

Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the
Bay-Waveland School District Central Administration Office and Annex Building Project
Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, Mississippi
FEMA-1604-DR-MS

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to assist the Bay-Waveland School District (BWSD) in construction of new Central Administration Office and Annex Buildings in Hancock County, Mississippi.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, causing extensive damage. Subsequently, a Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1604-DR-MS, was signed for Katrina. Prior to Katrina, the BWSD maintained a central administration facility at 260 Carroll Avenue in Bay St. Louis. Located adjacent to the District's Second Street Elementary School, the facility consisted of a Main Administration Building and the Central Administration Maintenance Building. High winds, heavy rains, and flooding from the hurricane caused extensive damage throughout the BWSD facility. The Main Administration Building, a 3,710 square feet, one-story building, is not usable but is still standing. The Central Administration Maintenance Building, a 2,573 square feet, one-story building was demolished immediately post-Hurricane Katrina due to public health and safety concerns.

Following Katrina, the majority of the Main Administration and Central Administration Maintenance Buildings' functions and operations were relocated to temporary trailers, located in the shared Second Street Elementary School and District Administration Facility's parking lot, on the south side of Ulman Avenue. The temporary trailers are of insufficient size and are not designed to serve as long-term replacements for the damaged buildings. Although the existing Main Administration Building could be restored to pre-disaster condition, BWSD is in need of a larger facility to meet their current needs for additional office space. Prior to Katrina, several of the District's administrators utilized office space at several BWSD schools. A larger facility would allow BWSD to consolidate operations at a centralized facility; improving service and efficiency of administrative operations to the entire school district. In addition, a new maintenance building would be required to restore maintenance operations to pre-disaster condition. Consequently, there is a need to provide BWSD with suitable replacement buildings that would restore operations to pre-disaster condition, while meeting the District's current needs for additional office space to consolidate staff and operations.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, BWSD would construct a new Central Administration Office Building and an Annex Building on approximately 1.8 acres of the 3.6-acre BWSD property at 213 Ulman Avenue in Bay St. Louis. The proposed site is located immediately north of the Second Elementary School and adjacent to the BWSD's Ingram Building (see Figure 2). The Central Administration Office Building will be a 10,000 to 11,000-square-foot one-story steel structure with metal stud infill. The Central Administration Office Building will have brick veneer/stucco on the exterior and will exhibit features in character with the surrounding neighborhood. The proposed Annex Building would be located just to the west of the proposed Central Administration Office Building and would house both the Maintenance and Information Technology Departments (Figure 3). The Annex Building will be a 2,000 to 3,000-square-foot pre-engineered structure with metal stud and masonry infill. An access drive from Ulman Avenue will be constructed between the Ingram Building and the new Central Administration Office Building, with a 56-space parking area constructed behind and around the two proposed buildings.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environmental, and potential environmental consequences for the

proposed action. The Draft EA is available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region4.shtm> or viewed and copied at the following locations:

- Bay-Waveland School District
201 Carroll Avenue, Bay St. Louis, MS 39525
- Hancock County Public Library, Bay St. Louis Branch
312 Highway 90, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

The comment period will conclude 15 days after the initial notice publication date of January X, 2012. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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