

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
IMPROVED PROJECT TO RELOCATE & CONSTRUCT NEW TREATMENT CENTER
THE SHOULDER OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST, INC.
CITY OF DAPHNE, BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
FEMA 1605-DR-AL (Subgrant Application: PW 1597, PW 1598, PW 1604)**

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 Shoulder of the Central Gulf Coast, Inc. (The Shoulder) is located in Daphne, Baldwin County, Alabama. The original facility, owned, operated and maintained by The Shoulder and located in Spanish Fort, Baldwin County, Alabama, was damaged beyond repair by Hurricane Katrina. Hurricane Katrina made first landfall on August 25, 2005 as a Category 1 near the Broward/Miami-Dade County Line in Florida. After moving across the Gulf of Mexico, Katrina gained strength and made landfall as a Category 3 Hurricane on August 29 along the Gulf Coast of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The President declared a major disaster (FEMA-DR-1605-AL), including Baldwin County, which became eligible for Federal assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Stafford Act. The Shoulder is requesting funding for an improved project to relocate and construct a new facility to be located in Daphne, Alabama. The Shoulder is a private non-profit organization whose mission and purpose is to provide long-term residential and outpatient treatment for people with alcohol and/or chemical addictions

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Shoulder is requesting funding for an improved project to relocate and construct a new facility to be located in Daphne, Alabama. FEMA prepared an EA, per NEPA to evaluate the project alternatives and effects on the natural and human environment. The EA includes project information provided by the applicant, results of on-site inspections conducted by FEMA, comments from the interested public, and key State and Federal Agencies.

Two project alternatives were explored in depth in the EA:

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

The Preferred Action includes construction of an approximately 22,899 square foot facility on a 277,086 square foot parcel (6.36 Acre) parcel located next to the existing (temporary) site located on Roper Lane. The proposed facility will serve the same function and provide the same capacity for patient handling as the original facility.

The No Action Alternative would leave The Shoulder with no facility to conduct daily operations and house those participating in the programs it offers. Reconstruction at original facility site is not economically feasible. The facility was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, and remaining structure has

been demolished. Further, this site is located in a Coastal High Hazard Area (Zone VE per FEMA Insurance Rate Maps). If the applicant were to replace the building, the facility would need to be rebuilt to Coastal High Hazard Area codes. Improvements, such as elevation, would have to be made to meet requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Soils at this location are rated as very limited for small commercial building construction. The soils may not be able to support such construction loads to provide proper protection from storm surges and flooding as required by NFIP and local building codes.

FEMA made the following determinations from the EA information and conclusions.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) stated that the proposed project was not likely to affect any federally-listed threatened and endangered (T&E) species or their critical habitat.

The preferred alternative will not alter or affect wetlands or waters of the United States. It would be in an upland (non-wetland) area and is not subject to US Army Corps of Engineers regulatory action.

The Alabama Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) stated that no known cultural (historic or archaeological) resources, eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, would be affected by the proposed project. If any cultural resources are found during construction, work would immediately stop within 100 feet of the affected area, the Applicant would notify FEMA and SHPO would be notified, and work so that compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act can be accomplished.

The preferred alternative is not anticipated to have a significant impact on tribal resources. In the event any archeological artifacts or human remains are identified during construction activities, The Shoulder agrees to cease all work within 100 feet of any find pending consultation with the Alabama-Coushatta Tribes as well as the Alabama Historic Commission.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has determined that a stormwater construction permit **will be required**. Regardless, the applicant must use Best Management Practices (BMP's) in all phases of construction to control pollutants and sediments in stormwater run-off as ADEM requires.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) has determined that air quality is not an issue, and that the applicant must comply with all applicable air quality standards; in particular, those regarding nuisance dust and open burning. Further, ADEM has determined that there are no impacts on the coastal environmental.

A public notice for the Draft EA was posted in The Mobile Press Register on November 28, 2010 and in the Daphne Bulletin on December 8, 2010. The Draft EA was 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 public comments were received during the 15 day comment period.

FINDINGS

The preferred actions as described in the EA will not have any significant adverse impacts on geology, groundwater, floodplains, wetlands, environmental justice, threatened and endangered species, cultural

resources, hazardous materials, or socioeconomic resources. During the construction period, short-term impacts on soil, downstream surface water, traffic, air quality, and noise are anticipated. All short-term impacts require using 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, then work will immediately stop within 100 feet of that discovery and notify the AL SHPO and FEMA.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the EA findings, coordinations with the appropriate agencies, public comments, 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 would not significantly adversely 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, FEMA will not prepare an EIS (44 CFR Part 10.9) and the preferred actions as described in the attached EA may proceed if all other FEMA requirements are also met.

APPROVAL



William R. Straw, Ph.D.
Regional Environmental Officer
DHS/FEMA Region IV

Date 01/03/11