

## SECTION IV

# GUIDELINES FOR HARDENED BUILDING/SAFE ROOM CAPACITY AND CONTROL

### A. General

1. The Hurricane Hardened Building/Safe Room is a temporary safe room and must not result in injury to the occupants. The following guidelines are provided to ensure basic levels of comfort and safety. These will determine the capacity of the safe room in the pre-activation phase.
2. Sleeping Accommodations (may be necessary if an approaching hurricane will impact the Parish in the early morning hours)
  - a) The occupancy load for the building and each room should be obtained and must never be exceeded.
  - b) Minimum floor space of 5.0 square-feet per person.
  - c) The number of persons to be supported by the safe room was determined from the occupancy load and the actual floor space for the building.
3. Bathroom Facilities (minimum requirements)
  - a) Areas for male and female should be separate
  - b) One (1) toilet per 25 females
  - c) One (1) toilet and one (1) urinal per 35 males
  - d) One (1) hand wash basin per 40 persons
4. Water Requirements
  - a) 4 gallons per person for safe room

### B. Safe Room Entry and Registration Process

#### 1. Introduction

The Safe Room Manager and Team must first establish a system that caters for the entry and registration of all safe room occupants. The Safe Room Manager must ensure that:

- a) Entry into the safe room is orderly and rapid, with personnel placed into the safe room areas only.

b) People are only permitted to bring into the safe room those items, which are necessary for those individuals to complete their storm essential duties.

c) Special health foods and medicines are retained by the individuals.

## 2. Registration and Inquiry – System and Procedures

Registration is an important first step in the processing of storm essential personnel. The requirement is to identify authorized individuals, establish their eligibility, and to facilitate the answering of inquiries and the accounting of all persons. In principle, registration should be affected on an individual basis; carried out as quickly as practicable at any place where people assemble, having due regard to their comfort; and with data recorded on a standard form (see Appendix C – Registration Form).

## 3. Basic System of Registration and Inquiry

Registration forms should be distributed to each group and unaccompanied persons. Registration is to be affected on a single registration form in duplicate, which will include sufficient information to identify the person and make accounting of all persons simple.

## 4. The Safe Room Management Staff Will Use the Registration to:

a) Keep a record of all essential personnel using the facility

b) Ascertain useful skills and interests needed during the pending disaster

c) Determine sleeping arrangements (may be necessary if essential personnel are required to stay overnight prior to a storm)

d) Maintain and report number of safe room occupants to Parish EOC

## C. Orientation of Occupants

### 1. Introduction

The Safe Room Manager must as soon as possible after receiving personnel, conduct an orientation session to inform the occupants about the role of the Safe Room Staff, rules, regulations, facilities and the expected behavior. The Safe Room Manager will:

a) Identify and introduce (if not already done) the safe room management staff and explain their responsibilities and functions

b) Explain the organization and management structure and use of the safe room (see Appendix A – Organizational Chart)

- c) Explain the policies concerning personal possessions
- d) Inform all occupants of safe room rules and regulations (see Appendix D – Safety Rules and Safe Room Guidelines and Appendix E – General Safe Room Regulations)
- e) Stress the need for occupants to assist each other and the need for cooperation for their common health and welfare
- f) Explain the procedures for operating the safe room

## **SECTION V HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **A. Introduction**

The Safe Room Manager and Team must emphasize the need for an endeavor to maintain a high level of safety and health practices in the safe room. The rules and regulations must be applicable to and be maintained by all occupants. The Safe Room Manager must ensure that:

1. For safety and health reasons, smoking is not permitted inside the safe room. Smokers may smoke outside of the building only.
2. Safe room occupants are encouraged to watch for and report any potential fire hazard such as careless use of combustible materials, metal equipment, faulty wiring, outlets, and switches.

### **B. Firefighting**

The following basic rules apply to putting out fires:

1. Wood, paper, cloth, or rubbish fires can best be extinguished by water.
2. Gas or oil fires can best be extinguished by sand or dirt.
3. Electrical fires can best be extinguished by turning off electrical power and then using sand or dirt.
4. The first extinguisher present should be used to extinguish minor fires.
5. In the event of fires, the Parish EOC should be notified immediately by dialing 911.

### **C. Health and Sanitation**

The following rules must be observed in an effort to avoid the spread of communicable diseases in the safe room:

1. Safe room floors shall be kept clean of waste materials.
2. Restroom areas shall be kept clean at all times.
3. Waste containers shall be disposed of as soon as filled.
4. The safe room environment shall remain clean and sanitary at all times.

## SECTION VI SAFE ROOM MANAGEMENT TEAM

### A. Introduction

Any member of the Safe Room Management Team can take on multiple assignments or roles as long as all assigned tasks can be performed effectively before and during a high-wind event.

The following Management Team members would be responsible for overseeing the Parish Safe Room Operations Plan (see Appendix A):

- Safe Room Manager
- Assistant Safe Room Manager
- Safe Room Outreach Manager
- Field Manager
- Security Coordinator

### B. Safe Room Manager

The Safe Room Manager's responsibilities include the following:

1. Organizing and coordinating the Parish Safe Room Operations Plan
2. Ensuring that personnel are in place to facilitate the Parish Safe Room Operations Plan
3. Ensuring that all aspects of the Parish Safe Room Operations Plan are implemented
4. Setting up first-aid teams
5. Conducting regular meetings to discuss emergency planning
6. Distributing phone numbers of key personnel
7. Ensuring that the Parish Operations Plan is periodically reviewed and updated as necessary

### C. Assistant Safe Room Manager

The Assistant Safe Room Manager's responsibilities include the following:

1. Performing duties of the Safe Room Manager when he/she is off site or unable to carry

out his/her responsibilities

2. Performing duties as assigned by the Safe Room Manager
3. Understanding and operating all safe room equipment (including communications, lighting, and safety equipment)
4. Maintaining equipment or ensuring that equipment is maintained year-round and ensuring that it will work properly during a high-wind event
5. Informing the Safe Room Manager if equipment is defective or needs to be upgraded
6. Replenishing supplies to pre-established levels following safe room usage

D. Safe Room Outreach Manager

The Safe Room Outreach Manager's responsibilities include the following:

1. Determining what signage and maps are needed to help intended safe room occupants get to the safe room in the fastest and safest manner possible
2. Ensuring that signage complies with ADA requirements
3. Providing signage in other languages as appropriate for the intended safe room occupants
4. Working with the Assistant Safe Room Manager to ensure that signage is illuminated or luminescent after dark and that all lighting will operate if a power outage occurs
5. Periodically checking signage for theft, defacement, or deterioration and repairing or replacing signs as necessary
6. Providing signage that clearly identifies all restrictions that apply to those eligible for refuge in the safe room

E. Field Manager

The Field Manager's responsibilities include the following:

1. Ensuring that safe room occupants enter the safe room in an orderly fashion
2. Pre-identify essential personnel eligible for entering the safe room
3. Pre-identify safe room occupants with special needs such as those who are disabled or who have medical problems
4. Administering and overseeing first-aid by those trained in it

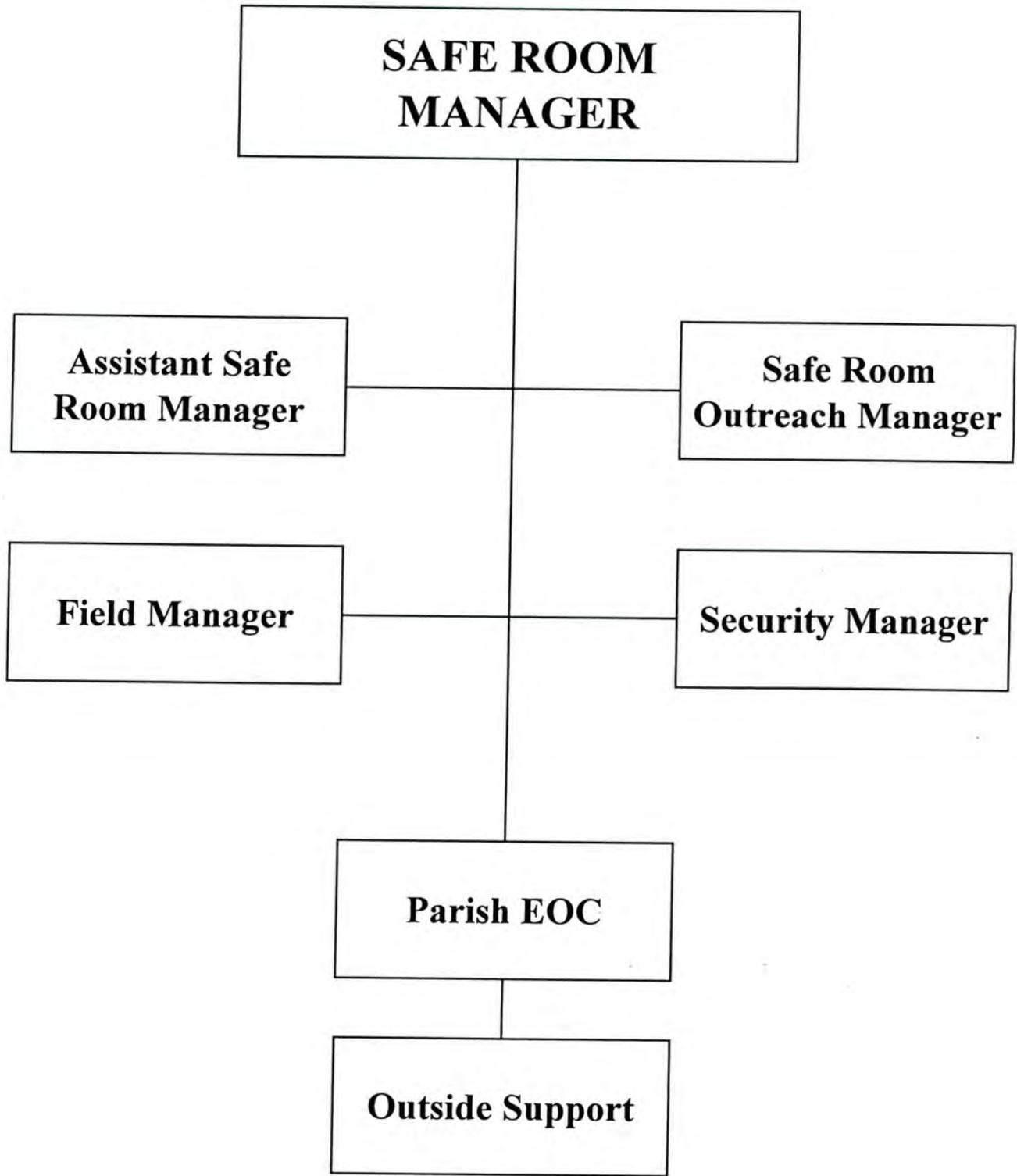
5. Providing information to safe room occupants during an emergency event
6. Implementing emergency procedures

F. Security Manager

The Security Manager's responsibilities include the following:

1. Opening the safe room for occupancy
2. Controlling the movement of people and vehicles at the site and maintaining access lanes for emergency vehicles and personnel
3. "Locking down" the safe room
4. Preventing unauthorized entry
5. Assisting with fire suppression, if necessary
6. Account for all employees in their assigned areas
7. Turning off all equipment

**APPENDIX A  
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



**APPENDIX B**  
**SAFE ROOM EQUIPMENT and SUPPLIES**

TYPE	EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES	PRESENT	
		YES	NO
<b>Communications Equipment</b>	NOAA weather radios		
	cellular telephones		
	portable generator		
	portable computer		
<b>Emergency Equipment</b>	a minimum of two copies of the Parish Safe Room Operations Plan		
	flashlights and batteries		
	fire extinguishers		
	blankets		
	pry-bars (for opening doors that may have been damaged or blocked by debris)		
	trash can liners and ties		
	tool kits		
<b>First-Aid Supplies</b>	adhesive tape and bandages in assorted sizes		
	safety pins in assorted sizes		
	latex gloves		
	scissors and tweezers		
	antiseptic solutions		
	antibiotic ointments		
	non-prescription drugs (i.e., aspirin and non-aspirin pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medications, antacids, laxatives)		
	smelling salts for fainting spells		
	petroleum jelly		
	eye drops		
	wooden splints		
	thermometers		
	towels		
	fold up cots		
	first-aid kits (2)		
<b>Water</b>	adequate quantities for the duration of the particular event		
<b>Sanitary Supplies</b>	toilet paper		
	moistened towelettes		
	paper towels		
	personal hygiene items		
	disinfectants		
	chlorine bleach		
	plastic bags		

## APPENDIX C REGISTRATION FORM

SAFE ROOM ADDRESS:

NAME <i>(Last, First)</i>	SEX	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF ARRIVAL	TIME OF ARRIVAL
	Male	/ /	/ /	a.m.
	Female			p.m.

OCCUPANTS' Pre-Disaster Address	OCCUPANTS' PHONE NO.	EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO.
	(Home)	Name: _____
	(Business)	Phone No.: _____
	(Cell)	Relationship: _____

Do you have any special circumstances that we need to know about or can help with such as, dietary needs, medications, mobility, etc.?

Medical:	
Dietary:	
Special:	

Do you have any special training, certifications, disaster experience that you would like us to know about?

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

Would you be willing to help safe room staff with special assistance to others?

Yes                       No

Type of Assistance:

Medical/First Aid		Fire Watch	
Food Preparation/Service		Counseling	
Security		Other -	

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

To Be Filled Out By Staff

Left Safe Room On:	
	Date
	Time

**APPENDIX D**  
**SAFETY RULES AND SAFE ROOM GUIDELINES**

1. No alcohol or drugs are allowed in the safe room, no persons will be admitted while under the influence
2. No weapons are allowed in the safe room, except those from law enforcement personnel
3. Smoking in outdoor designated areas only
4. Food and drinks in designated areas only
5. Information will be posted at the registration desk

**NOTE: This information should be posted throughout the Safe Room.**

## APPENDIX E

### GENERAL SAFE ROOM REGULATIONS

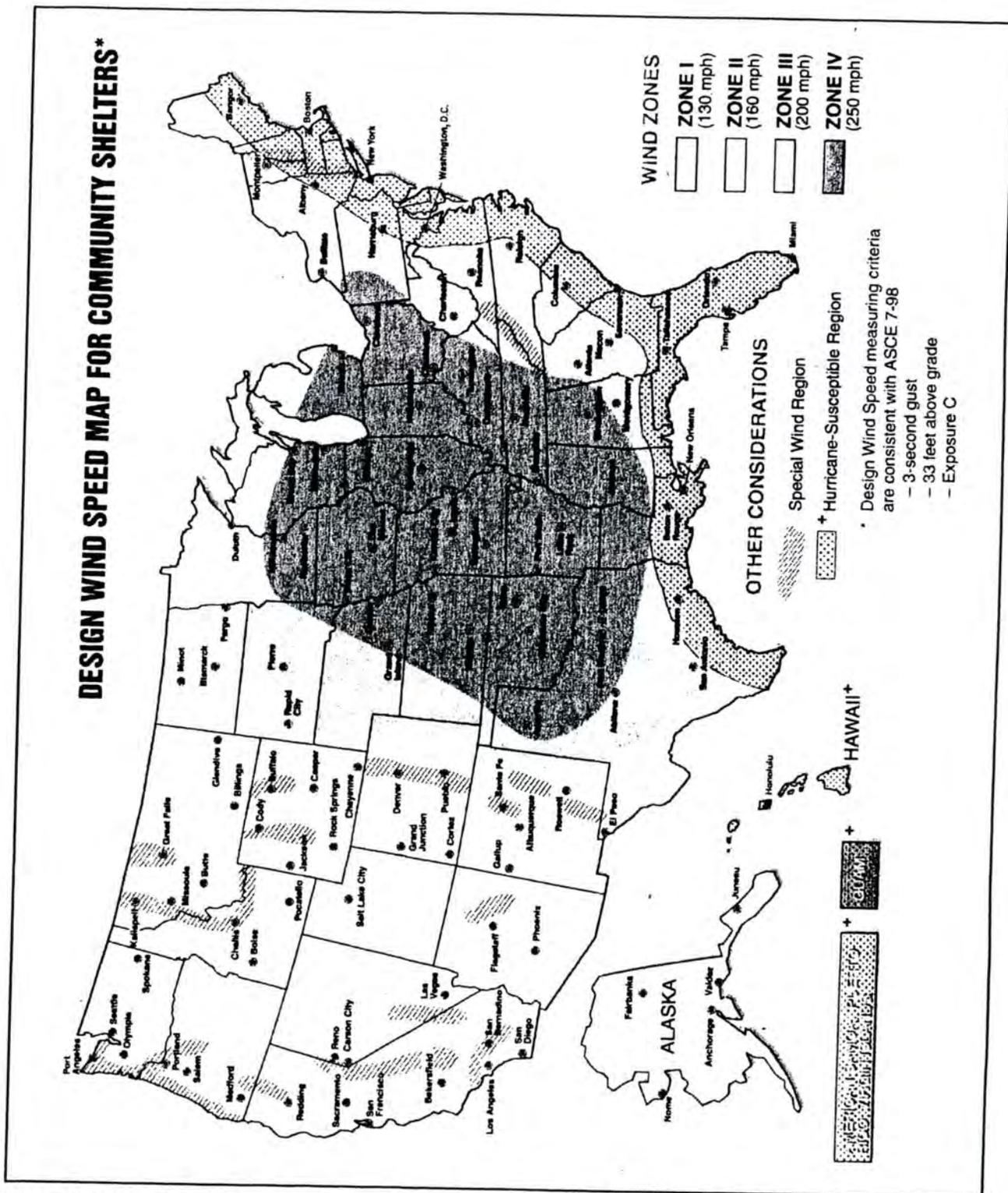
1. The Safe Room Manager is the supreme authority in the management of daily operations of the safe room and his/her decision is final
2. The Assistant Safe Room Manager or other person designated by the Safe Room Manager will be responsible for the safe room operations in the absence of the Safe Room Manager
3. The Safe Room Manager is entitled to call upon any occupant of the safe room to assist in its operations and every occupant is expected to cooperate to the best of his/her ability
4. If a State of Emergency is proclaimed at any time by the Parish President, all persons within the safe room will be subject to the orders made under the Act
5. The Safe Room Manager and members of the Safe Room Management Team are forbidden to accept responsibility for any item of personal property of any safe room occupant
6. The use of alcoholic beverages will not be permitted
7. There should be no unbecoming behavior. Firearms and ammunitions and other forms of weapons will not be allowed in the safe room, except by law enforcement officials
8. All occupants of an emergency safe room must be pre-registered with the Parish

**NOTE: This information should be provided to all safe room occupants upon arrival and registration.**

## **APPENDIX F**

### **ESSENTIAL SAFE ROOM NEEDS**

1. Adequate number of safe room staff
2. Cots or alternatives such as mats, rugs, blankets, etc.
3. Battery-powered flashlights or lanterns and radios
4. First-Aid Kits, First-Aid Textbooks and trained first aiders and responders
5. Cleaning equipment such as brooms, trash cans, large and small plastic bags, soap, towels, buckets, disinfectants, etc.
6. Sanitary supplies such as plastic bags and ties, toilet paper, etc.
7. Fire extinguishers
8. List of safe room occupants, safe room registration forms and logbook
9. Emergency power and fuel
10. Emergency telecommunications equipment (radio and cell phone)
11. Information/Bulletin Board
12. Water supply



**Figure 1:** Design wind speed map for community shelters (Federal Emergency Management Agency). Additional information about wind zones is presented in Chapter 10 of *Design and Construction Guidance for Community Shelters*, FEMA 361.

Evaluator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Evaluation: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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**APPENDIX C  
SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**



Photo 1 – View of existing pavilion, limestone parking area, and culvert in the existing drainage ditch, looking northwest.



Photo 2 – View of existing culvert headwall near the existing pavilion (foreground), looking northeast.



Photo 3 – View of undeveloped land proposed for the location of the proposed Welcome Park Community Center, looking north.



Photo 4 – View of the existing slab on the proposed project site. The slab is currently a basketball court and would be converted to a parking area, looking northeast.



Photo 5 – View of playground equipment and trees on the northwest corner of the proposed project site. The playground equipment and trees would be removed to construct the proposed Welcome Park Community Center, looking northwest.



Photo 6 – View of the existing pavilion, playground equipment, and trees, looking south.



Photo 7 – View of the proposed location of the Welcome Park Community Center in the foreground. The jogging trail and pond are in the background, looking northeast.



Photo 8 – View of the proposed location of the new 8-inch water line near the existing drainage ditch, looking northeast.



