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FEMA

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
CITY OF CEDAR RAPIDS CENTRAL FIRE STATION 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 Central Fire Station 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 11th, 2008.

The Proposed Action would replace the damaged Central Fire Station to a location outside of the 100 and 500 year floodplains. Relocating the Central Fire Station will restore the level of service of the Station to pre-disaster levels and protect the facility from future flooding events. The proposed location of the new Cedar Rapids Central Fire Station is on the Emerald Knights Block, which is bounded by 1th Avenue NE and 2nd Avenue SE and the 8th Street SE and 7th Street SE. The Cedar Rapids Central Fire Station provides a vital service for the residents of the City of Cedar Rapids and the proposed action is needed to restore essential public services to pre-disaster levels.

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 January 10 to February 9, 2012. Written comments on the DEA can be faxed to FEMA's Iowa Closeout Center at (515) 223-7216 or emailed to Fema-ICC-EHP@fema.dhs.gov or mailed to Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Branch, 7755 Office Plaza Drive North, Suite 145, Building G, West Des Moines IA 50266.

The DEA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region7.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.