Administration National Marine Fisheries Service. FEMA has received no objections to the project as proposed subsequent to these notifications and comments and conditions received have been incorporated into this NEPA document.

In accordance with applicable local, state, and Federal regulations, the applicant would be responsible for acquiring any necessary permits prior to commencing construction at the proposed project site.

FEMA is inviting the public to comment on the proposed action during a fifteen (15) day comment period. A public notice will be published for 5 days in the local newspaper, *The Times-Picayune*, announcing the availability of this EA for review at the Orleans Parish Main Library at 219 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, LA. A copy of the Public Notice is attached in Appendix C.

### 8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Odessa Bowen – Environmental and Floodplain Specialist  
Alan Johnson – Floodplain Specialist  
Adam Borden – Environmental Team Lead  
Alice-Anne Krishnan – Historic Preservation Specialist  
Tiffany Spann - Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer
9.0 REFERENCES

Endangered Species Act of 1973
Website: http://epw.senate.gov/esa73.pdf

Website: http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/ehplaws/eo11988.shtm

Website: http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/ehplaws/eo11990.shtm

Website: http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/ehplaws/ejeo.shtm


Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Volunteer Remedial Program List. Website: http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/Portals/0/Remediation Services/VRP.


Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. Coastal Zone Management Act.

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management.
   Letter Correspondence 04/04/2011 from Karl L. Morgan, Acting Administrator.

   Website:  http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cmfpl/reference/Coastal_BARRIER_BARRIER_Actions_Actions.htm

Principal Environmental & Historic Preservation Laws.

U.S. Census Bureau. [Online]
   Available:
   http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFacts?_event=Search&geo_id=&_geoContext=_
   _street=&_county=70126&_cityTown=70126&_state=&_zip=70126&_lang=en&_sse
   =on&Pctxt=fph&pgsl=010&show_2003_tab=&&redirect=Y

U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District. Letter dated April 20,
   2011. Account number MVN-2011-00830-SK.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2006. Nonattainment Status for each Parish by year.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). 2010. Currently Designated Nonattainment
   Areas for All Criteria Pollutants.
   Website:  http://www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/greenbk/ancl.html.

   Website:  http://www.fws.gov/endangered/wildlife/htm.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana Field Office. Letter dated April 8, 2011, Deborah A.
   Fuller.
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
WESLEY BARROW STADIUM  
NEW ORLEANS, ORLEANS, LOUISIANA  
FEMA-1603-DR-LA

Introduction
As a result of damages from Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized under Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) to provide Federal assistance to designated disaster areas in Louisiana. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93-288) Section 406 authorizes FEMA’s Public Assistance (PA) Program to provide financial and other forms of assistance to State and local governments to support response, recovery, and mitigation efforts following Presidentially declared disasters.

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared. The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the relocation and reorientation of the Wesley Barrow Stadium and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The proposed project aims to restore community services lost on August 29, 2005, as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Wesley Barrow Stadium was a positive economic gain for the Pontchartrain Park Area and encouraged the area’s youth to engage in organized Athletic activities. Restoration of recreational services in a location that best serves the local community is needed for FEMA PA and the City of New Orleans to achieve its objective. The alternatives considered include 1) the No Action Alternative, 2) Reconstruction/repair of the Wesley Barrow Stadium in the same footprint, and 3) Reconstruction and reorientation of the Wesley Barrow Stadium at the original site.

Proposed Action
The proposed action is for replacement of the Wesley Barrow Stadium 2,900 square foot (SF) concrete block covered stadium building and 3,860 SF corrugated steel roof in with a 4,670 SF facility in a different orientation at 6500 Press Drive, New Orleans, LA. This action would include site preparation, construction of building and necessary utilities and appurtenances.
Findings

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to water resources (wetlands and floodplains), coastal resources, biological resources, cultural resources, hazardous materials and environmental justice. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, water quality, transportation, air quality, and noise are anticipated. Also during the construction period, cultural resources impacts could occur during ground disturbing activities; however, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultation would be on-going to limit any potential impacts which could occur. All short-term impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

