



FEMA

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
CITY OF CROCKETT COMMUNITY SAFE ROOM PROJECT
CROCKETT, HOUSTON COUNTY, TEXAS
HGMP-DR-1791-TX PROJECT #297**

BACKGROUND

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Subpart B, Agency Implementing Procedures, Part 10.9, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been 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 protect Crockett residents, general public, and students, faculty, and staff at the City of Crockett Independent School District (ISD) campus from the risk of tornados and other high wind events. This EA informed FEMA's decision on whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The City of Crockett has applied for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding, through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), under HGMP-DR-1791-TX Project #297. Through HMGP, which is authorized under Section 404 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, FEMA provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures that reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster.

Two project alternatives were considered in this EA: 1) No Action; and 2) Construction of a concrete dome multi-purpose safe room at the Crockett ISD campus (Proposed Action). Under the No Action alternative, a community safe room would not be constructed. Residents and students, faculty, and staff at the school would continue to be in danger when quickly arising storms target the area.

Under the Proposed Action alternative, FEMA proposes to provide funding to the City of Crockett for the construction of a safe room in the 1200 block of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., (Latitude 31.30368; Longitude -95.4707). The proposed site is a mowed field, which is sometimes used as a temporary parking lot. Site work will involve filling and compacting the building site, laying a storm drain system and installing utilities. Building construction will involve inserting the stem walls 30 feet into the ground, pouring the concrete slab, inflating the Airform, spraying the polyurethane foam to hold form, erecting the steel rebar, then spraying layer after layer of shotcrete. The safe room will be a 27,283 square foot concrete dome that will have an approximate maximum occupancy of 3,840 people during a high wind event. The scope

of the project includes an adjacent parking area and driveways to provide for the anticipated ingress and egress of traffic flow during emergency events. The total area of impact will not exceed 1 acre. When not in use as a safe room, the concrete dome will serve as a multi-purpose facility for the students, faculty, staff of Crockett ISD as well as for the residents in the area.

A public notice was posted in the Houston County Courier on July 28, 2011, and the draft EA was made available for comment at the Crockett ISD Administration Building and electronically on the FEMA website and upon request from FEMA for a 15-day public comment period. No comments on the draft EA were received from the public during the comment period.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Action as described in the EA will not impact geology, wetlands, floodplains, threatened and endangered species or critical habitat, historic properties and cultural resources, minority or low-income populations, or public service and utilities. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, air quality, water quality, noise, traffic, and public health and safety are anticipated. Long-term, positive impacts to public health and safety are expected for all populations in the project area. All adverse impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met as part of this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

1. This review does not address all federal, state and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding requires recipient to comply with all federal, state and local laws. Failure to obtain all appropriate federal, state and local environmental permits and clearances may jeopardize federal funding.
2. Contactors are required to water down construction areas as needed in order to mitigate excess dust spreading. Vehicle running times on must be kept to a minimum and engines must be properly maintained.
3. In the event that archeological deposits, including any Native American pottery, stone tools, bones, or human remains, are uncovered, the project shall be halted and the applicant shall stop all work immediately in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. All archeological findings will be secured by the City of Crockett and access to the sensitive area will be restricted by the City of Crockett. The applicant will inform TDEM and FEMA immediately and FEMA will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Work in sensitive areas shall not resume until consultation is completed and until FEMA determines that the appropriate measures have been taken to ensure the complete project

is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations.

4. Construction activities will take place during normal business hours. Equipment and machinery installed at the proposed project site must meet all local, state, and federal noise regulations.
5. Construction vehicles and equipment must be stored on site during project construction, and appropriate signage must be posted on affected roadways.
6. All construction activities must be performed using qualified personnel and in accordance with the standards specified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. The appropriate signage and barriers must be in place prior to construction activities to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities.
7. Unusable equipment, debris and material shall be disposed of in an approved manner and location. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project, applicant shall handle, manage, and dispose of petroleum products, hazardous materials and toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies.
8. Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other Laws and Executive Orders.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the EA, coordination with the appropriate agencies, 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 proposed project as described in the attached EA may proceed.

APPROVAL



Kevin Jaynes, CHMM
Regional Environmental Officer

Date 8/15/11



Tony Russell
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 6

Date 8-15-11