Photo 9 – View of an existing culvert in the drainage ditch along Park Street, looking southeast.



Photo 10 – View of an existing culvert along the jogging path, looking north.



Photo 11 – View of the existing pond, looking north.



Photo 12 – View of the cellular communications tower across Park Street from the proposed Welcome Park Community Center, looking south.



Photo 13 – View of a drainage ditch and culvert running from the existing pond the drainage ditch along Park Street, looking northwest.



Photo 14 – View of the existing Community Center/Senior Citizen Center/St. James Parish West Bank Sheriff's Office, looking northwest.



Photo 15 – View of sewage treatment unit west of, and adjacent to, the existing Community Center, looking north.



Photo 16 – View of residential structure located across from the existing Community Center, looking southeast.



Photo 17 – View of existing drainage ditch and the assumed location of the main water line along LA Highway 18, looking north.



Photo 18 – View of the St. James Parish West Bank Sheriff's Office within the existing Community Center structure, looking northwest.



Photo 19 – View of the existing pond, looking southwest.



Photo 20 – View of the proposed Welcome Park Community Center location, looking south.

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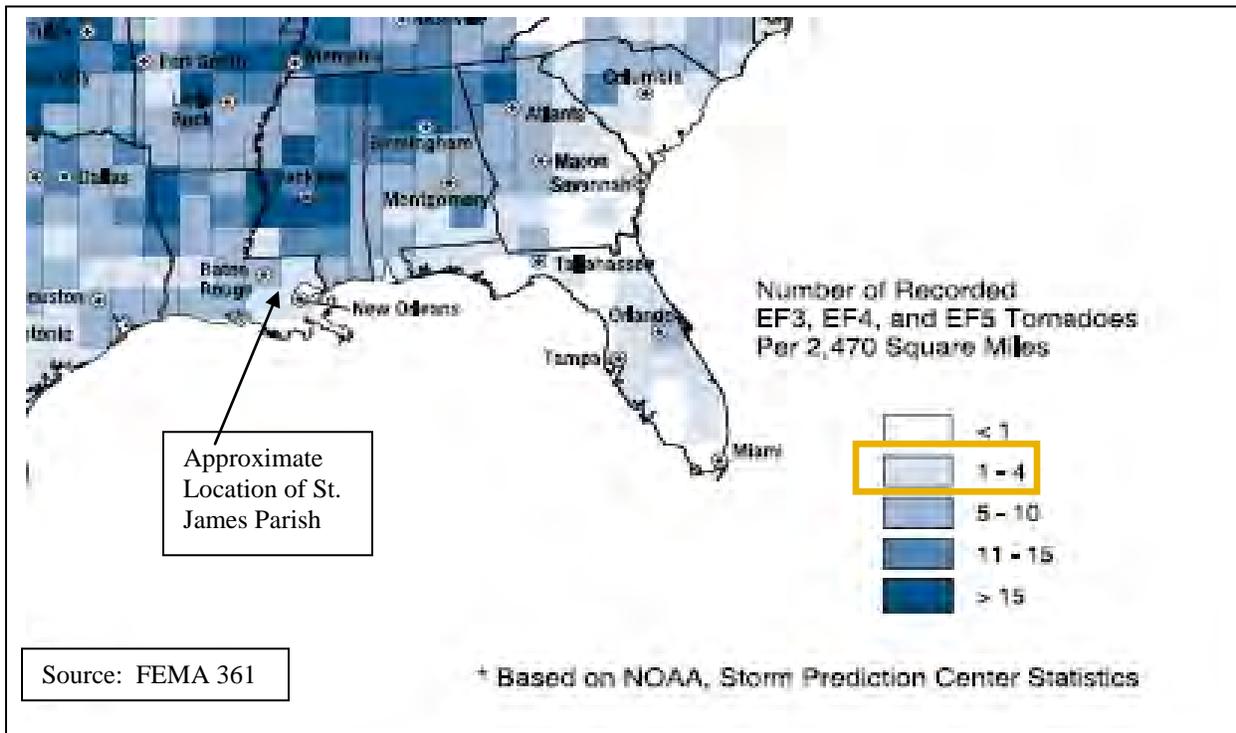
**APPENDIX D**

**PROPOSED PROJECT JUSTIFICATION ANALYSIS**

On August 29, 2005, storm surge caused by Hurricane Katrina inundated large portions of southeast Louisiana. St. James Parish experienced extensive flood and wind damage to structures throughout the Parish. The proposed “hardening” of the to-be-constructed Welcome Park Community Center and the construction of two interior tornado safe rooms within the hardened structure would provide life-safety protection for essential St. James Parish personnel during extreme wind events. The personnel would include Parish local government and public works employees, as well as emergency responders, such as volunteer firemen and Acadian Ambulance Service paramedics, St. James Parish West Bank Sheriff’s office personnel and patrol, St. James Parish Youth detention workers, essential industrial workers and staff, and other members of the community that are considered to be at risk population. The population at risk is comprised of only those people who are unable to evacuate ahead of a storm for any reason.

This decision was also based on the likelihood of the Parish being threatened by an extreme wind-event and the consequences (possible death and injury) from such an event. Figure D-1 depicts recorded Enhanced Fujita (EF) Scale tornado activity of the following categories: EF3 (“Severe”: 138-167 3-second mph gust speed), EF4 (“Devastating”: 168-199 3-second mph gust speed), and EF5 (“Incredible”: 200-234 3-second mph gust speed) per 2,470 square miles for the proposed project area for the years 1950-2006. The EF Scale categorizes tornado severity based on observed damage and has been used by the National Weather Service since 2007 to rate tornadoes.

**Figure D-1: Historic EF3, EF4, and EF5 Tornado Occurrence in St. James Parish**



The construction of the proposed tornado safe rooms within the to-be-constructed community center would provide a high level of occupant protection (referred to as “near-absolute protection” in FEMA 361), from extreme wind events that would not be possible with existing public buildings in the Parish. Currently, St. James Parish has no public tornado safe rooms constructed on either side of the Mississippi River. St. James Parish plans to construct a similar project on the East Bank of the Mississippi River, however, that proposed project is not assessed in this EA.

During Hurricane Gustav, St. James Parish housed several public works employees and law enforcement personnel in a Parish-owned structure. Due to the storm’s intensity and the structure’s construction and design, the entire roof of that 13,500 SF structure was ripped off and thrown into the adjacent parking lot. This situation put those individuals in an unsafe and potentially life-threatening situation. Therefore, the Parish feels that it has an obligation to provide a safe building for similar employees and storm essential personnel that would remain in the Parish during future storms that would affect St. James Parish.

St. James Parish is divided almost in half by the Mississippi River (Figures 1 and 2). Traveling from one side of the Parish to the other is only possible from one of two Mississippi River bridges or by vehicle ferry crossings in neighboring Parishes. The Sunshine Bridge (LA Highway 70) crosses the Mississippi River near the border of St. James Parish with Ascension Parish, and the Veterans Memorial Bridge (LA Highway 641) crosses the Mississippi River near Gramercy on the East Bank and enters LA Highway 18 in St. John the Baptist Parish. The Edgard to Reserve ferry crosses the Mississippi River to the east in St. John the Baptist Parish. This ferry can transport 17 vehicles; however, it does not operate on weekends or from 9 PM to 5 AM. These bridges and the ferry are maintained and operated by the LADOTD. When St. James Parish experiences sustained wind speeds in excess of 35 mph, all of the bridges and the ferry are closed to traffic. Therefore, for several hours before a storm makes landfall, during a storm, and several hours after a storm passes, there are no practical means of crossing the Mississippi River. The bridges and the ferry have historically been out of service from 12 to 24 hours when severe weather events occur. Therefore, it is important that essential West Bank St. James Parish employees, emergency responders, law enforcement, and essential industrial site workers be provided a safe place to be protected.

According to FEMA 361, the potential users of a tornado safe room must be able to reach the building within 5 minutes of an approaching tornado and the safe room doors should be secured within 10 minutes. St. James Parish estimates that approximately 240 persons are living or working within 0.5 mile of the proposed facility site. Additionally, St. James Parish operates a senior citizen center on the same Parish-owned property as the proposed Welcome Park Community Center with proposed interior tornado safe rooms which would allow senior citizens, some of whom may not be able to evacuate the area in a timely fashion or without assistance, immediate access to the safe rooms prior to an approaching tornado. In addition, the St. James Parish West Bank Sheriff’s Office is located within the existing Community Center/Senior Citizen Center building. The St. James Parish-operated Juvenile Detention Center, which is located at the foot of the Sunshine Bridge four miles away would also need to house staff members that would need to be accessible to work and care for juveniles at that facility.

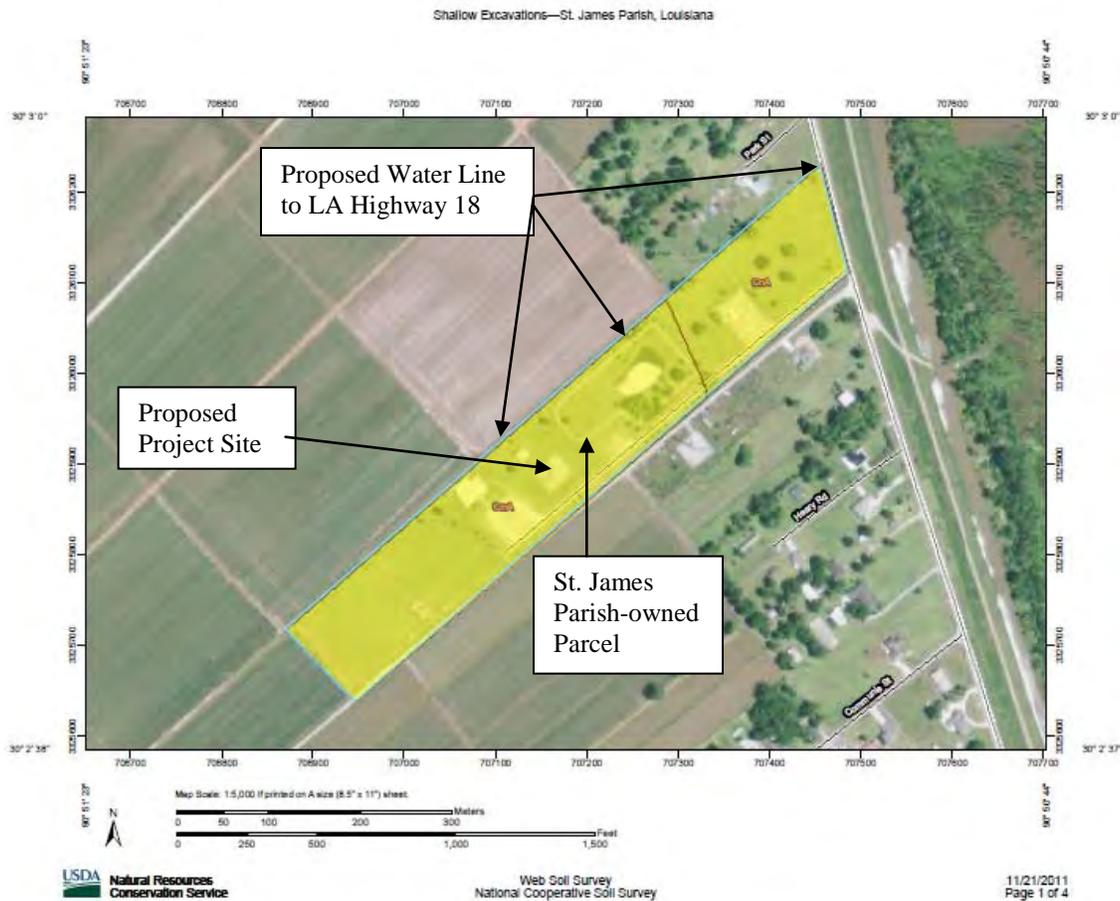
It should be stressed that the intended purpose of the proposed hardened Welcome Park Community Center and the interior tornado safe rooms is to provide life-safety protection for essential St. James Parish personnel during extreme wind events. It is not intended to be used as a recovery shelter to provide services and housing for people whose homes have been damaged or destroyed by fires, storms, or other catastrophes.

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**APPENDIX E**

**AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE**

# Site Soil Conditions – Shallow Excavations



## MAP LEGEND

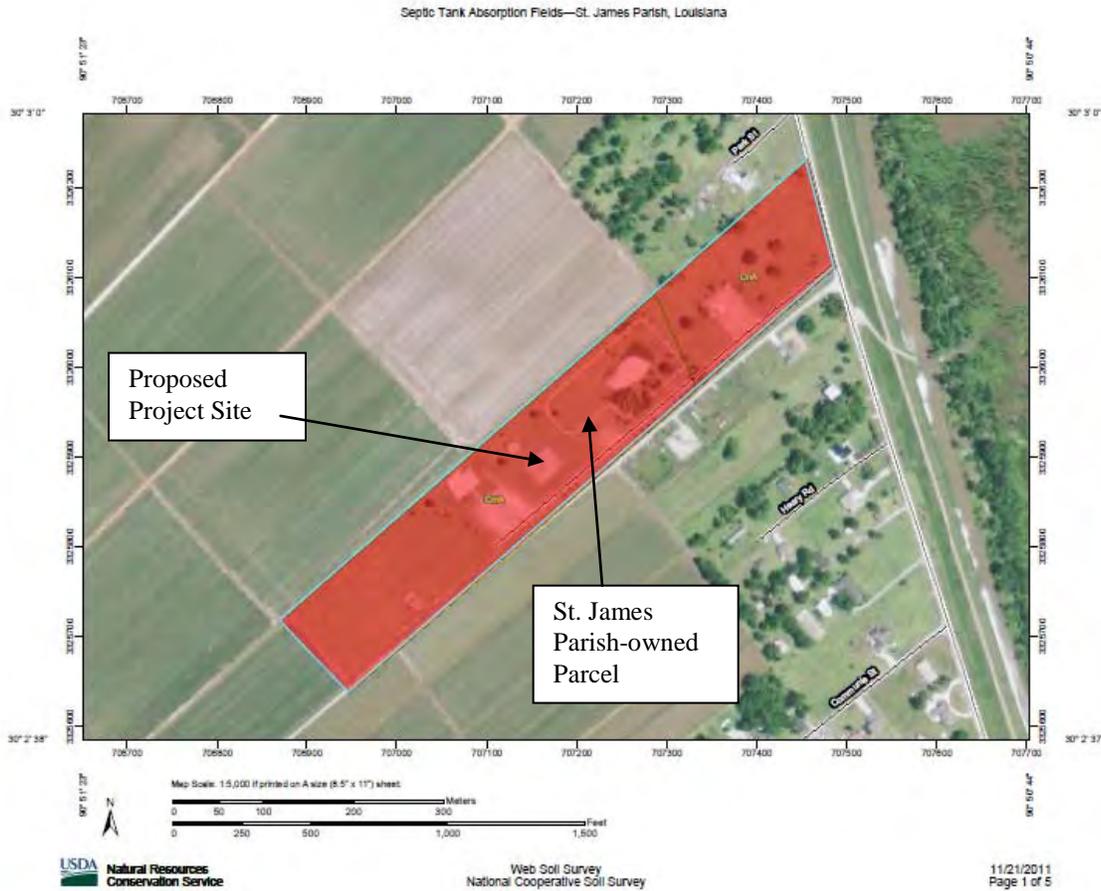
- Area of Interest (AOI)**
  - Area of Interest (AOI)
- Soils**
  - Soil Map Units
- Soil Ratings**
  - Very limited
  - Somewhat limited
  - Not limited
  - Not rated or not available
- Political Features**
  - Cities
- Water Features**
  - Streams and Canals
- Transportation**
  - Rails
  - Interstate Highways
  - US Routes
  - Major Roads
  - Local Roads

## Shallow Excavations

Shallow Excavations— Summary by Map Unit — St. James Parish, Louisiana (LA093)						
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Component name (percent)	Rating reasons (numeric values)	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
CmA	Cancienne silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Somewhat limited	Cancienne (92%)	Depth to saturated zone (0.99)	14.6	71.5%
				Cutbanks cave (0.10)		
CnA	Cancienne silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Somewhat limited	Cancienne (88%)	Depth to saturated zone (0.99)	5.8	28.5%
				Cutbanks cave (0.10)		
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>					<b>20.4</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Shallow Excavations— Summary by Rating Value		
Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Somewhat limited	20.4	100.0%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# Site Soil Conditions – Septic Tank Absorption Fields

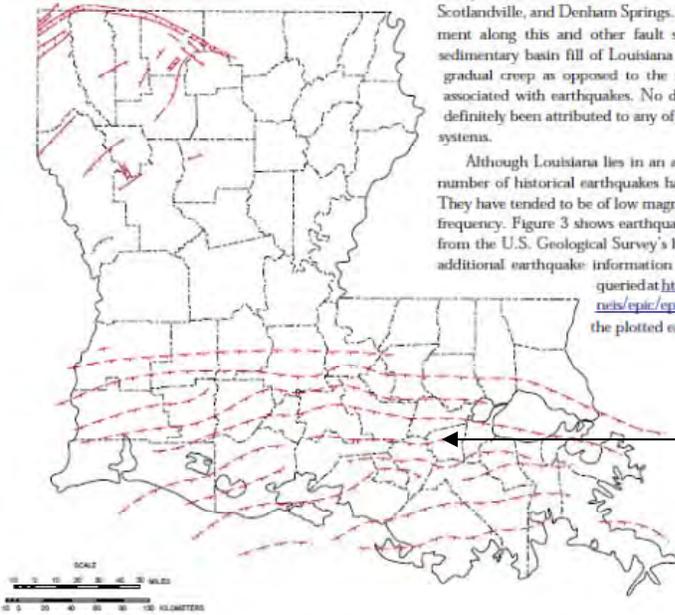


## MAP LEGEND

- Area of Interest (AOI)**
  - Area of Interest (AOI)
- Soils**
  - Soil Map Units
- Soil Ratings**
  - Very limited
  - Somewhat limited
  - Not limited
  - Not rated or not available
- Political Features**
  - Cities
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  - Streams and Canals
- Transportation**
  - Rails
  - Interstate Highways
  - US Routes
  - Major Roads
  - Local Roads

## Septic Tank Absorption Fields

Septic Tank Absorption Fields— Summary by Map Unit — St. James Parish, Louisiana (LA093)						
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Component name (percent)	Rating reasons (numeric values)	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
CmA	Cancienne silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Very limited	Cancienne (92%)	Depth to saturated zone (1.00) Slow water movement (1.00)	14.6	71.5%
CnA	Cancienne silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes	Very limited	Cancienne (88%)	Depth to saturated zone (1.00) Slow water movement (1.00)	5.8	28.5%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>					<b>20.4</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Septic Tank Absorption Fields— Summary by Rating Value						
Rating		Acres in AOI		Percent of AOI		
Very limited		20.4		100.0%		
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>20.4</b>		<b>100.0%</b>		



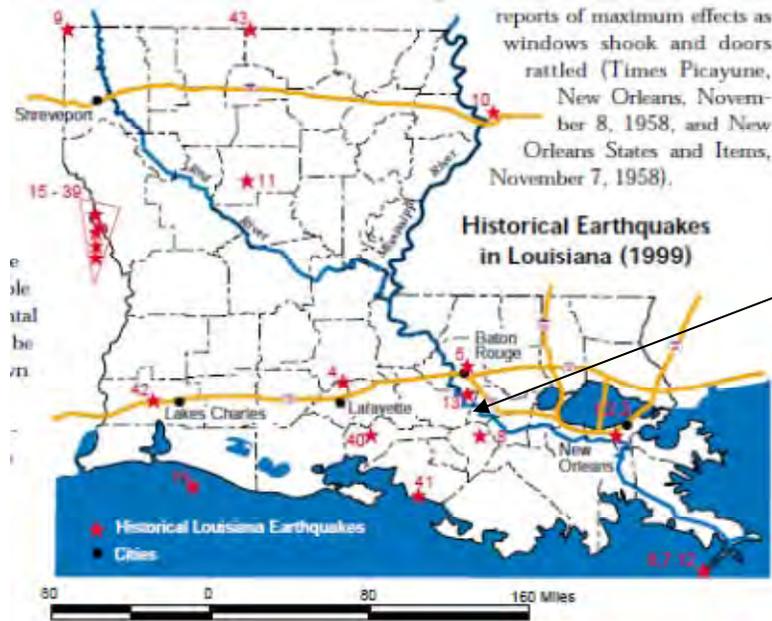
Scotlandville, and Denham Springs. So far as is known, movement along this and other fault systems within the thick sedimentary basin fill of Louisiana is related to a process of gradual creep as opposed to the sudden breaking of rock associated with earthquakes. No detected earthquakes have definitely been attributed to any of the specific mapped fault systems.