Conditions

The following conditions must be met as part of the implementation of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize federal funds:

- As of the release date of Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs), unobligated FEMA Public Assistance grants for new construction and substantial improvements are to be built in accordance with a minimum base flood elevation (BFE) as established by the preliminary DFIRM. Orleans Parish DFIRMs were issued November 2008. Local ordinances based on Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) maps may require a more stringent elevation requirement. New construction must be compliant with current codes and standards. City of New Orleans is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. At a minimum, the lowest floor of new structures must be elevated or flood proofed to or above the base flood elevation as provided by FEMA DFIRM. Future losses shall be eliminated, reduced or minimized by relocating building contents, materials and equipment to or above the BFE specified by 2008 preliminary DFIRM. All permits and certificates, and all the associated coordination, must be documented and provided to the GOHSEP and to FEMA as part of the permanent project file.

- Fill or borrow material used must be sourced from sites that do not contain any buried cultural materials (i.e., wells, cisterns, foundations, basements, prehistoric Indian artifacts, human burials, and the like). If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) or human remains are discovered, City of New Orleans and/or its contractors must immediately stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The Applicant and GOHSEP must inform the FEMA Public Assistance program, who would in turn contact the FEMA Historic Preservation staff. The Applicant must not proceed with work until FEMA completes the necessary reviews required by Section 106 of NHPA. In addition, if unmarked graves are present, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act is required. In that situation, the Applicant must notify the local law enforcement agency within 24 hours of the discovery, and notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at (225) 342-8170 within 72 hours of the discovery. Failure to comply with these stipulations may jeopardize FEMA funding of the project.
• Project construction would involve the use of potentially hazardous materials (e.g., petroleum products, cement, caustics, acids, solvents, paint, electronic components, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, treated timber) and may result in the generation of small volumes of hazardous wastes. Appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control spills of hazardous materials must be taken and generated hazardous and non-hazardous wastes are required to be disposed in accordance with applicable federal, state and local regulations.

• The project has been found by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) to be inside the Louisiana Coastal Zone; therefore, they require that a complete Coastal Use Permit Application package (Joint Application Form, locality maps, project illustration plats with plan and cross section views, etc.) along with the appropriate application fee be submitted to their office prior to construction.

Conclusion

The results of these evaluations, as well as consultations and input from other federal and state agencies, are presented in the EA. Based on the information analyzed, FEMA has determined that the implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to the quality of the natural and human environment. In addition, the proposed project does not appear to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (per 44 CFR Part 10) and the proposed project as described in the EA may proceed.

Public Review and Comment

The EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA’s website at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm. The EA was also available for public review at the Orleans Parish Main Library at 219 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, LA. A legal notice was posted in the local newspaper on May 27, 2011 through May 31, 2011. No substantive comments were received; therefore the Draft EA will become final and the initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.

Approval:

[Signature]

Joe Threat, Director
Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

[Signature]

Kevin Jaynes, CHMM
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 6 – Denton, TX
Appendix A

Site Photographs

Note: Site plans of existing site and proposed project are in the PDF version of this document
View facing south of Wesley Barrow Stadium

View facing northeast of existing Wesley Barrow Stadium
View facing west of Hayne Boulevard

View facing west of the Wesley Barrow Stadium proposed site – batter would face east
View facing west of current parking lot

View facing northeast of visitor dugout
View facing southeast of proposed T-ball field
Appendix B

Agency Correspondence

Note: State and Federal Agency correspondence is in the PDF version of this document
To: Adam Borden
From: Shona M. Gibson, PE
Date: 4/19/2011
Re: Orleans Parish Preliminary D-Firm Panel 120

The purpose of this memo is to advise you of a labelling error on the Orleans Parish Preliminary Firm Panel 120 of 375. The area in question is also known as Ponchartrain Park and is outlined in the attached map. The area is labeled as Zone VE (El. 1) on the preliminary map when it should be labeled Zone AE (El. 1).

