



**Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region IV
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta GA 30341-4130**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
THE SHOULDER OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST, INC.
DAPHNE, BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA
FEMA 1605-DR-AL (Subgrant Application Nos. 1597, 1598, 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 at approximately 1830 EDT 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 those 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 the National Environmental Policy Act (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 adjacent 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 day to day operations and house those participating in the programs it offers. Reconstruction at the site of the original facility is not economically or environmentally 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 the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. 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 NFIP 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 in 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 activities 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 required by ADEM.

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 to the coastal environment.

A public notice was posted in The Mobile Press Register on November 28, 2010. The Draft EA was available online at the www.fema.gov 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 actions 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.

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

Date _____

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