Although Louisiana lies in an area of low seismic risk, a number of historical earthquakes have occurred in our state. They have tended to be of low magnitude and occur with low frequency. Figure 3 shows earthquake locations in Louisiana from the U.S. Geological Survey's historical record (this and additional earthquake information is accessible and can be queried at [http://wwwneic.cr.usgs.gov/neis/epic/epic\\_rect.html](http://wwwneic.cr.usgs.gov/neis/epic/epic_rect.html)). Table 2 lists the plotted earthquakes.

Approximate Proposed Project Location

Figure 2. Generalized subsurface faults in Louisiana. North Louisiana faults are from Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and American Association of Petroleum Geologists (1972; used with permission). The dashed lines in south Louisiana, rather than representing discrete faults, mark the approximate northernmost edges of different zones of growth faults having different ages of formation (from Murray 1961; used with permission of the author).

### Geologic Faults in Louisiana



reports of maximum effects as windows shook and doors rattled (Times Picayune, New Orleans, November 8, 1958, and New Orleans States and Items, November 7, 1958).

Approximate Proposed Project Location

Figure 3. Historical felt earthquake locations in and around Louisiana, from the U.S. Geological Survey's historical record ([http://wwwneic.cr.usgs.gov/neis/epic/epic\\_rect.html](http://wwwneic.cr.usgs.gov/neis/epic/epic_rect.html)).

### Historical Earthquake Locations in Louisiana

**From:** Rohrer, Laurel (CTR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2011 11:53  
**To:** 'Beth.Dixon@LA.gov'; 'Jamie.Phillippe@LA.gov'; 'Kevin.Stilley@LA.usda.gov'; 'mick.tama@epamail.epa.gov'; 'cmichon@wlf.la.gov'; 'Karl.Morgan@la.gov'; 'Powell, Amy E MVN'  
**Cc:** Spann, Tiffany; Holmes, Leschina; Pitts, Melanie  
**Subject:** SOV Request for St. James Parish Community Center Hardening and Safe Room Construction  
**Attachments:** 1603-0365 St. James Parish Building 1 SOW.doc

Security

U.S. Department of Homeland

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-DR 1603/1607 LA  
1 Seine Ct, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 4049  
New Orleans, LA 70114



October 25, 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 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to provide funds to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration.

The attached scope of work and aerial photographs correspond to a proposed project for which FEMA funding has been requested.

On August 29, 2005, storm surge caused by Hurricane Katrina inundated large portions of Louisiana causing extensive flood and wind damage to structures in St. James Parish. The proposed project is the construction and hardening of a new Community Center to include a safe room designed to protect approximately 190 essential St. James Parish personnel on the West Bank of the Mississippi River in St. James Parish. The location of the proposed project is 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (30.046556, -90.851331).

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 document 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) 762-2353, emailed to [Laurel.Rohrer@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:Laurel.Rohrer@associates.dhs.gov) or mailed to the attention of Laurel Rohrer, Environmental Department, at the address above.

For questions regarding this matter, please contact Laurel Rohrer, Environmental Specialist at (504) 762-2205.

Tiffany Spann-Winnfield,  
Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer

Distribution: LDEQ, USEPA, USACE, LWFD, NRCS, LDNR

***Laurel Rohrer, CFM, CHMM, REM (CTR)***

*URS Corporation, Contractor*

*NEPA Environmental Specialist - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program*

*Federal Emergency Management Agency*

*4th Floor, Room 4049, FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office*

*1 Seine Court, 4th Floor*

*New Orleans, LA 70114*

*Office: (504) 762-2205*

*Cell: (540) 842-3300*

*Fax: (504) 762-2353*

*Email: [laurel.rohrer@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:laurel.rohrer@associates.dhs.gov)*

To Whom It May Concern,

The proposed project is to construct a 12,000 square foot Community Center. Approximately 1,000 square feet of the proposed structure will be hardened and used as a safe room for essential St. James Parish personnel located on the West Bank of the Mississippi River. Please see the scope of work below.

**Damage Description:**

On August 29, 2005, storm surge caused by Hurricane Katrina inundated large portions of Louisiana causing extensive flood and wind damage to structures in St. James Parish. The proposed construction of the Community Center and hardening of a portion of the structure to be used as a safe room would provide life-safety protection for essential St. James Parish personnel during extreme wind events. The personnel would include Parish public works employees, as well as emergency responders and members of the community that are being threatened by an extreme wind event and the consequences (death and injury) from such an event.

When St. James Parish experiences sustained wind speeds in excess of 35 miles per hour, all of the bridges and ferries are closed to traffic. Therefore, several hour before a storm makes landfall, during a storm, and several hours after a storm passes, there are no means of crossing the Mississippi River. Bridges and ferries have historically been out from 12 to 24 hours. Therefore, it is important that essential Parish employees, emergency responders, law enforcement, and essential industrial sites workers be provided a safe place to be protected.

**Scope of Work:**

The scope of work for the proposed action indicates "hardening" of to-be-constructed safe room within a new building to accommodate 190 essential St. James Parish personnel. The proposed safe room will be constructed on public property with minimum elevation of +18.0 feet above mean sea level (which is 13 feet above the BFE). An approximate 12,000 square foot main Community Center building will be constructed at 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (30.046556, -90.851331). The safe room would be constructed within this structure with adequate ventilation, rest rooms, and first aid rooms and will be served by natural gas generators in the event of loss of electrical power. The safe room area would provide maximum occupancy, which may be needed to adequately respond immediately after storms or major winds events. The Parish has determined that it is more cost effective to harden a safe room area in a new, under construction building than to retrofit an existing building. The requirements of FEMA Publication 361 will be incorporated into the construction of the new building. The hardening areas of the building will be designed to withstand 165 mile per hour winds, with 3 seconds sustained winds. Specifications: Approximately 9,300 square feet of the building will be hardened and 1,000 square feet of the building would be used as a tornado safe room. Occupancy of the safe room part of the structure would be for at least 24 hours, but no more than 48 hours.

Construction of the proposed Community Center would include the installation of a new sewage treatment plant, new underground electrical service, a new main water line, and new culverts within an existing drainage ditch. There are an existing jogging track and a pond located east of the proposed Community Center site; both of which would remain in place. According to site plans provided by the Applicant, three of six existing trees at the west corner of the proposed location would need to be removed to accommodate the construction of the Community Center.

FEMA will be preparing an environmental assessment for the proposed project. The proposed action will be considered a "connected action" and the entire construction process will be considered for EHP review.

**Proposed Project Location Map – St. James Parish, Louisiana**



**Proposed Project Vicinity**



# Proposed Project Area Wetland Map



## Rohrer, Laurel (CTR)

---

**From:** Beth Altazan-Dixon [Beth.Dixon@LA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 02, 2011 13:44  
**To:** Laurel.Rohrer@associates.dhs.gov  
**Subject:** DEQ SOV 111028/3005 St. James Parish Community Center Hardening and Safe Room Construction

November 2, 2011

Tiffany Spann-Winfield, Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-Environmental Section, 4th Floor  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, LA 70114  
[Laurel.Rohrer@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:Laurel.Rohrer@associates.dhs.gov)

RE: 111028/3005 St. James Parish Community Center Hardening and Safe Room Construction  
FEMA Funding  
St. James Parish

Dear Ms. Spann-Winfield:

The Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Business and Community Outreach Division has received your request for comments on the above referenced project.

After reviewing your request, the Department has no objections based on the information provided in your submittal. However, for your information, the following general comments have been included. Please be advised that if you should encounter a problem during the implementation of this project, you should immediately notify LDEQ's Single-Point-of-contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640.

- Please take any necessary steps to obtain and/or update all necessary approvals and environmental permits regarding this proposed project.
- If your project results in a discharge to waters of the state, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) application may be necessary.
- If the project results in a discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify its LPDES permit before accepting the additional wastewater.
- All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that you contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3181 to determine if your proposed project requires a permit.
- If your project will include a sanitary wastewater treatment facility, a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit application or Notice of Intent must be submitted no later than June 1, 2011. Additional information may be obtained on the LDEQ website at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2296/Default.aspx> or by contacting the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219- 3181.
- If any of the proposed work is located in wetlands or other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you should contact the Corps directly regarding permitting issues. If a Corps permit is required, part of the application process may involve a water quality certification from LDEQ.
- All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.
- Please be advised that water softeners generate wastewaters that may require special limitations depending on local water quality considerations. Therefore if your water system improvements include water softeners, you are advised to contact the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.
- Any renovation or remodeling must comply with LAC 33:III.Chapter 28, Lead-Based Paint Activities; LAC 33:III.Chapter 27, Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools and State Buildings (includes all training and accreditation); and LAC 33:III.5151, Emission Standard for Asbestos for any renovations or demolitions.

- If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.

**Currently, St. James Parish is classified as attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and has no general conformity determination obligations.**

Please send all future requests to my attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (225) 219-3958 or by email at [beth.dixon@la.gov](mailto:beth.dixon@la.gov).

Sincerely,



Beth Altazan-Dixon  
Performance Management  
LDEQ/Business and Community Outreach Division  
Office of the Secretary  
P.O. Box 4301 (602 N. 5th Street)  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301  
Phone: 225-219-3958  
Fx: 225-325-8148  
Email: [beth.dixon@la.gov](mailto:beth.dixon@la.gov)



**State of Louisiana**  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT

10/31/2011

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - FEMA  
1 SEINE CT., 4TH FLOOR  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70114

**RE: P20111419, Solicitation of Views**  
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - FEMA**

**Description:** Proposed construction of a new Community Center which will include a "hardened" safe room designed to protect approx. 190 essential Parish personnel.

**Location:** Lat. 30° 02' 47.6"N, Long. 90° 51' 04.79"W; 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA

**Saint James Parish, LA**

Dear Laurel Rohrer:

We have received your Solicitation of Views for the above referenced project, which has been found to be inside the Louisiana Coastal Zone. In order for us to properly review and evaluate this project, we require that a complete Coastal Use Permit Application packet (Joint Application Form, locality maps, project illustration plats with plan and cross section views, etc.) along with the appropriate application fee be submitted to our office. Using your complete application, we can provide you with an official determination, and begin the processing of any Coastal Use Permit that may be required for your project. You may obtain a free application packet by calling our office at (225) 342-7591 or (800)-267-4019, or by visiting our website at <http://www.dnr.state.la.us/crm/coastmgt/cup/cup.asp>.

We recommend that, during your planning process, you make every effort to minimize impacts to vegetated wetlands. As our legislative mandate puts great emphasis on avoiding damages to these habitats, in many cases the negotiations involved in reducing such disturbances and developing the required mitigation to offset the lost habitat values delay permit approval longer than any other factor. Additionally, the following sensitive features may require additional processing time by the appropriate resource agencies: The area where the project is located is all part of the aboriginal homelands of the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana. As such, large villages, burial sites, and sacred sites were in place in that entire area. Please contact Kimberly S. Walden (Cultural Director) or Melanie Aymond (Research Coordinator) at (337) 923-9923 or (337) 923-4395 for additional information. Also, please coordinate with the Lafourche Basin Levee District ([slong@lbd.us.com](mailto:slong@lbd.us.com)) to determine if a construction permit will be required.

Should you desire additional consultation with our office prior to submitting a formal application, we recommend that you call and schedule a pre-application meeting with our Permit Section staff. Such

a preliminary meeting may be helpful, especially if a permit application that is as complete as possible is presented for evaluation at the pre-application meeting.

If you have any questions, would like to request an application packet or would like to schedule a pre-application meeting, please contact Vickie Amedee at (225) 342-3781 or [vickie.amedee@la.gov](mailto:vickie.amedee@la.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl L. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Karl L. Morgan  
Administrator

**Karl L. Morgan/va**

Attachments

**Final Plats:**

1) [P20111419](#)      [Final Plats](#)      [10/25/2011](#)

cc: Pete Serio, COE w/plats  
Dave Butler, LDWF w/plats  
Lafourche Basin Levee District w/plats  
Peggy Rooney, OCM w/plats  
Craig Leblanc, CMD/FI w/plats  
Saint James Parish w/plats

# CMD - PERMIT CODING FORM

PREPARED BY Vsa  
DATE 10/28/11

P20111419 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - FEMA AMEDEE, VICKIE  
CUPNO APPLICANT NAME REVIEWER  
10/25/2011 10/27/2011  
DATERECD ACKNOWL  
 STATE  LOCAL  
CONCERN

ST. JAMES  
PARISH (ES)  
30° - 2' - 48.00" N  
LATITUDE  
90° - 51' - 4.80" W  
LONGITUDE  
187D  
QUAD #

PGP  1  2  NOT PGP

WELL# \_\_\_\_\_ APPLICANT TYPE 14 STATUS # 80

REVISION #	REVISION ISSUE DATE	EXEMPT	MAJOR <input type="checkbox"/> MINOR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CUBIC YARDS	DREDGE	RIG	PIPELINE	MISC	H2O BLOCK	DEVELOP
								99		

FIELD AREA 7

YES  NO TRANSFER

YES  NO FIELD INVESTIGATION REQUESTED

YES  NO FOLLOW-UP REQUESTED

YES  NO AMENDED

YES  NO MODIFIED

YES  NO EXTENDED

**ENTER THE NEW NAME IN APPLICANT FIELD**

FINAL DETERMINATION (S) (SEPARATE BY COMMAS)  
50V-App-Reg-1-1-1

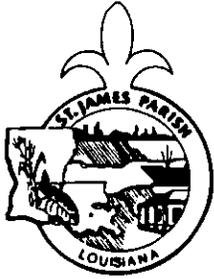
ON-HOLD DATE	OFF-HOLD DATE	PUBLIC NOTICE DATE	PUBLIC NOTICE DATE	PUBLIC NOTICE TYPE
ISSUE DATE	COMMENCE DATE	WITHDRAWN DATE	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	APPEAL DATE
<u>10/31/2011</u>				

X-REFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

Misc. - Construction of Community Center

COMMENTS





# St. James Parish Government

P.O. Box 106  
Convent, Louisiana 70723-0106  
(225) 562-2300 (225) 265-3156  
TDD: (225) 562-8500

Dale J. Hymel, Jr.  
Parish President

December 1, 2011

Ms. Laurel Rohrer  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security – FEMA  
1 Seine Court  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New Orleans, LA 70114

Re: Coastal Use Permit - P111419  
District 5 Community Center

Dear Ms. Rohrer:

The St. James Parish Coastal Zone Management Committee has no objection to the above referenced project provided no additional structures or activities are added that are not represented in the permit application.

This letter is not to be interpreted in any manner which would create any liability on the Coastal Zone Management Committee of St. James Parish in interposing no objection thereto, and the St. James Parish Government shall hold the Committee free and harmless from any claims resulting therefrom. Furthermore, additional permits or assurances may be required from other state or federal agencies.

Respectfully,

Jody P. Chenier  
Director of Operations

JPC:jrl

cc: U.S. Corps of Engineers  
Department of Natural Resources

OFFICE OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT

2011 DEC -5 AM 11:44

RECEIVED

---

Jody P. Chenier  
Director of  
Operations

Chantal T. Waguespack  
Director of  
Finance

Faye J. Washington  
Director of  
Human Resources

Eric S. Deroche  
Director of  
Emergency Preparedness

---



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 60267  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 701600267

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

JAN 25 2012

Operations Division  
Operations Manager,  
Completed Works

Ms. Laurel Rohrer  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 4049, FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office  
1 Seine Court, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

Dear Ms. Rohrer:

This is in response to the Solicitation of Views request dated October 25, 2011, concerning the construction of the St. James Parish Community Center Hardening and Safe Room, at 7248 Park Street, at St. James, Louisiana, in St. James Parish.

We have reviewed your request for potential Department of the Army regulatory requirements and impacts on any Department of the Army projects.

We do not anticipate any adverse impacts to any Corps of Engineers projects.

We have reviewed your project and determined that a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will not be required. Any changes or modifications to the proposed project will require a revised determination.

You are advised that this determination is valid for a period of 5 years from the date of this letter unless new information warrants revision prior to the expiration date or the District Commander has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.

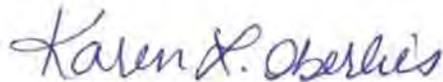
Off-site locations of activities such as borrow, disposals, haul-and detour-roads and work mobilization site developments may be subject to Department of the Army regulatory requirements and may have an impact on a Department of the Army project.

Please contact Mr. Robert Heffner, of our Regulatory Branch by telephone at (504) 862-1288, or by e-mail at [Robert.A.Heffner@usace.army.mil](mailto:Robert.A.Heffner@usace.army.mil) for questions concerning wetlands determinations or need for on-site evaluations. Questions concerning regulatory permit requirements may be addressed to Mr. Martin Mayer by telephone at (504) 862-2276 or by e-mail at [Martin.S.Mayer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Martin.S.Mayer@usace.army.mil).

Future correspondence concerning this matter should reference our account number MVN-2011-02846-SA. This will allow us to more easily locate records of previous correspondence, and thus provide a quicker response.

We apologize for missing the target date of November 25, 2011 listed in your request. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen L. Oberlies". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen L. Oberlies  
Solicitation of Views Manager



BOBBY JINDAL  
GOVERNOR

*State of Louisiana*  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

ROBERT J. BARHAM  
SECRETARY  
JIMMY L. ANTHONY  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

**Date** November 10, 2011

**Name** Laurel Rohrer

**Company** FEMA

**Street Address** 1 Seine Court, 4th Floor, Rm 4049

**City, State, Zip** New Orleans, La 70114

**Project** St. James Parish Community Center  
Hardening & Safe Room Construction

**Project ID** 6002011

**Invoice Number** 11111014

Personnel of the Habitat Section of the Coastal & Non-Game Resources Division have reviewed the preliminary data for the captioned project. After careful review of our database, no impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the proposed project. No state or federal parks, wildlife refuges, scenic streams, or wildlife management areas are known at the specified site within Louisiana's boundaries.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) has compiled data on rare, endangered, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, plant communities, and other natural features throughout the state of Louisiana. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known at the time of the request regarding the location in question. The quantity and quality of data collected by the LNHP are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals. In most cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; many natural areas in Louisiana have not been surveyed. This report does not address the occurrence of wetlands at the site in question. Heritage reports should not be considered final statements on the biological elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. LNHP requires that this office be acknowledged in all reports as the source of all data provided here. If at any time Heritage tracked species are encountered within the project area, please contact the LNHP Data Manager at 225-765-2643. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please call 225-765-2357.

Sincerely,

  
Amity Bass, Coordinator  
Natural Heritage Program

**From:** Rohrer, Laurel (CTR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2011 12:06  
**To:** 'Cheryl.Walters@la.usda.gov'; 'Britt.Paul@la.usda.gov'  
**Subject:** FW: SOV Request for St. James Parish Community Center Hardening and Safe Room Construction  
**Attachments:** 1603-0365 St. James Parish Building 1 SOW.doc

---

**From:** Rohrer, Laurel (CTR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2011 11:56  
**To:** 'Kevin.Norton@la.usda.gov'  
**Subject:** FW: SOV Request for St. James Parish Community Center Hardening and Safe Room Construction

Security

U.S. Department of Homeland

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
 FEMA-DR 1603/1607 LA  
 1 Seine Ct, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 4049  
 New Orleans, LA 70114



October 25, 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 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to provide funds to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration.

The attached scope of work and aerial photographs correspond to a proposed project for which FEMA funding has been requested.

On August 29, 2005, storm surge caused by Hurricane Katrina inundated large portions of Louisiana causing extensive flood and wind damage to structures in St. James Parish. The proposed project is the construction and hardening of a new Community Center to include a safe room designed to protect approximately 190 essential St. James Parish personnel on the West Bank of the Mississippi River in St. James Parish. The location of the proposed project is 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (30.046556, -90.851331).

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 document 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) 762-2353, emailed to [Laurel.Rohrer@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:Laurel.Rohrer@associates.dhs.gov) or mailed to the attention of Laurel Rohrer, Environmental Department, at the address above.

For questions regarding this matter, please contact Laurel Rohrer, Environmental Specialist at (504) 762-2205.