We have documented this area so that when we initiate a new study in Orleans Parish the labelling error will not carry over on any future maps.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (940) 383-7326 or at shons.gibson@dhs.gov
Floodplain review

City of New Orleans
Wesley Barrow Stadium
Environmental Assessment
AI Project 1409; PW 4526

Current and Proposed Location: 6500 Press Drive, New Orleans, LA. Coordinates: Latitude 30.02881, Longitude -90.04205

The City of New Orleans/Orleans Parish enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), 08/03/70. Per Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Panel Number 22071C0120F, dated 11/13/08, the existing and proposed buildings are located in a Zone “AE”, EL 1, North American Vertical Datum (NAVD) Base Flood Elevation (BFE) determined. Project is replacement of the Wesley Barrow Stadium 2900 SF concrete block covered stadium building and 3,860 SF corrugated steel roof in with a 4,670 square foot facility in a different orientation at 6500 Press Drive. Per the original Project Worksheet 4526, the existing structure is eligible for a repair, not a replacement. The stadium was obligated for $337,414.00 for repairs; PM costs were obligated in the amount of $26,645.00 in PW 17452 (Ref. CNO-PM1) for a total of $364,059.00. Version 5 is being prepared for scope alignment which will bring the total project costs to $2,039,705.00, which appears to be a substantial improvement over the existing structure. The Improved Project now includes demolition and rebuilding with improvements at the same location with a different orientation. As of the release date of DFIRMs, unobligated FEMA Public Assistance grants are to be held to a minimum BFE that is established by DFIRM. Orleans Parish DFIRMs were issued November 2008. Local ordinances based on ABFE maps may require a more stringent elevation requirement. The applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. In compliance with EO11988, an 8-Step Process, showing considered alternatives, was completed and is attached or on file. As per 44 CFR 9.11 (d) (9), mitigation or minimization standards must be applied where possible. The replacement of building contents, materials and equipment should be, where possible, wet or dry-proofed, elevated, or relocated to or above the DFIRM) elevation.
8-STEP PROCESS
EO 11988-FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT
EO 11990-WETLAND PROTECTION

Date: 04/29/2011
Prepared by: Alan A. Johnson, CFM, FPM FEMA Environmental Floodplain
City of New Orleans
Wesley Barrow Stadium
Environmental Assessment
AI Project 1409; PW 4526

Current and Proposed Location: 6500 Press Drive, New Orleans, LA. Coordinates:
Latitude 30.02881, Longitude -90.04205

STEP 1 Determine whether the proposed action is located in a wetland and/or the
100-year floodplain (500-year floodplain for critical actions [44 CFR 9.4]), or whether it has the potential to affect or be affected by a
floodplain or a wetland (see 44 CFR 9.7).

The project is located in a floodplain as mapped by:

Per Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Panel
Number 22071C0120F, dated 11/13/08, the existing and proposed
buildings are located in a Zone “AE”, EL 1, North American Vertical
Datum (NAVD) Base Flood Elevation (BFE) determined.

The project is not located in a wetland as identified by a review of the
Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Wetland inventory completed
4/14/2011.

STEP 2 Notify the public at the earliest possible time of the intent to carry out an
action in a floodplain or wetland, and involve the affected and interested
public in the decision making process (see 44 CFR 9.8).

Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.

Applicable - Notice will be or has been provided by:

A Cumulative Public Notice was published in the New Orleans
Times Picayune, Baton Rouge Advocate, Lafayette Daily Advertiser,
Lake Charles American Press and Hammond Star on November 7-9,
2005.

STEP 3 Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating the proposed
action in a floodplain or wetland (including alternative sites, actions and
the "no action" option) [see 44 CFR 9.9]. If a practicable alternative
exists outside the floodplain or wetland, FEMA must locate the action at the alternative site.

Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.

Applicable - Alternative identified in the EA Document or is described below:

**Alternative 1:** Implementation of the No Action Alternative would entail no repair, reconstruction, or relocation of Wesley Barrow Stadium. Consequently, the community would be deprived of the benefits of this public facility and damaged facilities would continue to present hazards to the community. No Action would forego opportunities for reconstruction and recompense.

