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FEMA

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS MAIN LIBRARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
FEMA-1763-DR-IA

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to fund the construction of a new Cedar Rapids Main Library in Linn County, Iowa under the authority of Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121-5206, as amended (Stafford Act, Public Law 93-288). FEMA was authorized under a Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-1763-DR-IA) to provide Federal disaster assistance to Linn County, Iowa, as a result of the devastating flood that impacted the City of Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa, beginning on June 9th, 2008. The Proposed Action would require the replacement of the Cedar Rapids Main Library as it currently operates out of two temporary facilities because the current structure was extensively damaged from the flood. The Cedar Rapids Main Library provides essential community services to the City of Cedar Rapids that includes; access to public information, reading and viewing literary materials, children's educational opportunities, and assistance to the general public in conducting research. The proposed location of the new Cedar Rapids Main Library is located on the True North Block, which is bounded by 4th Avenue SE and 5th Avenue SE and the Cedar River Trail and 5th Street SE. The Cedar Rapids Main Library serves as a vital resource for research and education that is required for the residents of the region, and therefore action is needed to restore these essential public services to the population of the City of Cedar Rapids and surrounding Linn County communities.

Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) was written to evaluate the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. The DEA 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 from June 9 to July 9, 2011. Written comments on the DEA can be faxed to FEMA's Iowa Closeout Center at (515) 223-7216 or emailed to Fema-ICC-EHP@dhs.gov.

The DEA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/index.shtm> If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.