Tiffany Spann-Winnfield,  
Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer

Distribution: LDEQ, USEPA, USACE, LWFD, NRCS, LDNR

***Laurel Rohrer, CFM, CHMM, REM (CTR)***

*URS Corporation, Contractor*

*NEPA Environmental Specialist - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program*

*Federal Emergency Management Agency*

*4th Floor, Room 4049, FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office*

*1 Seine Court, 4th Floor*

*New Orleans, LA 70114*

*Office: (504) 762-2205*

*Cell: (540) 842-3300*

*Fax: (504) 762-2353*

*Email: [laurel.rohrer@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:laurel.rohrer@associates.dhs.gov)*

To Whom It May Concern,

The proposed project is to construct a 12,000 square foot Community Center. Approximately 1,000 square feet of the proposed structure will be hardened and used as a safe room for essential St. James Parish personnel located on the West Bank of the Mississippi River. Please see the scope of work below.

**Damage Description:**

On August 29, 2005, storm surge caused by Hurricane Katrina inundated large portions of Louisiana causing extensive flood and wind damage to structures in St. James Parish. The proposed construction of the Community Center and hardening of a portion of the structure to be used as a safe room would provide life-safety protection for essential St. James Parish personnel during extreme wind events. The personnel would include Parish public works employees, as well as emergency responders and members of the community that are being threatened by an extreme wind event and the consequences (death and injury) from such an event.

When St. James Parish experiences sustained wind speeds in excess of 35 miles per hour, all of the bridges and ferries are closed to traffic. Therefore, several hour before a storm makes landfall, during a storm, and several hours after a storm passes, there are no means of crossing the Mississippi River. Bridges and ferries have historically been out from 12 to 24 hours. Therefore, it is important that essential Parish employees, emergency responders, law enforcement, and essential industrial sites workers be provided a safe place to be protected.

**Scope of Work:**

The scope of work for the proposed action indicates "hardening" of to-be-constructed safe room within a new building to accommodate 190 essential St. James Parish personnel. The proposed safe room will be constructed on public property with minimum elevation of +18.0 feet above mean sea level (which is 13 feet above the BFE). An approximate 12,000 square foot main Community Center building will be constructed at 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (30.046556, -90.851331). The safe room would be constructed within this structure with adequate ventilation, rest rooms, and first aid rooms and will be served by natural gas generators in the event of loss of electrical power. The safe room area would provide maximum occupancy, which may be needed to adequately respond immediately after storms or major winds events. The Parish has determined that it is more cost effective to harden a safe room area in a new, under construction building than to retrofit an existing building. The requirements of FEMA Publication 361 will be incorporated into the construction of the new building. The hardening areas of the building will be designed to withstand 165 mile per hour winds, with 3 seconds sustained winds. Specifications: Approximately 9,300 square feet of the building will be hardened and 1,000 square feet of the building would be used as a tornado safe room. Occupancy of the safe room part of the structure would be for at least 24 hours, but no more than 48 hours.

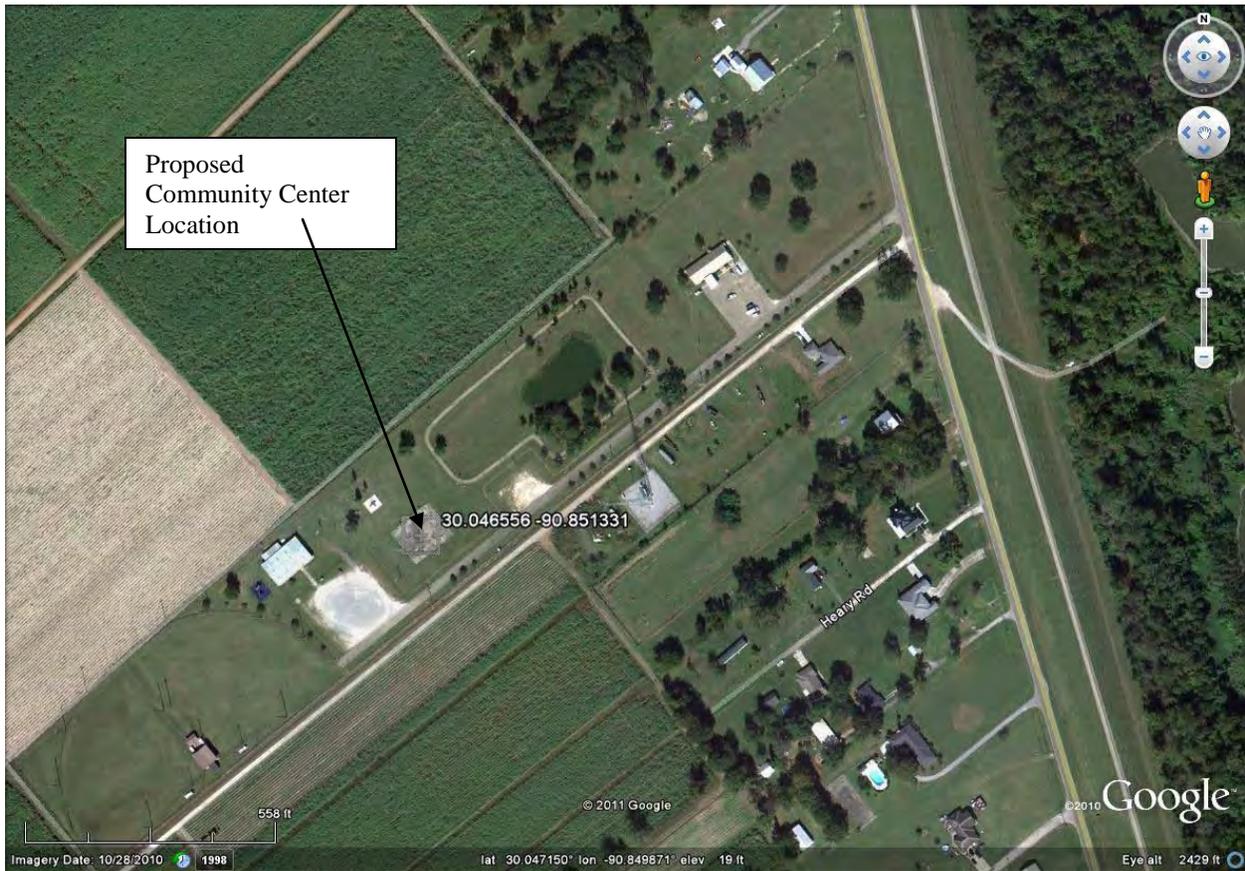
Construction of the proposed Community Center would include the installation of a new sewage treatment plant, new underground electrical service, a new main water line, and new culverts within an existing drainage ditch. There are an existing jogging track and a pond located east of the proposed Community Center site; both of which would remain in place. According to site plans provided by the Applicant, three of six existing trees at the west corner of the proposed location would need to be removed to accommodate the construction of the Community Center.

FEMA will be preparing an environmental assessment for the proposed project. The proposed action will be considered a "connected action" and the entire construction process will be considered for EHP review.

**Proposed Project Location Map – St. James Parish, Louisiana**



## Proposed Project Vicinity



# Proposed Project Area Wetland Map



United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
3737 Government Street  
Alexandria, LA 71302

(318) 473-7751  
Fax: (318) 473-7626

October 25, 2011

Laurel Rohrer  
FEMA  
1 Seine Court, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 4049  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

RE: St. James Parish Building

Dear Ms. Rohrer:

I have reviewed the above referenced project for potential requirements of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) and potential impact to Natural Resource Conservation Service projects in the immediate vicinity.

Projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency. For the purpose of FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land, but not water or urban built-up land.

The project map submitted with your request indicates that the proposed construction areas are within urban areas and therefore is exempt from the rules and regulations of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)—Subtitle I of Title XV, Section 1539-1549.

For specific information about the soils found in the project area, please visit our Web Soil Survey at the following location:

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Please direct all future correspondence to me at the address shown above.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. Britt Paul".

W. Britt Paul  
Acting State Conservationist

**ACTING FOP**

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

**From:** Rohrer, Laurel (CTR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2011 12:03  
**To:** 'Seth\_Bordelon@fws.gov'  
**Cc:** Spann, Tiffany; Holmes, Leschina; Pitts, Melanie  
**Subject:** SOV Request for the Proposed Construction/Hardening of a New Community Center/Safe Room in St. James Parish  
**Attachments:** 1603-0365 St. James Parish Building 1 USFWS Consultation letter.doc

Mr. Bordelon,

The State of Louisiana is requesting HMGP funding for the construction and hardening of a new Community Center to include a safe room designed to protect approximately 190 essential St. James Parish personnel on the West Bank of the Mississippi River in St. James Parish. The location of the proposed project is 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (30.046556, -90.851331). The attached scope of work and aerial maps correspond to the proposed project.

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) 762-2353, emailed to [Laurel.Rohrer@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:Laurel.Rohrer@associates.dhs.gov) or mailed to the attention of Laurel Rohrer, Environmental Department, at the address above.

For questions regarding this matter, please contact Laurel Rohrer, Environmental Specialist at (504) 762-2205.

***Laurel Rohrer, CFM, CHMM, REM (CTR)***

*URS Corporation, Contractor*

*NEPA Environmental Specialist - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program*

*Federal Emergency Management Agency*

*4th Floor, Room 4049, FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office*

*1 Seine Court, 4th Floor*

*New Orleans, LA 70114*

*Office: (504) 762-2205*

*Cell: (504) 842-3300*

*Fax: (504) 762-2353*

*Email: [laurel.rohrer@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:laurel.rohrer@associates.dhs.gov)*



**FEMA**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
DR-1603-LA  
1 Seine Court, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New Orleans, LA 70114  
504-762-2000  
504-762-2353 (Fax)

October 25, 2011

Mr. Seth Bordelon  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
646 Cajundome Blvd., Ste. 400  
Lafayette, LA 70506

Subject: State of Louisiana  
St. James, St. James Parish, Louisiana  
St. James Parish Community Safe Room Construction/Hardening of Community Center  
NEMIS # 1603-0365 FEMA-1603-DR-LA

Dear Mr. Bordelon:

FEMA is considering providing Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for the attached project in relation to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA). Please review the following project located at the proposed Welcome Park Community Center on the West Bank, in St. James, St. James Parish, LA, for effects to all federal trust resources. We would appreciate your comments on this project within thirty days. If we do not receive comments from you within this time period, we will assume that you have no concerns or issues with the proposed project. If appropriate, FEMA will condition funding approval or funding continuance based on the applicant's obtaining applicable permits from your office.

Please contact Laurel Rohrer, Environmental Specialist by phone at (540) 842-3300 (cell) or (504) 762-2205 (office), by mail at 1 Seine Court, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, New Orleans, LA 70114, or by email at [laurel.rohrer@associates.dhs.gov](mailto:laurel.rohrer@associates.dhs.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Spann-Winfield  
Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA 1603/1607-DR-LA

Attachments: Project Description  
Project Location Maps  
Project Wetland Map

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Mr. Bordelon,

The proposed project is to construct a 12,000 square foot Community Center. Approximately 1,000 square feet of the proposed structure will be hardened and used as a safe room for essential St. James Parish personnel located on the West Bank of the Mississippi River. Please see the scope of work below.

**Damage Description:**

On August 29, 2005, storm surge caused by Hurricane Katrina inundated large portions of Louisiana causing extensive flood and wind damage to structures in St. James Parish. The proposed construction of the Community Center and hardening of a portion of the structure to be used as a safe room would provide life-safety protection for essential St. James Parish personnel during extreme wind events. The personnel would include Parish public works employees, as well as emergency responders and members of the community that are being threatened by an extreme wind event and the consequences (death and injury) from such an event.

When St. James Parish experiences sustained wind speeds in excess of 35 miles per hour, all of the bridges and ferries are closed to traffic. Therefore, several hour before a storm makes landfall, during a storm, and several hours after a storm passes, there are no means of crossing the Mississippi River. Bridges and ferries have historically been out from 12 to 24 hours. Therefore, it is important that essential Parish employees, emergency responders, law enforcement, and essential industrial sites workers be provided a safe place to be protected.

**Scope of Work:**

The scope of work for the proposed action indicates "hardening" of to-be-constructed safe room within a new building to accommodate 190 essential St. James Parish personnel. The proposed safe room will be constructed on public property with minimum elevation of +18.0 feet above mean sea level (which is 13 feet above the BFE). An approximate 12,000 square foot main Community Center building will be constructed at 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (30.046556, -90.851331). The safe room would be constructed within this structure with adequate ventilation, rest rooms, and first aid rooms and will be served by natural gas generators in the event of loss of electrical power. The safe room area would provide maximum occupancy, which may be needed to adequately respond immediately after storms or major winds events. The Parish has determined that it is more cost effective to harden a safe room area in a new, under construction building than to retrofit an existing building. The requirements of FEMA Publication 361 will be incorporated into the construction of the new building. The hardening areas of the building will be designed to withstand 165 mile per hour winds, with 3 seconds sustained winds. Specifications: Approximately 9,300 square feet of the building will be hardened and 1,000 square feet of the building would be used as a tornado safe room. Occupancy of the safe room part of the structure would be for at least 24 hours, but no more than 48 hours.

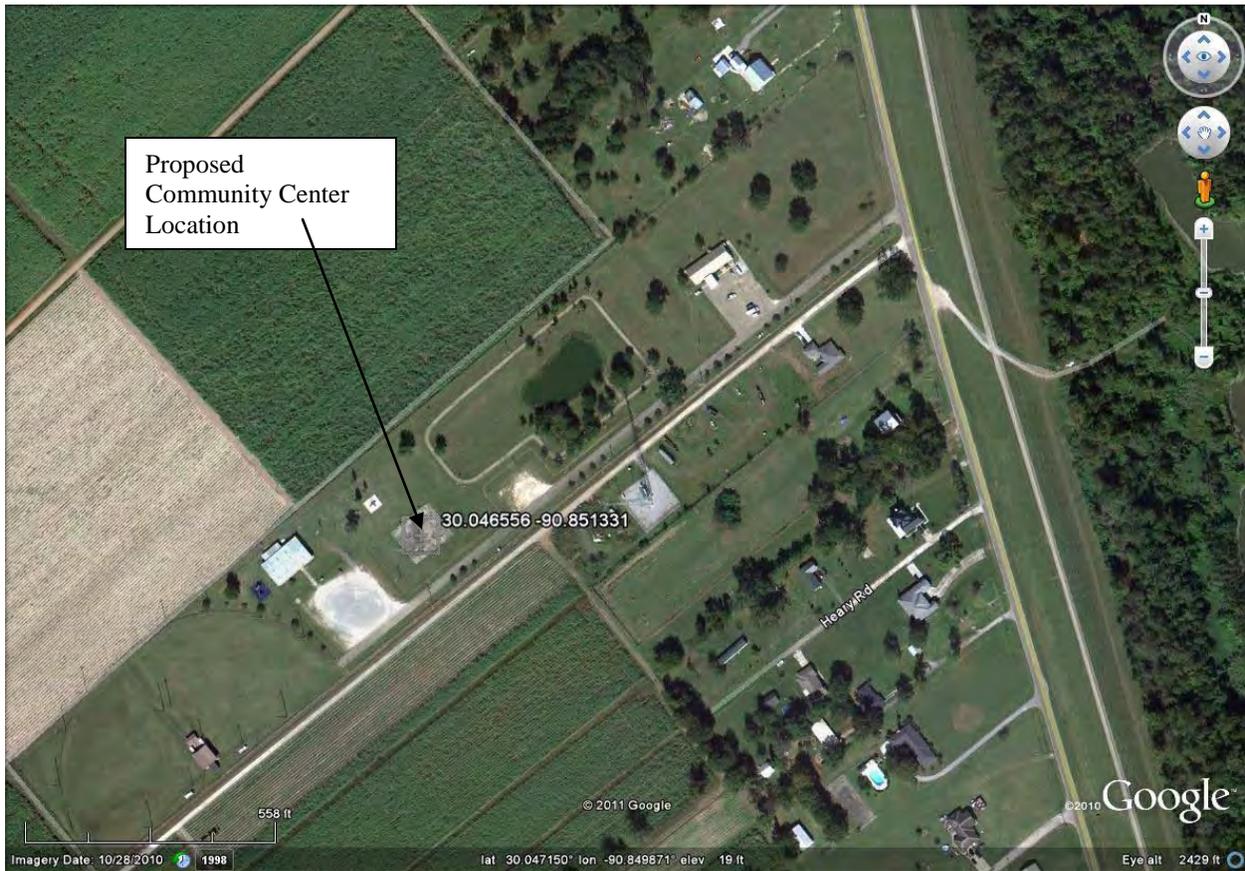
Construction of the proposed Community Center would include the installation of a new sewage treatment plant, new underground electrical service, a new main water line, and new culverts within an existing drainage ditch. There are an existing jogging track and a pond located east of the proposed Community Center site; both of which would remain in place. According to site plans provided by the Applicant, three of six existing trees at the west corner of the proposed location would need to be removed to accommodate the construction of the Community Center.

FEMA will be preparing an environmental assessment for the proposed project. The proposed action will be considered a "connected action" and the entire construction process will be considered for EHP review.

# Proposed Project Location Map – St. James Parish, Louisiana



## Proposed Project Vicinity



# Proposed Project Area Wetland Map



received  
10/25/11  
ACT



# FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
DR-1603-LA  
1 Seine Court, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New Orleans, LA 70114  
504-762-2000  
504-762-2353 (Fax)

October 25, 2011

Mr. Seth Bordelon  
Fish and Wildlife Biologist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
646 Cajundome Blvd., Ste. 400  
Lafayette, LA 70506

Subject: State of Louisiana  
St. James, St. James Parish, Louisiana  
St. James Parish Community Safe Room Construction/Hardening of Community Center  
NEMIS # 1603-0365 FEMA-1603-DR-LA

Dear Mr. Bordelon:

FEMA is considering providing Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for the attached project in relation to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA). Please review the following project located at the proposed Welcome Park Community Center on the West Bank, in St. James, St. James Parish, LA, for effects to all federal trust resources. We would appreciate your comments on this project within thirty days. If we do not receive comments from you within this time period, we will assume that you have no concerns or issues with the proposed project. If appropriate, FEMA will condition funding approval or funding continuance based on the applicant's obtaining applicable permits from your office.

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Sincerely,

Tiffany Spann-Winfield  
Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA 1603/1607-DR-LA

Attachments: Project Description  
Project Location Maps  
Project Wetland Map

This project has been reviewed for effects to Federal trust resources under our jurisdiction and currently protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act). The project, as proposed,  
 Will have no effect on those resources  
 Is not likely to adversely affect those resources.

This finding fulfills the requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the Act.

Richard A. Fuller Oct 25, 2011  
Acting Supervisor  
Louisiana Field Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-1603/1607/1786/1792/4015 -DR-LA  
Louisiana Recovery Office  
Environmental/Historic Preservation  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, LA 70114

November 22, 2011

Pam Breaux  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism  
P.O. Box 44247  
Baton Rouge LA 70804

**RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina, FEMA-1603-DR-LA**

**Applicant:** St James Parish

**Undertaking:** Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Determination: No Historic Properties Affected**

Dear Ms. Breaux:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the following major Disaster Declarations:

FEMA-1603-DR-LA, dated September 23, 2005.

FEMA, through its 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), proposes to fund the Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (Undertaking) as requested by St. James Parish (Applicant). FEMA is initiating Section 106 review for the above referenced properties in accordance with the "Programmatic Agreement among FEMA, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer, the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Caddo Nation, the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation" executed on August 17, 2009 and amended on July 22, 2011 (2009 Statewide PA as amended) and providing the State Historic Preservation Office with the opportunity to consult on the proposed Undertaking. Documentation in this letter is consistent with the requirements in 36 CFR §800.11(d).

#### **Description of the Undertaking**

The Scope of Work indicates "hardening" of a to-be-constructed safe room within a new building on parish property. An approximate 12,000 square foot building will be constructed, as the Parish has determined that it is more cost effective to harden a safe room in a new building rather than to retrofit an existing building (Figure 1).

### **Area of Potential Effects (APE)**

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for both standing structures and archaeology was developed in coordination with the Louisiana SHPO. Stipulation VII.B.2 of the LA HMGP PA, which states the APE shall be the subject property's tax parcel, was not invoked due to the size of the tax parcel.

The APE is located in St. James Parish off Highway 18 at Park Street. It is located in a primarily agricultural area, with sugarcane fields bounding the APE on the north and south sides. The archaeological APE consists of the area to be impacted by construction of the new facility and associated parking space, and measures approximately 1.7 acres in size. It currently is utilized as a part of a public park and there is an existing asphalt slab used for a basketball court in the center of the project APE (Figures 1-2). The APE for standing structures includes the immediate proposed building site and all elements from which the new construction would be visible.