**Alternative 2:** This alternative would reconstruct/repair the damaged Wesley Barrow Stadium eligible facilities to the pre-disaster configuration, function and capacity in substantially the same footprint, which would restore the essential community service as it existed prior to Hurricane Katrina. However, the City of New Orleans has proposed reorientation of the original structure based on safety concerns. As most games are held in the afternoon/evening hours, the current southwest orientation has the setting sun fall in the batter’s face, reducing their ability to see the pitch. The re-orientation of the facility will mitigate this hazard.

**Alternative 3:** The proposed action is for replacement of the Wesley Barrow Stadium 2900 SF concrete block covered stadium building and 3,860 SF corrugated steel roof in with a 4,670 square foot facility in a different orientation at 6500 Press Drive, New Orleans, LA. The applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. Applicant is responsible for obtaining and retaining all permits and certificates for verification. All coordination pertaining to these permit(s) should be documented to the local floodplain administrator. Copies should be provided to LA GOhSEP and FEMA as part of the permanent project files. As per 44 CFR 9.11 (d) (9), mitigation or minimization standards must be applied where possible. The reconstruction and reorientation of this facility will have no determinable impact on flood elevations, nor will it increase development in this fully built-out area. However, as this is determined to be a substantial improvement, the lowest floor must be elevated or flood-proofed to the base flood elevation (BFE). The replacement of building contents, materials and equipment should be, where possible, wet or dry-proofed, elevated, or relocated to or
above the Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) BFE.

STEP 4  Identify the full range or potential direct or indirect impacts associated with, the occupancy or modification of floodplains and wetlands and the potential direct and indirect support of floodplain and wetland development that could result from the proposed action (see 44 CFR 9.10).

Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.

Applicable - Alternatives identified in the EA Document or are described below:

The proposed action is for replacement of the Wesley Barrow Stadium 2900 SF concrete block covered stadium building and 3,860 SF corrugated steel roof in with a 4,670 square foot facility in a different orientation at 6500 Press Drive, New Orleans, LA. The applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. Applicant is responsible for obtaining and retaining all permits and certificates for verification. All coordination pertaining to these permit(s) should be documented to the local floodplain administrator. Copies should be provided to LA GOHSEP and FEMA as part of the permanent project files. As per 44 CFR 9.11 (d) (9), mitigation or minimization standards must be applied where possible. The reconstruction and reorientation of this facility will have no determinable impact on flood elevations, nor will it increase development in this fully built-out area. However, as this is determined to be a substantial improvement, the lowest floor must be elevated or flood-proofed to the base flood elevation (BFE). The replacement of building contents, materials and equipment should be, where possible, wet or dry-proofed, elevated, or relocated to or above the Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) BFE.

The project is not located in a wetland as identified by a review of the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Wetland inventory.

STEP 5  Minimize the potential adverse impacts and support to or within floodplains and wetlands to be identified under step #4, restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains, and preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values served by wetlands (see 44 CFR 9.11).

Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.
Applicable - Mitigation measures identified in the EA Document or are described below:

The most practicable alternative is to reconstruct Wesley Barrow Stadium. The proposed action is for replacement of the Wesley Barrow Stadium 2900 SF concrete block covered stadium building and 3,860 SF corrugated steel roof in with a 4,670 square foot facility in a different orientation at 6500 Press Drive, New Orleans, LA. The applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. Applicant is responsible for obtaining and retaining all permits and certificates for verification. All coordination pertaining to these permit(s) should be documented to the local floodplain administrator. Copies should be provided to LA GOHSEP and FEMA as part of the permanent project files. As per 44 CFR 9.11 (d) (9), mitigation or minimization standards must be applied where possible. The reconstruction and reorientation of this facility will have no determinable impact on flood elevations, nor will it increase development in this fully built-out area. However, as this is determined to be a substantial improvement, the lowest floor must be elevated or flood-proofed to the base flood elevation (BFE). The replacement of building contents, materials and equipment should be, where possible, wet or dry-proofed, elevated, or relocated to or above the Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) BFE.

