management Practices must be followed.

If ground disturbing activities occur during construction, applicant will monitor ground disturbance and if any potential archeological resources are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify the State and FEMA.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the EA, coordination with the appropriate agencies, comments from the public, and adherence to the project conditions set forth in this FONSI, FEMA has determined that the proposed project qualifies as a major Federal action that will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment, nor does it have the potential for significant cumulative effects. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.9) and the preferred actions as described in the attached EA may proceed.

APPROVAL

William R. Straw

Date 12/08/10

William R. Straw, Ph.D.
Regional Environmental Officer