### **Identification and Evaluation**

FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map on November 3, 2011. FEMA determined the standing structures and archaeological APE are not located within a listed or eligible NRHP Historic District. According to data provided by the Louisiana SHPO, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the APE.

The standing structures APE includes the site of an existing pavilion, which is immediately adjacent to the proposed building site. The open-air pavilion was built circa 1970 and constructed with concrete masonry units with a standing seam metal roof supported by metal pillars. The existing pavilion does not meet the 50-year-criterion or Criteria Consideration G of the National Register guidelines to be considered individually eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Mississippi River Commission (MRC) maps were examined for any evidence of past structures within the project APE. Both the 1883 and 1913 MRC maps show the area as cropland, with no structures in the vicinity. Soils within the project area consist of Cancienne Silt loam, which occurs on natural levees with slopes generally less than 1%. These soils are frequently flooded in areas unprotected by levees.

FEMA archaeologist Michael Wilder performed a site visit to the proposed facility on November 07, 2011. Surface visibility was minimal across the APE due to grass cover. Disturbances noted within the project area included drainage ditches around the perimeter of the area, an asphalt slab basketball court, a playground area, and a built up jogging path. Surface inspection of eroded areas within the drainage ditches failed to reveal any evidence of cultural artifacts or features. Two sub-surface probes were conducted. Both tests encountered a deep plowzone to depths ranging from 35-45cm below surface consisting of clean, fine silt loam devoid of any gravels or other inclusions. Below this soil stratum was a silty clay subsoil. In shovel probe 2, this subsoil was mixed with some of the overlying silt loam, suggesting that the plowzone had disturbed the upper portions of the subsoil in this area. No cultural features or artifacts were encountered in the sub-surface probes.

Table 1 summarizes FEMA's NRHP determinations for the property within the APE. Photographs of the property are attached to this letter.

*Table 1. Summary of FEMA Determinations of NRHP Eligibility for Properties within the APE.*

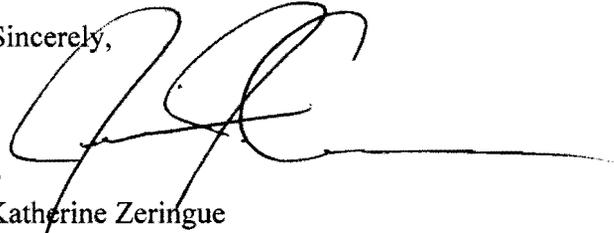
Standing Structure Description	Construction Date	FEMA Determination of NRHP Eligibility	Figure No.	Photograph No.	Latitude/Longitude
Existing Pavilion	Circa 1970	Not eligible for NRHP listing	1, 2	1-2	30.046556, -90.851331

**Assessment of Effects**

Based on the identification and evaluation steps described above, FEMA has determined there are no historic properties eligible under the criteria set forth at 36CFR 60.4a-d within the APE. Therefore, FEMA has determined a finding of **No Historic Properties Affected** for this Undertaking and is submitting this Undertaking to you for your review and comment. FEMA requests your comments within 15 days.

We look forward to your concurrence with this determination. Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this Undertaking, please contact Jerame Cramer, Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer, at (504) 762-2917 or [jerame.cramer@dhs.gov](mailto:jerame.cramer@dhs.gov); Victoria Byrd, Historic Preservation Specialist, at (504) 762-2357 or [victoria.byrd@dhs.gov](mailto:victoria.byrd@dhs.gov); or Michael Wilder, Historic Preservation Specialist at (504) 762-2557 or [michael.wilder@dhs.gov](mailto:michael.wilder@dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Katherine Zeringue  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA,  
FEMA-DR-1786-LA, FEMA-DR-1792-LA,  
FEMA-DR-4015-LA

CC: File  
Bryan Guevin, Division of Archaeology Reviewer  
David Livingstone, Division of Historic Preservation Reviewer  
State Historic Preservation Office

Enclosures

The Division of Archaeology Reviewer and the Division of Historic Preservation Reviewer concur with the finding that there will be **No Historic Properties Affected** as a result of this Undertaking.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division of Archaeology Reviewer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Division of Historic Preservation Reviewer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Figure 1. Project area and nearest known archaeological sites as depicted on the USGS 7.5' Convent topographic quadrangle.

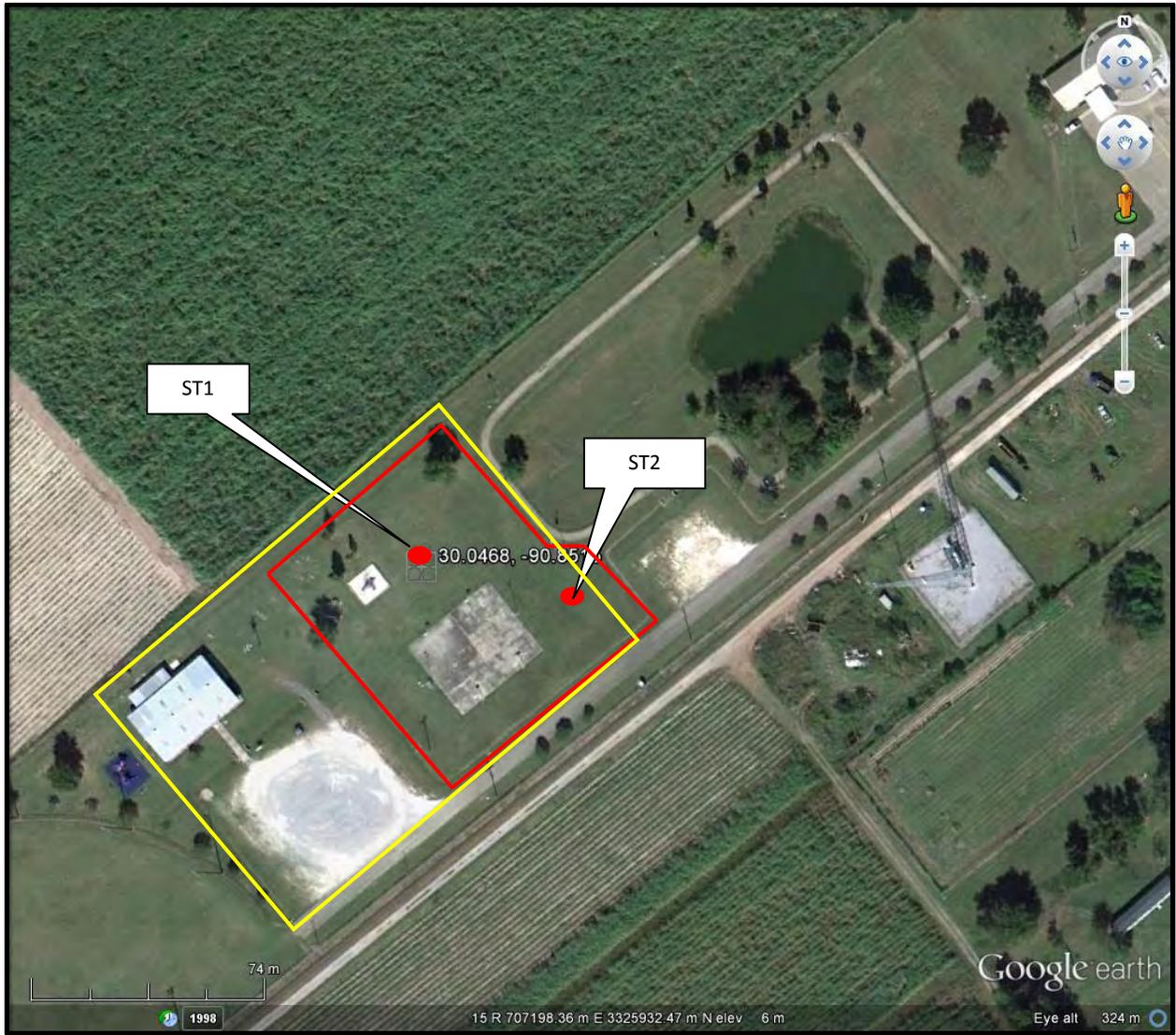


Figure 2. Aerial view of archaeological APE (red outline) and standing structures APE (yellow outline) with red dots showing locations of shovel test probes.

**Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)**

**Photograph 1:**  
View of proposed building site and parking. View looking northeast. (FEMA, November 2011).



**Photograph 2:**  
Oblique view of southeast corner of existing pavilion. View looking west. (FEMA, November 2011).





**FEMA**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-1603/1607/1786/1792/4015 -DR-LA  
Louisiana Recovery Office  
Environmental/Historic Preservation  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, LA 70114

November 22, 2011

Pam Breaux  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism  
P.O. Box 44247  
Baton Rouge LA 70804

**RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina, FEMA-1603-DR-LA**

**Applicant:** St James Parish

**Undertaking:** Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Determination: No Historic Properties Affected**

Dear Ms. Breaux:

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#### **Description of the Undertaking**

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The APE is located in St. James Parish off Highway 18 at Park Street. It is located in a primarily agricultural area, with sugarcane fields bounding the APE on the north and south sides. The archaeological APE consists of the area to be impacted by construction of the new facility and associated parking space, and measures approximately 1.7 acres in size. It currently is utilized as a part of a public park and there is an existing asphalt slab used for a basketball court in the center of the project APE (Figures 1-2). The APE for standing structures includes the immediate proposed building site and all elements from which the new construction would be visible.

### **Identification and Evaluation**

FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map on November 3, 2011. FEMA determined the standing structures and archaeological APE are not located within a listed or eligible NRHP Historic District. According to data provided by the Louisiana SHPO, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the APE.

The standing structures APE includes the site of an existing pavilion, which is immediately adjacent to the proposed building site. The open-air pavilion was built circa 1970 and constructed with concrete masonry units with a standing seam metal roof supported by metal pillars. The existing pavilion does not meet the 50-year-criterion or Criteria Consideration G of the National Register guidelines to be considered individually eligible for the NRHP.

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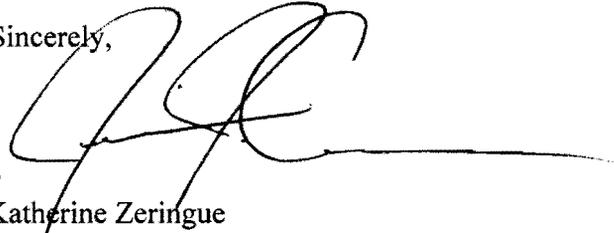
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**Assessment of Effects**

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We look forward to your concurrence with this determination. Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this Undertaking, please contact Jerame Cramer, Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer, at (504) 762-2917 or [jerame.cramer@dhs.gov](mailto:jerame.cramer@dhs.gov); Victoria Byrd, Historic Preservation Specialist, at (504) 762-2357 or [victoria.byrd@dhs.gov](mailto:victoria.byrd@dhs.gov); or Michael Wilder, Historic Preservation Specialist at (504) 762-2557 or [michael.wilder@dhs.gov](mailto:michael.wilder@dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Katherine Zeringue  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA,  
FEMA-DR-1786-LA, FEMA-DR-1792-LA,  
FEMA-DR-4015-LA

CC: File  
Bryan Guevin, Division of Archaeology Reviewer  
David Livingstone, Division of Historic Preservation Reviewer  
State Historic Preservation Office

Enclosures

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*Bryan L. Guevin*

Bryan L. Guevin  
2011.12.01 08:40:02 -06'00'

Division of Archaeology Reviewer

Date

*David M. Livingstone*

David M. Livingstone  
2011.11.30 09:12:45 -06'00'

Division of Historic Preservation Reviewer

Date



Figure 1. Project area and nearest known archaeological sites as depicted on the USGS 7.5' Convent topographic quadrangle.



Figure 2. Aerial view of archaeological APE (red outline) and standing structures APE (yellow outline) with red dots showing locations of shovel test probes.

**Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)**

**Photograph 1:**  
View of proposed building site and parking. View looking northeast. (FEMA, November 2011).



**Photograph 2:**  
Oblique view of southeast corner of existing pavilion. View looking west. (FEMA, November 2011).





FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-1603/1607/1786/1792/4015 -DR-LA  
Louisiana Recovery Office  
Environmental/Historic Preservation  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, LA 70114

November 22, 2011

Carlos Bullock  
Tribal Council Chairman  
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas  
571 State Park Rd. 56  
Livingston TX 77351

**RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina, FEMA-1603-DR-LA**

**Applicant:** St James Parish

**Undertaking:** Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Determination: No Historic Properties Affected**

Dear Tribal Council Chairman Bullock:

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#### **Description of the Undertaking**

The Scope of Work indicates "hardening" of a to-be-constructed safe room within a new building on parish property. An approximate 12,000 square foot building will be constructed, as the Parish has determined that it is more cost effective to harden a safe room in a new building rather than to retrofit an existing building (Figure 1).

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### **Identification and Evaluation**

FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map on November 3, 2011. FEMA determined the standing structures and archaeological APE are not located within a listed or eligible NRHP Historic District. According to data provided by the Louisiana SHPO, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the APE.

The standing structures APE includes the site of an existing pavilion, which is immediately adjacent to the proposed building site. The open-air pavilion was built circa 1970 and constructed with concrete masonry units with a standing seam metal roof supported by metal pillars. The existing pavilion does not meet the 50-year-criterion or Criteria Consideration G of the National Register guidelines to be considered individually eligible for the NRHP.

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### Assessment of Effects

Based on the identification and evaluation steps described above, FEMA has determined there are no historic properties eligible under the criteria set forth at 36CFR 60.4a-d within the APE. Therefore, FEMA has determined a finding of **No Historic Properties Affected** for this Undertaking and is submitting this Undertaking to you for your review and comment. FEMA requests your comments within 15 days.

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Sincerely,

Katherine Zeringue  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA,  
FEMA-DR-1786-LA, FEMA-DR-1792-LA,  
FEMA-DR-4015-LA

CC: File  
Bryant Celestine, Historic Preservation Officer  
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas

Enclosures



Figure 1. Project area and nearest known archaeological sites as depicted on the USGS 7.5' Convent topographic quadrangle.



Figure 2. Aerial view of archaeological APE (red outline) and standing structures APE (yellow outline) with red dots showing locations of shovel test probes.

**Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)**

**Photograph 1:**  
View of proposed building site and parking. View looking northeast. (FEMA, November 2011).



**Photograph 2:**  
Oblique view of southeast corner of existing pavilion. View looking west. (FEMA, November 2011).





**FEMA**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-1603/1607/1786/1792/4015 -DR-LA  
Louisiana Recovery Office  
Environmental/Historic Preservation  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, LA 70114

November 22, 2011

Gregory Pyle  
Chief  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma  
623 N 16th  
Durant OK 74702

**RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina, FEMA-1603-DR-LA**

**Applicant:** St James Parish

**Undertaking:** Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Determination: No Historic Properties Affected**

Dear Chief Pyle:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the following major Disaster Declarations:

FEMA-1603-DR-LA, dated September 23, 2005.

FEMA, through its 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), proposes to fund the Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (Undertaking) as requested by St. James Parish (Applicant). FEMA is initiating Section 106 review for the above referenced properties in accordance with the "Programmatic Agreement among FEMA, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer, the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Caddo Nation, the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation" executed on August 17, 2009 and amended on July 22, 2011 (2009 Statewide PA as amended) and providing the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma with the opportunity to consult on the proposed Undertaking. Documentation in this letter is consistent with the requirements in 36 CFR §800.11(d).

#### **Description of the Undertaking**

The Scope of Work indicates "hardening" of a to-be-constructed safe room within a new building on parish property. An approximate 12,000 square foot building will be constructed, as the Parish has determined that it is more cost effective to harden a safe room in a new building rather than to retrofit an existing building (Figure 1).

### **Area of Potential Effects (APE)**

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for both standing structures and archaeology was developed in coordination with the Louisiana SHPO. Stipulation VII.B.2 of the LA HMGP PA, which states the APE shall be the subject property's tax parcel, was not invoked due to the size of the tax parcel.

The APE is located in St. James Parish off Highway 18 at Park Street. It is located in a primarily agricultural area, with sugarcane fields bounding the APE on the north and south sides. The archaeological APE consists of the area to be impacted by construction of the new facility and associated parking space, and measures approximately 1.7 acres in size. It currently is utilized as a part of a public park and there is an existing asphalt slab used for a basketball court in the center of the project APE (Figures 1-2). The APE for standing structures includes the immediate proposed building site and all elements from which the new construction would be visible.

### **Identification and Evaluation**

FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map on November 3, 2011. FEMA determined the standing structures and archaeological APE are not located within a listed or eligible NRHP Historic District. According to data provided by the Louisiana SHPO, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the APE.

The standing structures APE includes the site of an existing pavilion, which is immediately adjacent to the proposed building site. The open-air pavilion was built circa 1970 and constructed with concrete masonry units with a standing seam metal roof supported by metal pillars. The existing pavilion does not meet the 50-year-criterion or Criteria Consideration G of the National Register guidelines to be considered individually eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Mississippi River Commission (MRC) maps were examined for any evidence of past structures within the project APE. Both the 1883 and 1913 MRC maps show the area as cropland, with no structures in the vicinity. Soils within the project area consist of Cancienne Silt loam, which occurs on natural levees with slopes generally less than 1%. These soils are frequently flooded in areas unprotected by levees.

FEMA archaeologist Michael Wilder performed a site visit to the proposed facility on November 07, 2011. Surface visibility was minimal across the APE due to grass cover. Disturbances noted within the project area included drainage ditches around the perimeter of the area, an asphalt slab basketball court, a playground area, and a built up jogging path. Surface inspection of eroded areas within the drainage ditches failed to reveal any evidence of cultural artifacts or features. Two sub-surface probes were conducted. Both tests encountered a deep plowzone to depths ranging from 35-45cm below surface consisting of clean, fine silt loam devoid of any gravels or other inclusions. Below this soil stratum was a silty clay subsoil. In shovel probe 2, this subsoil was mixed with some of the overlying silt loam, suggesting that the plowzone had disturbed the upper portions of the subsoil in this area. No cultural features or artifacts were encountered in the sub-surface probes.

Table 1 summarizes FEMA's NRHP determinations for the property within the APE. Photographs of the property are attached to this letter.

**Table 1. Summary of FEMA Determinations of NRHP Eligibility for Properties within the APE.**

Standing Structure Description	Construction Date	FEMA Determination of NRHP Eligibility	Figure No.	Photograph No.	Latitude/Longitude
Existing Pavilion	Circa 1970	Not eligible for NRHP listing	1, 2	1-2	30.046556, -90.851331

**Assessment of Effects**

Based on the identification and evaluation steps described above, FEMA has determined there are no historic properties eligible under the criteria set forth at 36CFR 60.4a-d within the APE. Therefore, FEMA has determined a finding of No Historic Properties Affected for this Undertaking and is submitting this Undertaking to you for your review and comment. FEMA requests your comments within 15 days.

We look forward to your concurrence with this determination. Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this Undertaking, please contact Jerame Cramer, Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer, at (504) 762-2917 or [jerame.cramer@dhs.gov](mailto:jerame.cramer@dhs.gov); Victoria Byrd, Historic Preservation Specialist, at (504) 762-2357 or [victoria.byrd@dhs.gov](mailto:victoria.byrd@dhs.gov); or Michael Wilder, Historic Preservation Specialist at (504) 762-2557 or [michael.wilder@dhs.gov](mailto:michael.wilder@dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Katherine Zeringue  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA,  
FEMA-DR-1786-LA, FEMA-DR-1792-LA,  
FEMA-DR-4015-LA

CC: File  
Ian Thompson, Director/THPO  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Enclosures



Figure 1. Project area and nearest known archaeological sites as depicted on the USGS 7.5' Convent topographic quadrangle.