**STEP 6** Reevaluate the proposed action to determine first, if it is still practicable in light of its exposure to flood hazards, the extent to which it will aggravate the hazards to others, and its potential to disrupt floodplain and wetland values and second, if alternatives preliminarily rejected at step #3 are practicable in light of the information gained in steps #4 and #5. FEMA shall not act in a floodplain or wetland unless it is the only practicable location (see 44 CFR 9.9).

Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.

Applicable - Action proposed is located in the only practicable location as described below:

The Wesley Barrow Stadium serves this area of New Orleans, and needs to remain in this area. Within this area, there are no other practicable alternate locations outside the floodplain available.

Applicable - Action proposed is not located in the only practicable location. Describe below:
STEP 7  Prepare and provide the public with a finding and public explanation of any final decision that the floodplain or wetland is the only practicable alternative (see 44 CFR 9.12).

Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.

Applicable - Finding is or will be prepared as described below:

As per 44 CFR 9.12, a Cumulative Final Public Notice was published 10/26/2007 and documentation is attached or on file.

STEP 8  Review the implementation and post-implementation phases of the proposed action to ensure that the requirements of the order are fully implemented. Oversight responsibility shall be integrated into existing processes.

Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.

Applicable - Approval conditioned on review of implementation and post-implementation phases to insure compliance of the order(s).

The project has been reviewed by FEMA for compliance with 44 CFR 9.11.

Applicable - Oversight responsibility established as follows:
March 29, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO: See Distribution

SUBJECT: Scoping Notification/Solicitation of Views

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is mandated by the U.S. Congress to administer Federal disaster assistance pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. The Stafford Act authorizes FEMA’s Public Assistance Program to provide emergency temporary administrative, educational, medical, or other support facilities for areas impacted by disasters while repairs and reconstruction of storm damaged facilities are being undertaken.

The attached figures show the location for a proposed project and a site plan for which FEMA funding has been requested.

The Wesley Barrow Stadium sustained considerable damage as a result of Hurricane Katrina’s high winds, heavy rain and flooding of greater than six feet in August 2005. The damages include corrosion of the facilities’ exterior and interior walls, damage to electrical components, roofing systems, underground wire and conduit, and damage to scoreboard top and bottom plate. The applicant is proposing to demolish the existing structure that houses Wesley Barrow Stadium and build a new facility on the existing site that will serve the same function, but with a different orientation in order to better accommodate the athletes that use the stadium facilities for baseball. In addition, the new facility will have improved underground drainage and irrigation as well as artificial turf at the infield, relocation of existing scoreboard and a new T-hail field with fencing and bleachers.

To ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Executive Orders (EOs), and other applicable Federal regulations, we will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). To assist us in preparation of the EA, we request that your office review the attached documents for a determination as to the requirements of any formal consultations, regulatory permits, determinations, or authorizations.

Please respond within 30 calendar days of the date of this scoping notification. If our office receives no comments at the close of this period, we will assume that your agency does not object to the project as proposed.

Comments may be faxed to (504) 762-2323, emailed to Odessa.Bowen@associates.dhs.gov or mailed to the attention of Odessa Bowen, Environmental and Historical Preservation Department, at the address above.

For questions regarding this matter, please contact Odessa Bowen, Environmental Specialist at (504) 762-2964.

Distribution: LDEQ, USEPA, USFWS, USACE, LDWF, LDNR
Wesley Barrow Stadium Site - East of Main Southern University of New Orleans Campus, 6500 Press Drive New Orleans, LA Lat./Long.: 30.02881, -90.04205
Figure 2: Site Map - Wesley Barrow Stadium, New Orleans, LA

APPLICANT: City of New Orleans
FIPS NO.: 071-55000-00

Wesley Barrow Stadium Site -
East of Main Southern University of New Orleans Campus,
6500 Press Drive
New Orleans, LA
Lat./Long.: 30.02881, -90.04205

Source: Google Earth (2010)