



# FEMA

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### RUTHERFORD PIER RELOCATION BAY ST. LOUIS, HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI FEMA-1604-DR-MS

The City of Bay St. Louis has submitted an application for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding under FEMA's Public Assistance Program being administered in response to FEMA-1604-DR-MS to relocate and rebuild an existing public pier that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the City of Bay St. Louis operated a public fishing pier that extended out into the Bay of St. Louis beach area at the end of Ulman Avenue, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. The pier was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and the City proposes to re-construct the Rutherford Pier in a new location closer to the downtown area where the Rutherford Pier would be integrated into and become part of the proposed Bay St. Louis Municipal Harbor which will be constructed using United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

FEMA proposes to provide assistance for this project through the Public Assistance Program (PA) under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1604-DR-MS. 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 (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of the EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the relocation project, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). In the EA process, FEMA considered two alternatives, the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative.

Under the Proposed Action, the City of Bay St. Louis would utilize FEMA funds, in conjunction with CDBG funds, and other public funding sources, to relocate and reconstruct the Rutherford Pier in conjunction with the construction of proposed Bay St. Louis municipal harbor, which will be located between Demontluzin Avenue and the CSX Railroad Bridge. The relocated Rutherford Pier would be approximately 750 feet south of its original location. When completed, the municipal harbor and Rutherford Pier would allow the City of Bay St. Louis to operate the public access facility which would provide opportunities for recreational access to the Bay of St. Louis and other coastal waters for boaters, fishermen, and the general public.

This proposed project as described in the EA was evaluated for any potential significant adverse impacts to existing land use, water resources (surface water, groundwater, waters of the United States, and floodplains), air quality, noise, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, State and Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitat), and cultural resources. It was also evaluated for safety and hazardous materials issues as well as for disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low income populations.

**FINDINGS**

Based on input and consultations with Federal and State resource agencies, and other identified sources documented in the attached EA and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act FEMA regulations (44 CFR Part 10) for environmental considerations, and executive orders on floodplains (EO 11988), wetlands (EO 11990) and environmental justice (EO 12898), FEMA has found that the proposed project with the prescribed mitigation measures as defined in the EA will have no significant impact on the natural or human environment.

As a result of this Finding of No Significant Impact, an EIS will not be prepared and the proposed project with prescribed conditions may proceed. If a change in the scope of work occurs, the State and FEMA must be notified to evaluate if the proposed change would alter the potential impacts on the environment.

Recommended:

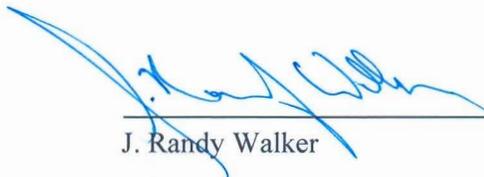
 08.30.11

Michael Grisham

Date

**FEMA Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-1604-DR-MS**

Approved:

 8/30/11

J. Randy Walker

Date

**FEMA Infrastructure Branch Chief  
FEMA-1604-DR-MS**