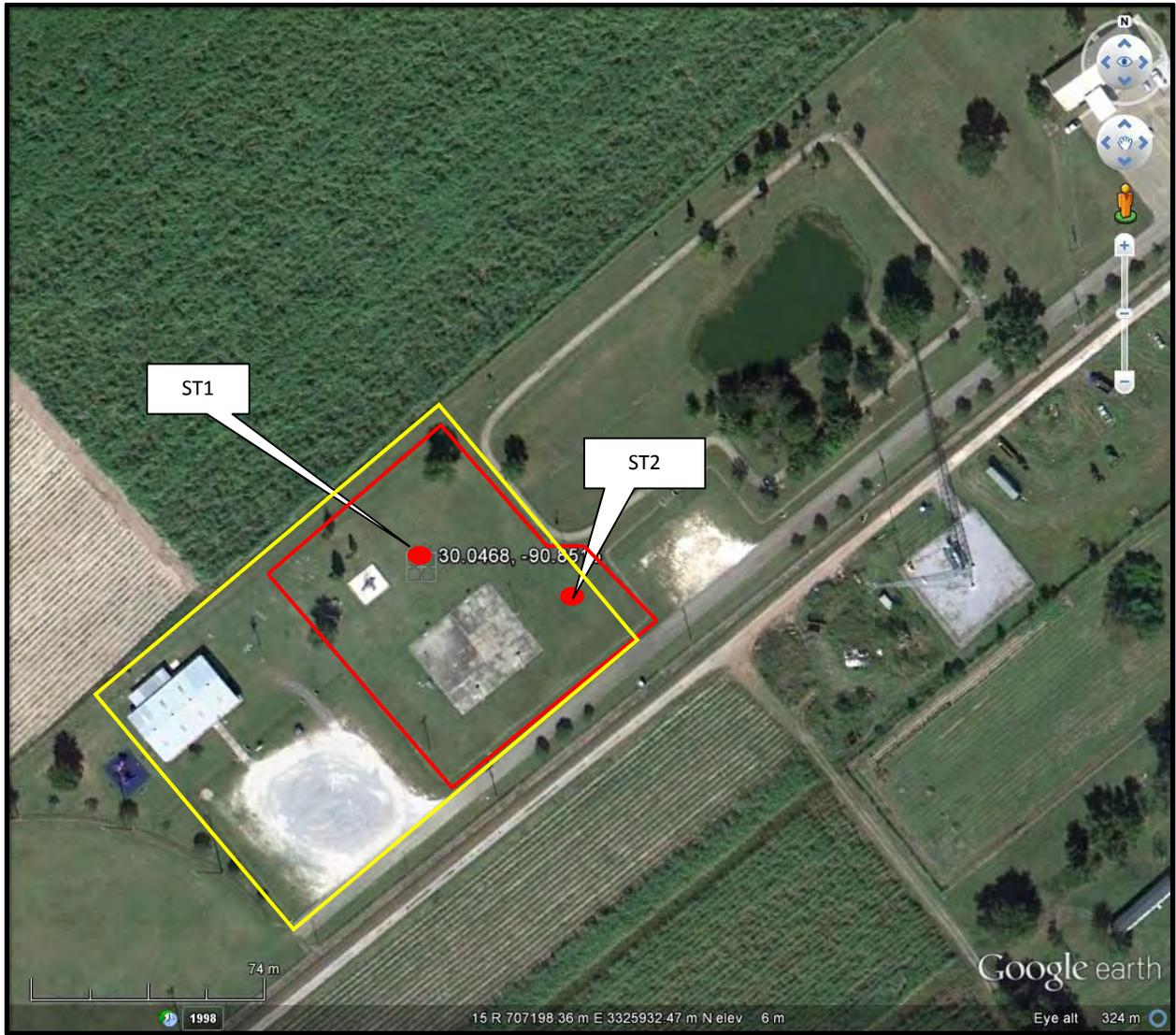


Figure 2. Aerial view of archaeological APE (red outline) and standing structures APE (yellow outline) with red dots showing locations of shovel test probes.

**Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)**

**Photograph 1:**  
View of proposed building site and parking. View looking northeast. (FEMA, November 2011).



**Photograph 2:**  
Oblique view of southeast corner of existing pavilion. View looking west. (FEMA, November 2011).





**FEMA**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-1603/1607/1786/1792/4015 -DR-LA  
Louisiana Recovery Office  
Environmental/Historic Preservation  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, LA 70114

November 22, 2011

Kevin Sickey  
Chief  
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana  
1940 C.C. Bell Rd.  
Elton LA 70532

**RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina, FEMA-1603-DR-LA**

**Applicant:** St James Parish

**Undertaking:** Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Determination: No Historic Properties Affected**

Dear Chief Sickey:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the following major Disaster Declarations:

FEMA-1603-DR-LA, dated September 23, 2005.

FEMA, through its 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), proposes to fund the Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (Undertaking) as requested by St. James Parish (Applicant). Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800.5(c), FEMA is providing the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana with the opportunity to consult on the proposed Undertaking. Documentation in this letter is consistent with the requirements in 36 CFR §800.11(d).

#### **Description of the Undertaking**

The Scope of Work indicates “hardening” of a to-be-constructed safe room within a new building on parish property. An approximate 12,000 square foot building will be constructed, as the Parish has determined that it is more cost effective to harden a safe room in a new building rather than to retrofit an existing building (Figure 1).

#### **Area of Potential Effects (APE)**

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for both standing structures and archaeology was developed in coordination with the Louisiana SHPO. Stipulation VII.B.2 of the LA HMGP PA, which states the APE shall be the subject property’s tax parcel, was not invoked due to the size of the tax parcel.

The APE is located in St. James Parish off Highway 18 at Park Street. It is located in a primarily agricultural area, with sugarcane fields bounding the APE on the north and south sides. The

archaeological APE consists of the area to be impacted by construction of the new facility and associated parking space, and measures approximately 1.7 acres in size. It currently is utilized as a part of a public park and there is an existing asphalt slab used for a basketball court in the center of the project APE (Figures 1-2). The APE for standing structures includes the immediate proposed building site and all elements from which the new construction would be visible.

### Identification and Evaluation

FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map on November 3, 2011. FEMA determined the standing structures and archaeological APE are not located within a listed or eligible NRHP Historic District. According to data provided by the Louisiana SHPO, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the APE.

The standing structures APE includes the site of an existing pavilion, which is immediately adjacent to the proposed building site. The open-air pavilion was built circa 1970 and constructed with concrete masonry units with a standing seam metal roof supported by metal pillars. The existing pavilion does not meet the 50-year-criterion or Criteria Consideration G of the National Register guidelines to be considered individually eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Mississippi River Commission (MRC) maps were examined for any evidence of past structures within the project APE. Both the 1883 and 1913 MRC maps show the area as cropland, with no structures in the vicinity. Soils within the project area consist of Cancienne Silt loam, which occurs on natural levees with slopes generally less than 1%. These soils are frequently flooded in areas unprotected by levees.

FEMA archaeologist Michael Wilder performed a site visit to the proposed facility on November 07, 2011. Surface visibility was minimal across the APE due to grass cover. Disturbances noted within the project area included drainage ditches around the perimeter of the area, an asphalt slab basketball court, a playground area, and a built up jogging path. Surface inspection of eroded areas within the drainage ditches failed to reveal any evidence of cultural artifacts or features. Two sub-surface probes were conducted. Both tests encountered a deep plowzone to depths ranging from 35-45cm below surface consisting of clean, fine silt loam devoid of any gravels or other inclusions. Below this soil stratum was a silty clay subsoil. In shovel probe 2, this subsoil was mixed with some of the overlying silt loam, suggesting that the plowzone had disturbed the upper portions of the subsoil in this area. No cultural features or artifacts were encountered in the sub-surface probes.

Table 1 summarizes FEMA's NRHP determinations for the property within the APE. Photographs of the property are attached to this letter.

*Table 1. Summary of FEMA Determinations of NRHP Eligibility for Properties within the APE.*

Standing Structure Description	Construction Date	FEMA Determination of NRHP Eligibility	Figure No.	Photograph No.	Latitude/Longitude
Existing Pavilion	Circa 1970	Not eligible for NRHP listing	1, 2	1-2	30.046556, -90.851331

11/22/2011

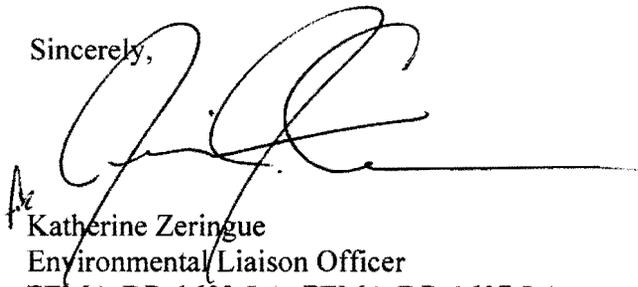
Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Assessment of Effects**

Based on the identification and evaluation steps described above, FEMA has determined there are no historic properties eligible under the criteria set forth at 36CFR 60.4a-d within the APE. Therefore, FEMA has determined a finding of **No Historic Properties Affected** for this Undertaking and is submitting this Undertaking to you for your review and comment. FEMA requests your comments within 30 days.

We look forward to your concurrence with this determination. Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this Undertaking, please contact Jerame Cramer, Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer, at (504) 762-2917 or [jerame.cramer@dhs.gov](mailto:jerame.cramer@dhs.gov); Victoria Byrd, Historic Preservation Specialist, at (504) 762-2357 or [victoria.byrd@dhs.gov](mailto:victoria.byrd@dhs.gov); or Michael Wilder, Historic Preservation Specialist at (504) 762-2557 or [michael.wilder@dhs.gov](mailto:michael.wilder@dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Katherine Zeringue  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA,  
FEMA-DR-1786-LA, FEMA-DR-1792-LA,  
FEMA-DR-4015-LA

CC: File  
Dr. Linda Langley, Cultural Preservation Officer  
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana

Enclosures



Figure 1. Project area and nearest known archaeological sites as depicted on the USGS 7.5' Convent topographic quadrangle.



Figure 2. Aerial view of archaeological APE (red outline) and standing structures APE (yellow outline) with red dots showing locations of shovel test probes.

**Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)**

**Photograph 1:**  
View of proposed building site and parking. View looking northeast. (FEMA, November 2011).



**Photograph 2:**  
Oblique view of southeast corner of existing pavilion. View looking west. (FEMA, November 2011).





**FEMA**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-1603/1607/1786/1792/4015 -DR-LA  
Louisiana Recovery Office  
Environmental/Historic Preservation  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, LA 70114

November 22, 2011

John Paul Darden  
Chairman  
Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana  
155 Chitimacha Loop  
Charenton LA 70523

**RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina, FEMA-1603-DR-LA**

**Applicant:** St James Parish

**Undertaking:** Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Determination: No Historic Properties Affected**

Dear Chairman Darden:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the following major Disaster Declarations:

FEMA-1603-DR-LA, dated September 23, 2005.

FEMA, through its 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), proposes to fund the Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (Undertaking) as requested by St. James Parish (Applicant). Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800.5(c), FEMA is providing the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana with the opportunity to consult on the proposed Undertaking. Documentation in this letter is consistent with the requirements in 36 CFR §800.11(d).

#### **Description of the Undertaking**

The Scope of Work indicates “hardening” of a to-be-constructed safe room within a new building on parish property. An approximate 12,000 square foot building will be constructed, as the Parish has determined that it is more cost effective to harden a safe room in a new building rather than to retrofit an existing building (Figure 1).

#### **Area of Potential Effects (APE)**

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for both standing structures and archaeology was developed in coordination with the Louisiana SHPO. Stipulation VII.B.2 of the LA HMGP PA, which states the APE shall be the subject property’s tax parcel, was not invoked due to the size of the tax parcel.

The APE is located in St. James Parish off Highway 18 at Park Street. It is located in a primarily agricultural area, with sugarcane fields bounding the APE on the north and south sides. The

archaeological APE consists of the area to be impacted by construction of the new facility and associated parking space, and measures approximately 1.7 acres in size. It currently is utilized as a part of a public park and there is an existing asphalt slab used for a basketball court in the center of the project APE (Figures 1-2). The APE for standing structures includes the immediate proposed building site and all elements from which the new construction would be visible.

### Identification and Evaluation

FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map on November 3, 2011. FEMA determined the standing structures and archaeological APE are not located within a listed or eligible NRHP Historic District. According to data provided by the Louisiana SHPO, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the APE.

The standing structures APE includes the site of an existing pavilion, which is immediately adjacent to the proposed building site. The open-air pavilion was built circa 1970 and constructed with concrete masonry units with a standing seam metal roof supported by metal pillars. The existing pavilion does not meet the 50-year-criterion or Criteria Consideration G of the National Register guidelines to be considered individually eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Mississippi River Commission (MRC) maps were examined for any evidence of past structures within the project APE. Both the 1883 and 1913 MRC maps show the area as cropland, with no structures in the vicinity. Soils within the project area consist of Cancienne Silt loam, which occurs on natural levees with slopes generally less than 1%. These soils are frequently flooded in areas unprotected by levees.

FEMA archaeologist Michael Wilder performed a site visit to the proposed facility on November 07, 2011. Surface visibility was minimal across the APE due to grass cover. Disturbances noted within the project area included drainage ditches around the perimeter of the area, an asphalt slab basketball court, a playground area, and a built up jogging path. Surface inspection of eroded areas within the drainage ditches failed to reveal any evidence of cultural artifacts or features. Two sub-surface probes were conducted. Both tests encountered a deep plowzone to depths ranging from 35-45cm below surface consisting of clean, fine silt loam devoid of any gravels or other inclusions. Below this soil stratum was a silty clay subsoil. In shovel probe 2, this subsoil was mixed with some of the overlying silt loam, suggesting that the plowzone had disturbed the upper portions of the subsoil in this area. No cultural features or artifacts were encountered in the sub-surface probes.

Table 1 summarizes FEMA's NRHP determinations for the property within the APE. Photographs of the property are attached to this letter.

*Table 1. Summary of FEMA Determinations of NRHP Eligibility for Properties within the APE.*

Standing Structure Description	Construction Date	FEMA Determination of NRHP Eligibility	Figure No.	Photograph No.	Latitude/Longitude
Existing Pavilion	Circa 1970	Not eligible for NRHP listing	1, 2	1-2	30.046556, -90.851331

11/22/2011

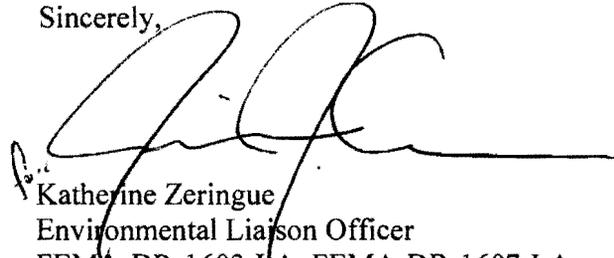
Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Assessment of Effects**

Based on the identification and evaluation steps described above, FEMA has determined there are no historic properties eligible under the criteria set forth at 36CFR 60.4a-d within the APE. Therefore, FEMA has determined a finding of **No Historic Properties Affected** for this Undertaking and is submitting this Undertaking to you for your review and comment. FEMA requests your comments within 30 days.

We look forward to your concurrence with this determination. Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this Undertaking, please contact Jerame Cramer, Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer, at (504) 762-2917 or [jerame.cramer@dhs.gov](mailto:jerame.cramer@dhs.gov); Victoria Byrd, Historic Preservation Specialist, at (504) 762-2357 or [victoria.byrd@dhs.gov](mailto:victoria.byrd@dhs.gov); or Michael Wilder, Historic Preservation Specialist at (504) 762-2557 or [michael.wilder@dhs.gov](mailto:michael.wilder@dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Katherine Zeringue  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA,  
FEMA-DR-1786-LA, FEMA-DR-1792-LA,  
FEMA-DR-4015-LA

CC: File  
Kimberly Walden, Cultural Director  
Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana

Enclosures



Figure 1. Project area and nearest known archaeological sites as depicted on the USGS 7.5' Convent topographic quadrangle.

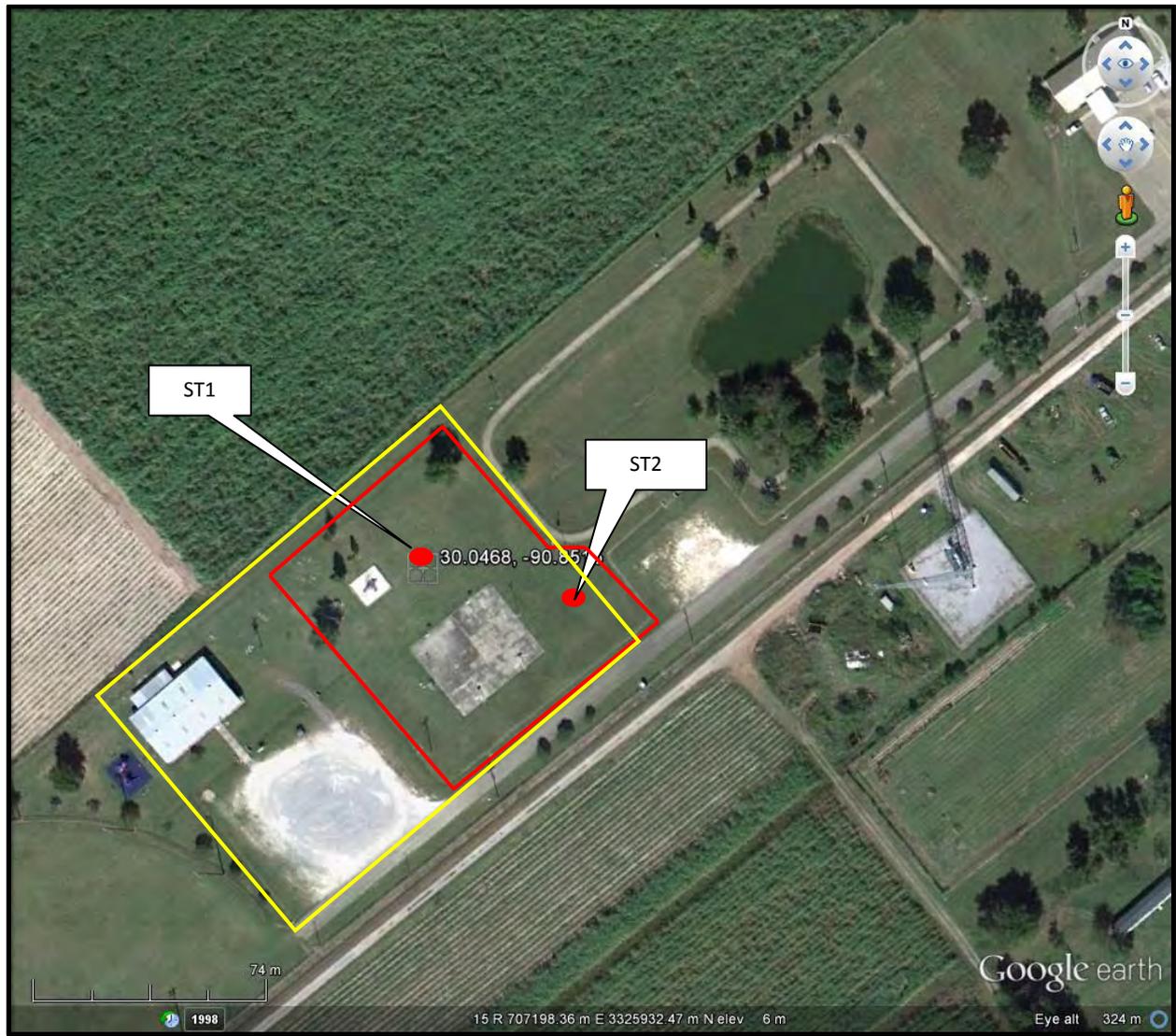


Figure 2. Aerial view of archaeological APE (red outline) and standing structures APE (yellow outline) with red dots showing locations of shovel test probes.

**Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)**

**Photograph 1:**  
View of proposed building site and parking. View looking northeast. (FEMA, November 2011).



**Photograph 2:**  
Oblique view of southeast corner of existing pavilion. View looking west. (FEMA, November 2011).





FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-1603/1607/1786/1792/4015 -DR-LA  
Louisiana Recovery Office  
Environmental/Historic Preservation  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, LA 70114

November 22, 2011

B. Cheryl Smith  
Chief  
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians  
1052 Chanaha Hina St.  
Trout LA 71371

**RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina, FEMA-1603-DR-LA**

**Applicant:** St James Parish

**Undertaking:** Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St.  
James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Determination: No Historic Properties Affected**

Dear Chief Smith:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the following major Disaster Declarations:

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FEMA, through its 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), proposes to fund the Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (Undertaking) as requested by St. James Parish (Applicant). FEMA is initiating Section 106 review for the above referenced properties in accordance with the "Programmatic Agreement among FEMA, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer, the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Caddo Nation, the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation" executed on August 17, 2009 and amended on July 22, 2011 (2009 Statewide PA as amended) and providing the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians with the opportunity to consult on the proposed Undertaking. Documentation in this letter is consistent with the requirements in 36 CFR §800.11(d).

