

Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Draft Tiered Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (Draft SEA)
for the Brownsville Port Security Operations Center
Brownsville, Texas
Port Security Grant Program
Project # 2009-PU-T9-0124 IJ 2

Interested persons are hereby notified that Rio Grande Valley Security Cooperative/Port of Brownsville, Brownsville Texas has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Port Security Grant Program for funding to assist with the construction of Port Security Operations Center in Brownsville, Texas. A Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Grant Programs Directorate Programs was prepared and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued in July 2010, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing regulations of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508), the National Historic Preservation Act, and the implementing regulations of FEMA (44 CFR Parts 9 and 10). FEMA's environmental planning and historic preservation review concluded that all environmental areas of concern are appropriately accounted for in the PEA with the exception of floodplain impacts. A Tiered Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been prepared in accordance with the July 2010 PEA to focus on Executive Order (EO) 11988 requirements and floodplain impacts of the proposed project.

The Draft SEA evaluates alternatives that provide for compliance with EO 11988. The alternatives evaluated include (1) No Action and (2) the Preferred Action, the construction of Port Security Operations Center in Brownsville, Texas (Latitude: 25.95046, Longitude -97.41003). The proposed project is located within the 100-year floodplain, Zone A8 (Zone A is defined as areas of 100-year flood; base flood elevations (BFE) and flood hazard factors determined. In the case of A8, the BFE is 8 feet).

The Draft SEA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences for the proposed action. The Draft SEA is available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm> or viewed at the Cameron County Courthouse, 974 East Harrison Street, Brownsville, Texas 78520 between October 3, 2011 and October 21, 2011 during the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday to Friday.

The comment period will end 15 working days from the initial notice publication date of October 3, 2011. Written comments on the Draft SEA can be mailed or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft SEA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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