

FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

The Archdiocese of New Orleans' St. Bernard II Multi-family Housing Project City of Metairie, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed reconstruction of the St. Bernard II Multi-family Affordable Housing Project by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. An Environmental Assessment was prepared on behalf of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Any federal agency may adopt another federal or state agency's EA, and is encouraged to do so when such adoption would save time and money (40 CFR §1500.4(n), §1500.5(h), and §1506.3), providing the original document satisfies the agency's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. FEMA has adopted HUD's EA.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans has submitted an application for FEMA Public Assistance funding being administered in response to FEMA-1603-DR-LA, Hurricane Katrina, which was signed as a Presidential Disaster Declaration on August 29, 2005. The Archdiocese proposes to construct the St. Bernard II Multi-family Housing Project, an 82-living units, 54,687-square foot federally subsidized apartment building for low income and disabled residents, to be located at the Metairie Manor affordable housing project at 4929 York Street, a currently vacant lot at the corner of Transcontinental Drive and York Street in Metairie, Jefferson Parish. The new project is intended to replace the hurricane-damaged St. Bernard II affordable housing facility, a five-story, 82-living units, 51,027-square foot facility located at 2300 Archbishop Hannan Boulevard in Mereaux, St. Bernard Township.

In accordance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*) and associated environmental statutes, a Draft FONSI was prepared to evaluate the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. The Draft FONSI is FEMA's finding that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human and natural environment.

The public comment period will be open for 15 days, from 19 August, 2011 to 6 September, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. Written comments on the proposal may be mailed to:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Environmental / Historic Preservation
St. Bernard II Multi-family Housing Project
1 Seine Court
New Orleans, LA 70114

Or emailed to: FEMA-NOMA@dhs.gov or faxed to FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office in New Orleans at (504) 762-2323; and verbal comments will be accepted at 504 762-2361 between the hours of 7:30 a.m.

and 4:00 p.m. This Public Notice and FEMA's Draft FONSI can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm. HUD's EA and FEMA's Draft FONSI will also be available for public review at East Bank Regional Library located at 4747 W. Napoleon Avenue, Metairie, Louisiana. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft FONSI will become final and this Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.