#### **Description of the Undertaking**

The Scope of Work indicates "hardening" of a to-be-constructed safe room within a new building on parish property. An approximate 12,000 square foot building will be constructed, as the Parish has determined that it is more cost effective to harden a safe room in a new building rather than to retrofit an existing building (Figure 1).

### **Area of Potential Effects (APE)**

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### **Identification and Evaluation**

FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map on November 3, 2011. FEMA determined the standing structures and archaeological APE are not located within a listed or eligible NRHP Historic District. According to data provided by the Louisiana SHPO, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the APE.

The standing structures APE includes the site of an existing pavilion, which is immediately adjacent to the proposed building site. The open-air pavilion was built circa 1970 and constructed with concrete masonry units with a standing seam metal roof supported by metal pillars. The existing pavilion does not meet the 50-year-criterion or Criteria Consideration G of the National Register guidelines to be considered individually eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Mississippi River Commission (MRC) maps were examined for any evidence of past structures within the project APE. Both the 1883 and 1913 MRC maps show the area as cropland, with no structures in the vicinity. Soils within the project area consist of Cancienne Silt loam, which occurs on natural levees with slopes generally less than 1%. These soils are frequently flooded in areas unprotected by levees.

FEMA archaeologist Michael Wilder performed a site visit to the proposed facility on November 07, 2011. Surface visibility was minimal across the APE due to grass cover. Disturbances noted within the project area included drainage ditches around the perimeter of the area, an asphalt slab basketball court, a playground area, and a built up jogging path. Surface inspection of eroded areas within the drainage ditches failed to reveal any evidence of cultural artifacts or features. Two sub-surface probes were conducted. Both tests encountered a deep plowzone to depths ranging from 35-45cm below surface consisting of clean, fine silt loam devoid of any gravels or other inclusions. Below this soil stratum was a silty clay subsoil. In shovel probe 2, this subsoil was mixed with some of the overlying silt loam, suggesting that the plowzone had disturbed the upper portions of the subsoil in this area. No cultural features or artifacts were encountered in the sub-surface probes.

Table 1 summarizes FEMA's NRHP determinations for the property within the APE. Photographs of the property are attached to this letter.

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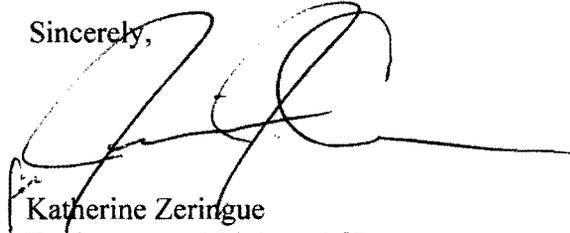
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Existing Pavilion	Circa 1970	Not eligible for NRHP listing	1, 2	1-2	30.046556, -90.851331

**Assessment of Effects**

Based on the identification and evaluation steps described above, FEMA has determined there are no historic properties eligible under the criteria set forth at 36CFR 60.4a-d within the APE. Therefore, FEMA has determined a finding of **No Historic Properties Affected** for this Undertaking and is submitting this Undertaking to you for your review and comment. FEMA requests your comments within 15 days.

We look forward to your concurrence with this determination. Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this Undertaking, please contact Jerame Cramer, Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer, at (504) 762-2917 or [jerame.cramer@dhs.gov](mailto:jerame.cramer@dhs.gov); Victoria Byrd, Historic Preservation Specialist, at (504) 762-2357 or [victoria.byrd@dhs.gov](mailto:victoria.byrd@dhs.gov); or Michael Wilder, Historic Preservation Specialist at (504) 762-2557 or [michael.wilder@dhs.gov](mailto:michael.wilder@dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Katherine Zeringue  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA,  
FEMA-DR-1786-LA, FEMA-DR-1792-LA,  
FEMA-DR-4015-LA

CC: File  
Dana Masters, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians

Enclosures



Figure 1. Project area and nearest known archaeological sites as depicted on the USGS 7.5' Convent topographic quadrangle.



Figure 2. Aerial view of archaeological APE (red outline) and standing structures APE (yellow outline) with red dots showing locations of shovel test probes.

**Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)**

**Photograph 1:**  
View of proposed building site and parking. View looking northeast. (FEMA, November 2011).



**Photograph 2:**  
Oblique view of southeast corner of existing pavilion. View looking west. (FEMA, November 2011).





FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-1603/1607/1786/1792/4015 -DR-LA  
Louisiana Recovery Office  
Environmental/Historic Preservation  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, LA 70114

November 22, 2011

Beasley Denson  
Miko  
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians  
Natural Resources Bldg., 101 Industrial Rd.  
Choctaw MS 39350

**RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina, FEMA-1603-DR-LA**

**Applicant:** St James Parish

**Undertaking:** Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Determination: No Historic Properties Affected**

Dear Miko Denson:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the following major Disaster Declarations:

FEMA-1603-DR-LA, dated September 23, 2005.

FEMA, through its 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), proposes to fund the Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (Undertaking) as requested by St. James Parish (Applicant). Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800.5(c), FEMA is providing the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians with the opportunity to consult on the proposed Undertaking. Documentation in this letter is consistent with the requirements in 36 CFR §800.11(d).

#### **Description of the Undertaking**

The Scope of Work indicates “hardening” of a to-be-constructed safe room within a new building on parish property. An approximate 12,000 square foot building will be constructed, as the Parish has determined that it is more cost effective to harden a safe room in a new building rather than to retrofit an existing building (Figure 1).

#### **Area of Potential Effects (APE)**

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for both standing structures and archaeology was developed in coordination with the Louisiana SHPO. Stipulation VII.B.2 of the LA HMGP PA, which states the APE shall be the subject property’s tax parcel, was not invoked due to the size of the tax parcel.

The APE is located in St. James Parish off Highway 18 at Park Street. It is located in a primarily agricultural area, with sugarcane fields bounding the APE on the north and south sides. The

archaeological APE consists of the area to be impacted by construction of the new facility and associated parking space, and measures approximately 1.7 acres in size. It currently is utilized as a part of a public park and there is an existing asphalt slab used for a basketball court in the center of the project APE (Figures 1-2). The APE for standing structures includes the immediate proposed building site and all elements from which the new construction would be visible.

### **Identification and Evaluation**

FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map on November 3, 2011. FEMA determined the standing structures and archaeological APE are not located within a listed or eligible NRHP Historic District. According to data provided by the Louisiana SHPO, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the APE.

The standing structures APE includes the site of an existing pavilion, which is immediately adjacent to the proposed building site. The open-air pavilion was built circa 1970 and constructed with concrete masonry units with a standing seam metal roof supported by metal pillars. The existing pavilion does not meet the 50-year-criterion or Criteria Consideration G of the National Register guidelines to be considered individually eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Mississippi River Commission (MRC) maps were examined for any evidence of past structures within the project APE. Both the 1883 and 1913 MRC maps show the area as cropland, with no structures in the vicinity. Soils within the project area consist of Cancienne Silt loam, which occurs on natural levees with slopes generally less than 1%. These soils are frequently flooded in areas unprotected by levees.

FEMA archaeologist Michael Wilder performed a site visit to the proposed facility on November 07, 2011. Surface visibility was minimal across the APE due to grass cover. Disturbances noted within the project area included drainage ditches around the perimeter of the area, an asphalt slab basketball court, a playground area, and a built up jogging path. Surface inspection of eroded areas within the drainage ditches failed to reveal any evidence of cultural artifacts or features. Two sub-surface probes were conducted. Both tests encountered a deep plowzone to depths ranging from 35-45cm below surface consisting of clean, fine silt loam devoid of any gravels or other inclusions. Below this soil stratum was a silty clay subsoil. In shovel probe 2, this subsoil was mixed with some of the overlying silt loam, suggesting that the plowzone had disturbed the upper portions of the subsoil in this area. No cultural features or artifacts were encountered in the sub-surface probes.

Table 1 summarizes FEMA's NRHP determinations for the property within the APE. Photographs of the property are attached to this letter.

*Table 1. Summary of FEMA Determinations of NRHP Eligibility for Properties within the APE.*

<b>Standing Structure Description</b>	<b>Construction Date</b>	<b>FEMA Determination of NRHP Eligibility</b>	<b>Figure No.</b>	<b>Photograph No.</b>	<b>Latitude/Longitude</b>
Existing Pavilion	Circa 1970	Not eligible for NRHP listing	1, 2	1-2	30.046556, -90.851331

**Assessment of Effects**

Based on the identification and evaluation steps described above, FEMA has determined there are no historic properties eligible under the criteria set forth at 36CFR 60.4a-d within the APE. Therefore, FEMA has determined a finding of **No Historic Properties Affected** for this Undertaking and is submitting this Undertaking to you for your review and comment. FEMA requests your comments within 30 days.

We look forward to your concurrence with this determination. Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this Undertaking, please contact Jerame Cramer, Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer, at (504) 762-2917 or [jerame.cramer@dhs.gov](mailto:jerame.cramer@dhs.gov); Victoria Byrd, Historic Preservation Specialist, at (504) 762-2357 or [victoria.byrd@dhs.gov](mailto:victoria.byrd@dhs.gov); or Michael Wilder, Historic Preservation Specialist at (504) 762-2557 or [michael.wilder@dhs.gov](mailto:michael.wilder@dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Katherine Zeringue  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA,  
FEMA-DR-1786-LA, FEMA-DR-1792-LA,  
FEMA-DR-4015-LA

CC: File  
Kenneth Carleton, Historic Preservation Officer/Archaeologist  
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

Enclosures



Figure 1. Project area and nearest known archaeological sites as depicted on the USGS 7.5' Convent topographic quadrangle.

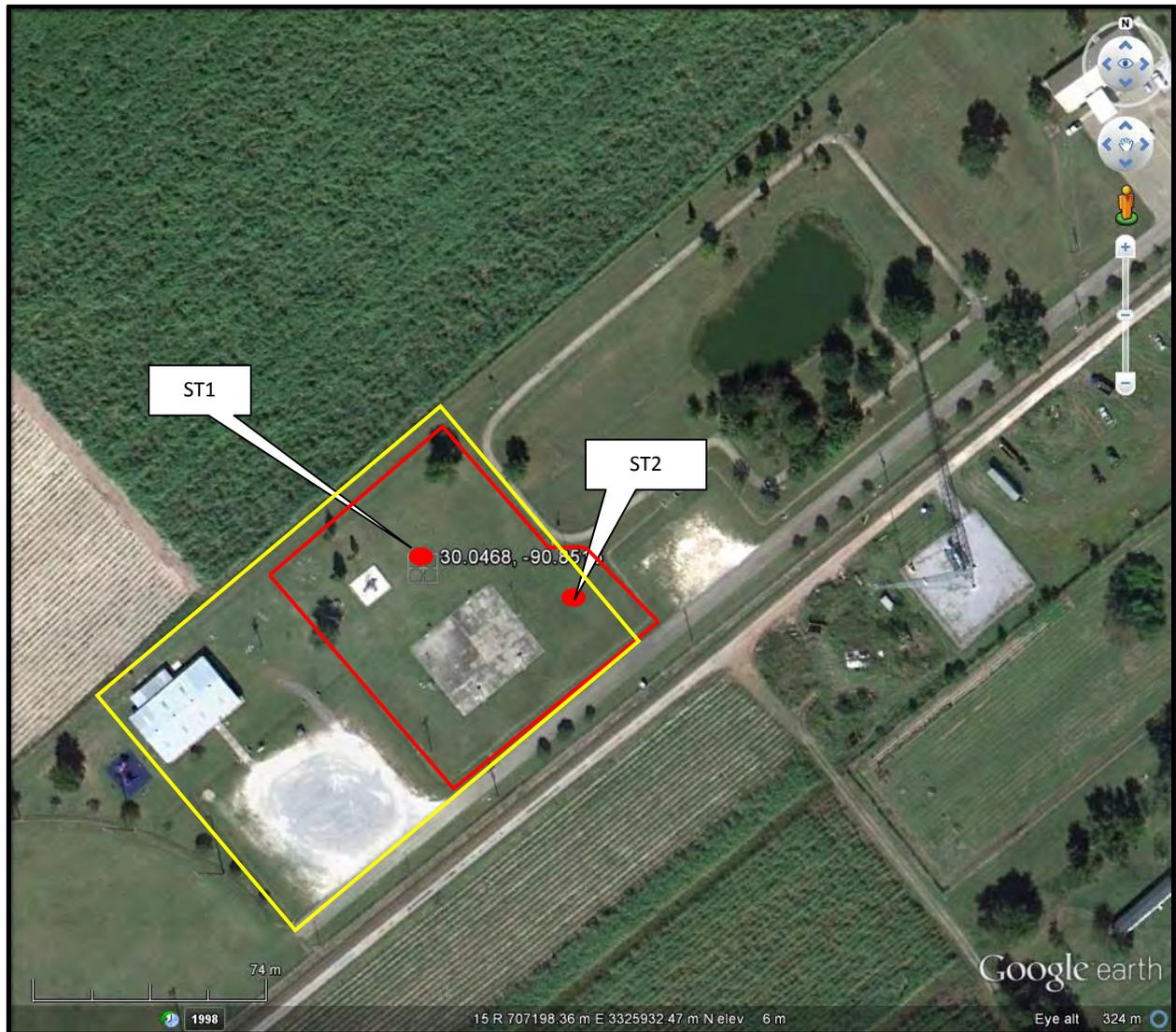


Figure 2. Aerial view of archaeological APE (red outline) and standing structures APE (yellow outline) with red dots showing locations of shovel test probes.

**Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)**

**Photograph 1:**  
View of proposed building site and parking. View looking northeast. (FEMA, November 2011).



**Photograph 2:**  
Oblique view of southeast corner of existing pavilion. View looking west. (FEMA, November 2011).





FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-1603/1607/1786/1792/4015 -DR-LA  
Louisiana Recovery Office  
Environmental/Historic Preservation  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, LA 70114

November 22, 2011

A. D. Ellis  
Principal Chief  
Muscogee Creek Nation  
1008 East Eusau Lane  
Okmulgee OK 74447

**RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina, FEMA-1603-DR-LA**

**Applicant:** St James Parish

**Undertaking:** Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Determination: No Historic Properties Affected**

Dear Principal Chief Ellis:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the following major Disaster Declarations:

FEMA-1603-DR-LA, dated September 23, 2005.

FEMA, through its 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), proposes to fund the Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (Undertaking) as requested by St. James Parish (Applicant). Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800.5(c), FEMA is providing the Muscogee Creek Nation with the opportunity to consult on the proposed Undertaking. Documentation in this letter is consistent with the requirements in 36 CFR §800.11(d).

#### **Description of the Undertaking**

The Scope of Work indicates “hardening” of a to-be-constructed safe room within a new building on parish property. An approximate 12,000 square foot building will be constructed, as the Parish has determined that it is more cost effective to harden a safe room in a new building rather than to retrofit an existing building (Figure 1).

#### **Area of Potential Effects (APE)**

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for both standing structures and archaeology was developed in coordination with the Louisiana SHPO. Stipulation VII.B.2 of the LA HMGP PA, which states the APE shall be the subject property’s tax parcel, was not invoked due to the size of the tax parcel.

The APE is located in St. James Parish off Highway 18 at Park Street. It is located in a primarily agricultural area, with sugarcane fields bounding the APE on the north and south sides. The

archaeological APE consists of the area to be impacted by construction of the new facility and associated parking space, and measures approximately 1.7 acres in size. It currently is utilized as a part of a public park and there is an existing asphalt slab used for a basketball court in the center of the project APE (Figures 1-2). The APE for standing structures includes the immediate proposed building site and all elements from which the new construction would be visible.

### Identification and Evaluation

FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map on November 3, 2011. FEMA determined the standing structures and archaeological APE are not located within a listed or eligible NRHP Historic District. According to data provided by the Louisiana SHPO, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the APE.

The standing structures APE includes the site of an existing pavilion, which is immediately adjacent to the proposed building site. The open-air pavilion was built circa 1970 and constructed with concrete masonry units with a standing seam metal roof supported by metal pillars. The existing pavilion does not meet the 50-year-criterion or Criteria Consideration G of the National Register guidelines to be considered individually eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Mississippi River Commission (MRC) maps were examined for any evidence of past structures within the project APE. Both the 1883 and 1913 MRC maps show the area as cropland, with no structures in the vicinity. Soils within the project area consist of Cancienne Silt loam, which occurs on natural levees with slopes generally less than 1%. These soils are frequently flooded in areas unprotected by levees.

FEMA archaeologist Michael Wilder performed a site visit to the proposed facility on November 07, 2011. Surface visibility was minimal across the APE due to grass cover. Disturbances noted within the project area included drainage ditches around the perimeter of the area, an asphalt slab basketball court, a playground area, and a built up jogging path. Surface inspection of eroded areas within the drainage ditches failed to reveal any evidence of cultural artifacts or features. Two sub-surface probes were conducted. Both tests encountered a deep plowzone to depths ranging from 35-45cm below surface consisting of clean, fine silt loam devoid of any gravels or other inclusions. Below this soil stratum was a silty clay subsoil. In shovel probe 2, this subsoil was mixed with some of the overlying silt loam, suggesting that the plowzone had disturbed the upper portions of the subsoil in this area. No cultural features or artifacts were encountered in the sub-surface probes.

Table 1 summarizes FEMA's NRHP determinations for the property within the APE. Photographs of the property are attached to this letter.

*Table 1. Summary of FEMA Determinations of NRHP Eligibility for Properties within the APE.*

Standing Structure Description	Construction Date	FEMA Determination of NRHP Eligibility	Figure No.	Photograph No.	Latitude/Longitude
Existing Pavilion	Circa 1970	Not eligible for NRHP listing	1, 2	1-2	30.046556, -90.851331

**Assessment of Effects**

Based on the identification and evaluation steps described above, FEMA has determined there are no historic properties eligible under the criteria set forth at 36CFR 60.4a-d within the APE. Therefore, FEMA has determined a finding of **No Historic Properties Affected** for this Undertaking and is submitting this Undertaking to you for your review and comment. FEMA requests your comments within 30 days.

We look forward to your concurrence with this determination. Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this Undertaking, please contact Jerame Cramer, Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer, at (504) 762-2917 or [jerame.cramer@dhs.gov](mailto:jerame.cramer@dhs.gov); Victoria Byrd, Historic Preservation Specialist, at (504) 762-2357 or [victoria.byrd@dhs.gov](mailto:victoria.byrd@dhs.gov); or Michael Wilder, Historic Preservation Specialist at (504) 762-2557 or [michael.wilder@dhs.gov](mailto:michael.wilder@dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Katherine Zeringue  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA,  
FEMA-DR-1786-LA, FEMA-DR-1792-LA,  
FEMA-DR-4015-LA

CC: File  
Ted Isham, Historic Preservation Officer  
Muscogee Creek Nation

Enclosures



Figure 1. Project area and nearest known archaeological sites as depicted on the USGS 7.5' Convent topographic quadrangle.

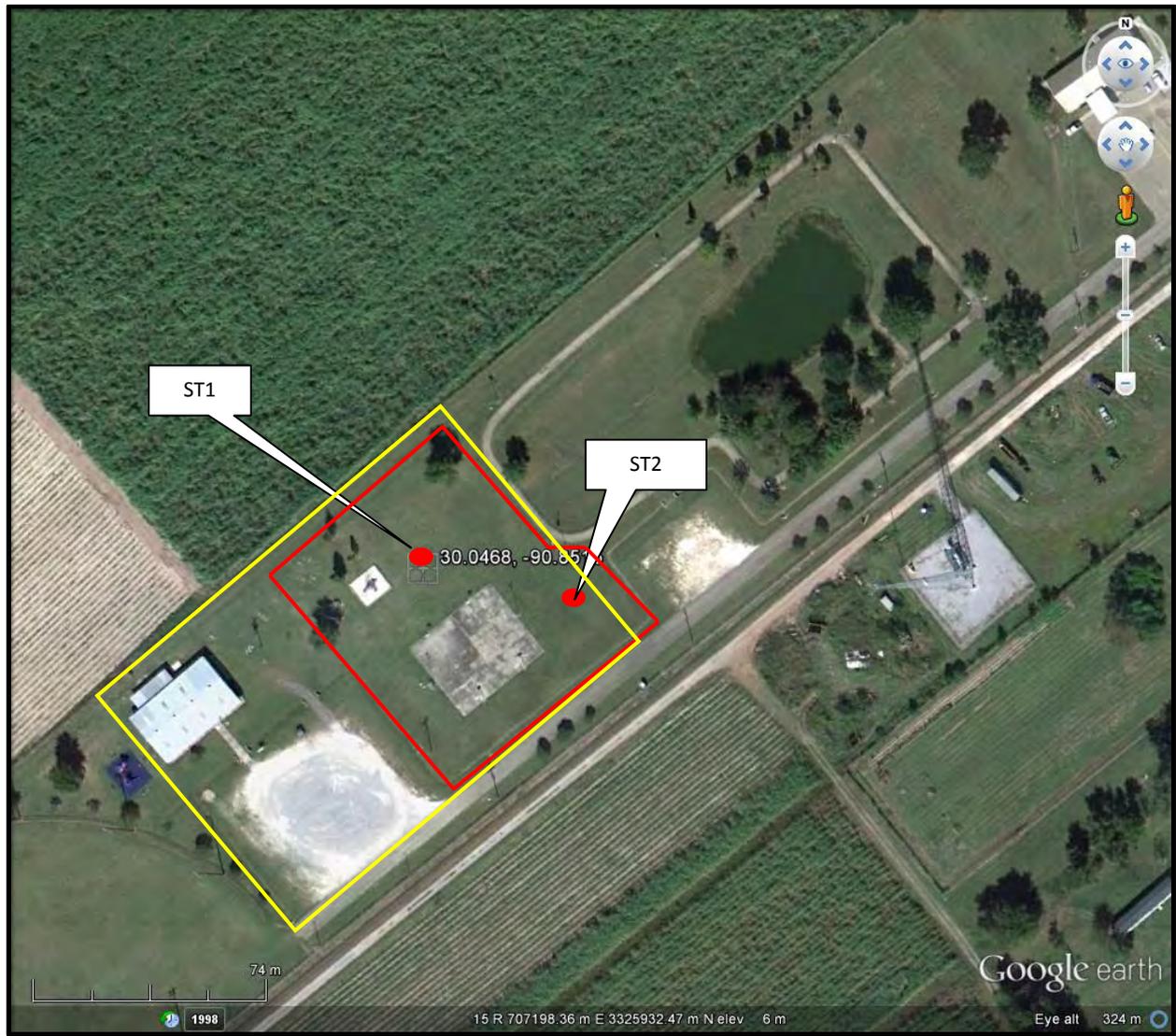


Figure 2. Aerial view of archaeological APE (red outline) and standing structures APE (yellow outline) with red dots showing locations of shovel test probes.

**Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)**

**Photograph 1:**  
View of proposed building site and parking. View looking northeast. (FEMA, November 2011).



**Photograph 2:**  
Oblique view of southeast corner of existing pavilion. View looking west. (FEMA, November 2011).





**FEMA**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-1603/1607/1786/1792/4015 -DR-LA  
Louisiana Recovery Office  
Environmental/Historic Preservation  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, LA 70114

November 22, 2011

Enoch Haney  
Principal Chief  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma  
Highway 270 and 56  
Wewoka OK 74884

**RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina, FEMA-1603-DR-LA**

**Applicant:** St James Parish

**Undertaking:** Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Determination: No Historic Properties Affected**

Dear Principal Chief Haney:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the following major Disaster Declarations:

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FEMA, through its 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), proposes to fund the Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (Undertaking) as requested by St. James Parish (Applicant). Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800.5(c), FEMA is providing the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma with the opportunity to consult on the proposed Undertaking. Documentation in this letter is consistent with the requirements in 36 CFR §800.11(d).

#### **Description of the Undertaking**

The Scope of Work indicates “hardening” of a to-be-constructed safe room within a new building on parish property. An approximate 12,000 square foot building will be constructed, as the Parish has determined that it is more cost effective to harden a safe room in a new building rather than to retrofit an existing building (Figure 1).

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### Identification and Evaluation

FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map on November 3, 2011. FEMA determined the standing structures and archaeological APE are not located within a listed or eligible NRHP Historic District. According to data provided by the Louisiana SHPO, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the APE.

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11/22/2011

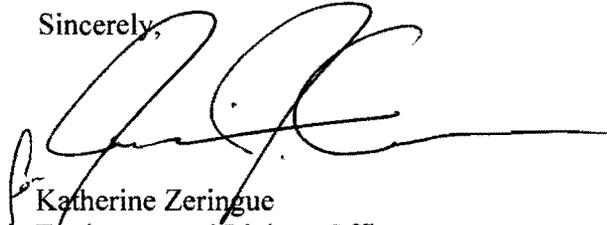
Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Assessment of Effects**

Based on the identification and evaluation steps described above, FEMA has determined there are no historic properties eligible under the criteria set forth at 36CFR 60.4a-d within the APE. Therefore, FEMA has determined a finding of **No Historic Properties Affected** for this Undertaking and is submitting this Undertaking to you for your review and comment. FEMA requests your comments within 30 days.

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Sincerely,



Katherine Zeringue  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA,  
FEMA-DR-1786-LA, FEMA-DR-1792-LA,  
FEMA-DR-4015-LA

CC: File  
Natalie Deere, Historic Preservation Officer  
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Enclosures



Figure 1. Project area and nearest known archaeological sites as depicted on the USGS 7.5' Convent topographic quadrangle.



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**Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)**

**Photograph 1:**  
View of proposed building site and parking. View looking northeast. (FEMA, November 2011).



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**FEMA**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-1603/1607/1786/1792/4015 -DR-LA  
Louisiana Recovery Office  
Environmental/Historic Preservation  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, LA 70114

November 22, 2011

Mitchell Cypress  
Chairman  
Seminole Tribe of Florida  
6300 Stirling Rd.  
Hollywood FL 33024

**RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina, FEMA-1603-DR-LA**

**Applicant:** St James Parish

**Undertaking:** Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Determination: No Historic Properties Affected**

Dear Chairman Cypress:

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**Assessment of Effects**

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Sincerely,



Katherine Zeringue  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA,  
FEMA-DR-1786-LA, FEMA-DR-1792-LA,  
FEMA-DR-4015-LA

CC: File  
Willard Steele, THPO  
Seminole Tribe of Florida

Enclosures



Figure 1. Project area and nearest known archaeological sites as depicted on the USGS 7.5' Convent topographic quadrangle.



Figure 2. Aerial view of archaeological APE (red outline) and standing structures APE (yellow outline) with red dots showing locations of shovel test probes.

**Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)**

**Photograph 1:**  
View of proposed building site and parking. View looking northeast. (FEMA, November 2011).



**Photograph 2:**  
Oblique view of southeast corner of existing pavilion. View looking west. (FEMA, November 2011).





**FEMA**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
FEMA-1603/1607/1786/1792/4015 -DR-LA  
Louisiana Recovery Office  
Environmental/Historic Preservation  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, LA 70114

November 22, 2011

Earl Barbry Sr.  
Chairman  
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana  
151 Melacon Dr.  
Marksville LA 71351

**RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina, FEMA-1603-DR-LA**

**Applicant:** St James Parish

**Undertaking:** Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Determination: No Historic Properties Affected**

Dear Chairman Barbry:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the following major Disaster Declarations:

FEMA-1603-DR-LA, dated September 23, 2005.

FEMA, through its 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), proposes to fund the Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, LA (Undertaking) as requested by St. James Parish (Applicant). Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800.5(c), FEMA is providing the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana with the opportunity to consult on the proposed Undertaking. Documentation in this letter is consistent with the requirements in 36 CFR §800.11(d).

#### **Description of the Undertaking**

The Scope of Work indicates “hardening” of a to-be-constructed safe room within a new building on parish property. An approximate 12,000 square foot building will be constructed, as the Parish has determined that it is more cost effective to harden a safe room in a new building rather than to retrofit an existing building (Figure 1).

#### **Area of Potential Effects (APE)**

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for both standing structures and archaeology was developed in coordination with the Louisiana SHPO. Stipulation VII.B.2 of the LA HMGP PA, which states the APE shall be the subject property’s tax parcel, was not invoked due to the size of the tax parcel.

The APE is located in St. James Parish off Highway 18 at Park Street. It is located in a primarily agricultural area, with sugarcane fields bounding the APE on the north and south sides. The

archaeological APE consists of the area to be impacted by construction of the new facility and associated parking space, and measures approximately 1.7 acres in size. It currently is utilized as a part of a public park and there is an existing asphalt slab used for a basketball court in the center of the project APE (Figures 1-2). The APE for standing structures includes the immediate proposed building site and all elements from which the new construction would be visible.

### Identification and Evaluation

FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map on November 3, 2011. FEMA determined the standing structures and archaeological APE are not located within a listed or eligible NRHP Historic District. According to data provided by the Louisiana SHPO, there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the APE.

The standing structures APE includes the site of an existing pavilion, which is immediately adjacent to the proposed building site. The open-air pavilion was built circa 1970 and constructed with concrete masonry units with a standing seam metal roof supported by metal pillars. The existing pavilion does not meet the 50-year-criterion or Criteria Consideration G of the National Register guidelines to be considered individually eligible for the NRHP.

Historic Mississippi River Commission (MRC) maps were examined for any evidence of past structures within the project APE. Both the 1883 and 1913 MRC maps show the area as cropland, with no structures in the vicinity. Soils within the project area consist of Cancienne Silt loam, which occurs on natural levees with slopes generally less than 1%. These soils are frequently flooded in areas unprotected by levees.

FEMA archaeologist Michael Wilder performed a site visit to the proposed facility on November 07, 2011. Surface visibility was minimal across the APE due to grass cover. Disturbances noted within the project area included drainage ditches around the perimeter of the area, an asphalt slab basketball court, a playground area, and a built up jogging path. Surface inspection of eroded areas within the drainage ditches failed to reveal any evidence of cultural artifacts or features. Two sub-surface probes were conducted. Both tests encountered a deep plowzone to depths ranging from 35-45cm below surface consisting of clean, fine silt loam devoid of any gravels or other inclusions. Below this soil stratum was a silty clay subsoil. In shovel probe 2, this subsoil was mixed with some of the overlying silt loam, suggesting that the plowzone had disturbed the upper portions of the subsoil in this area. No cultural features or artifacts were encountered in the sub-surface probes.

Table 1 summarizes FEMA's NRHP determinations for the property within the APE. Photographs of the property are attached to this letter.

*Table 1. Summary of FEMA Determinations of NRHP Eligibility for Properties within the APE.*

Standing Structure Description	Construction Date	FEMA Determination of NRHP Eligibility	Figure No.	Photograph No.	Latitude/Longitude
Existing Pavilion	Circa 1970	Not eligible for NRHP listing	1, 2	1-2	30.046556, -90.851331

11/22/2011

Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)

**Assessment of Effects**

Based on the identification and evaluation steps described above, FEMA has determined there are no historic properties eligible under the criteria set forth at 36CFR 60.4a-d within the APE. Therefore, FEMA has determined a finding of **No Historic Properties Affected** for this Undertaking and is submitting this Undertaking to you for your review and comment. FEMA requests your comments within 30 days.

We look forward to your concurrence with this determination. Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this Undertaking, please contact Jerame Cramer, Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer, at (504) 762-2917 or [jerame.cramer@dhs.gov](mailto:jerame.cramer@dhs.gov); Victoria Byrd, Historic Preservation Specialist, at (504) 762-2357 or [victoria.byrd@dhs.gov](mailto:victoria.byrd@dhs.gov); or Michael Wilder, Historic Preservation Specialist at (504) 762-2557 or [michael.wilder@dhs.gov](mailto:michael.wilder@dhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Katherine Zeringue  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA,  
FEMA-DR-1786-LA, FEMA-DR-1792-LA,  
FEMA-DR-4015-LA

CC: File  
Earl Barbry, Jr., Cultural Director  
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana

Enclosures



Figure 1. Project area and nearest known archaeological sites as depicted on the USGS 7.5' Convent topographic quadrangle.

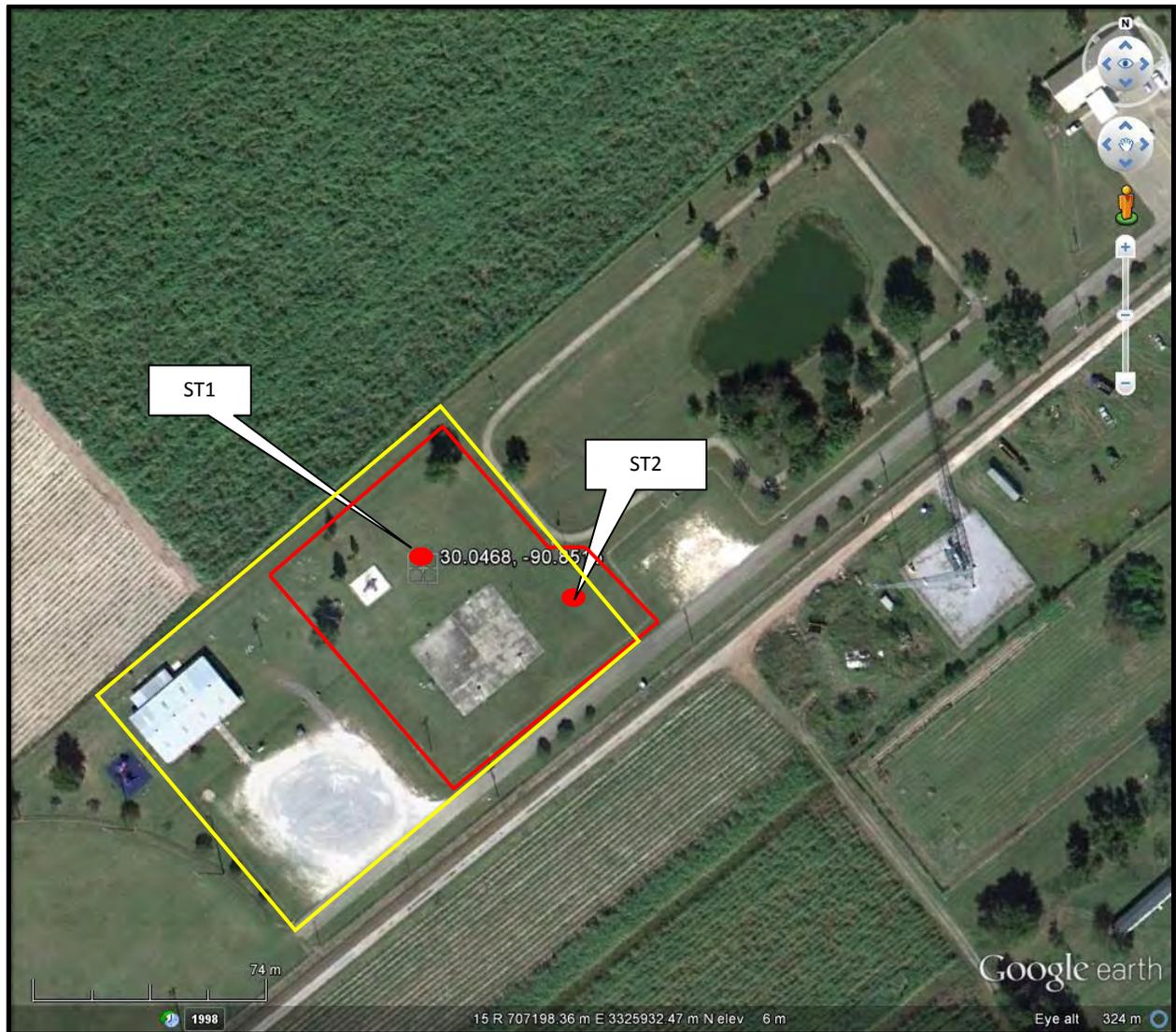


Figure 2. Aerial view of archaeological APE (red outline) and standing structures APE (yellow outline) with red dots showing locations of shovel test probes.

**Hardening of Community Safe Room at 7248 Park Street, St. James, St. James Parish, LA (HMGP PW #1603-0365)**

**Photograph 1:**  
View of proposed building site and parking. View looking northeast. (FEMA, November 2011).



**Photograph 2:**  
Oblique view of southeast corner of existing pavilion. View looking west. (FEMA, November 2011).



**Draft**

**APPENDIX F**

**8-STEP DECISION-MAKING PROCESS**

**CONSTRUCTION AND HARDENING OF THE WELCOME PARK  
COMMUNITY CENTER AND CONSTRUCTION OF INTERIOR SAFE  
ROOMS ON THE WEST BANK OF ST. JAMES PARISH, ST. JAMES,  
LOUISIANA**

**Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management  
Eight-Step Decision Making Process**

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) requires federal agencies “to avoid to the extent possible the long and short term adverse impacts associated with occupancy and modification of the floodplain and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative.” FEMA’s implementing regulations are at 44 CFR Part 9, which includes an eight step decision making process for compliance with this part.

This eight step process is applied to the proposed flood protection project, which consists of the proposed construction and hardening of a new community center and construction of interior safe rooms within the proposed new community center on the West Bank of the Mississippi River in St. James, Louisiana. The entire proposed project area is located within the 500-year floodplain within St. James Parish. The steps in the decision making process are as follows:

***Step 1 Determine whether the proposed action is in the Base Floodplain.***

The Parish of St. James enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on July 13, 1982. According to Effective Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) 22093C 0100F, dated July 4, 2011, the proposed project site is located in zone “shaded X”, (the 500-year or 0.2 percent annual chance flood). The proposed project site area is being protected from the 100-year (or 1 percent annual chance or greater) flood hazard by a levee system. Overtopping or failure of any levee system is possible.

Although the proposed action is not located in the base floodplain (the 100-year or 1 percent chance of flooding in a given year), due to the potential importance of the proposed safe rooms to the life and welfare of essential St. James Parish essential employees and the at risk population in the Parish, the Eight-Step Planning Process has been applied to this mitigation project.

***Step 2 Early public notice. (Preliminary Notice)***

A cumulative public concerning the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Assistance in floodplain and wetland areas will be or has been published in the New Orleans Times-Picayune, Baton Rouge Advocate, Lafayette Daily Advertiser, Lake Charles American Press, Hammond Star, Monroe News-Star, Shreveport Times, and the Alexandria Daily Town Talk.

**Step 3 Identify and evaluate alternatives to locating in the base floodplain.**

The entire community surrounding the proposed project area is located within the 500-year floodplain.

ALTERNATIVE 1: NO ACTION (Dismissed): Under this alternative, St. James Parish would not perform the proposed mitigation work at the site. Consequently, the Parish employees, emergency responders, and other essential employees would remain at risk during the most severe storms. The No Action alternative does not address the needs and requirements of the Parish toward providing for the safety of those Parish employees and emergency responders that are required to remain in the Parish during an approaching natural disaster.

ALTERNATIVE 2: CONSTRUCTION AND HARDENING OF THE NEW WELCOME PARK COMMUNITY CENTER WITH CONSTRUCTION OF INTERIOR SAFE ROOMS (Proposed Alternative): The proposed construction of the Welcome Park Community Center, the hardening of a portion of the structure and the construction of interior safe rooms would provide life-safety protection for essential St. James Parish personnel during extreme wind events. The personnel would include Parish public works employees, as well as emergency responders and members of the community that are considered to be at risk population. The decision was also based on the likelihood of the Parish being threatened by an extreme wind-event and the consequences (death and injury) from such an event. The construction of the safe rooms would provide a high level of occupant protection that would not be possible with existing public buildings in the Parish.

ALTERNATIVE 3: HARDEN EXISTING PUBLIC FACILITIES ON THE WEST BANK OF ST. JAMES PARISH (Dismissed): St. James Parish considered developing plans to harden existing public facilities; however, none of the existing structures are built to the new State of Louisiana building code requirements. Therefore, these structures would require extensive re-design and reconstruction. Additionally, most Parish structures are of a size that would only allow for occupancy of less than 20 individuals. The Parish has estimated that the cost to construct an adequate number of safe rooms utilizing existing facilities would be in excess of \$8 million and would accommodate a total of less than 100 individuals.

**Step 4 Identify impacts of the proposed action associated with occupancy or modification of the floodplain.**

Impact of the proposed project on the natural function of the floodplain

According to FEMA 361, the lowest floor used for safe room space and/or safe room support areas should be elevated to the higher of the following elevations, which should be used as the design flood elevation (DFE), which is, at a minimum, the BFE, and may include a factor of safety known as freeboard of 1 foot or more, as adopted by the community or Parish for flood load calculations:

1. Two feet above the (BFE), i.e., 2 feet above the flood elevation having a 1.0 percent annual chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (100-year event); or

2. The stillwater flood elevation associated with the 0.2 percent annual chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (500-year event); or
3. The lowest floor elevation required by the community's floodplain ordinance, if such ordinance exists.

The proposed hardened Welcome Park Community Center with interior safe rooms would be constructed with minimum elevation of 18.0 feet above msl, which is 4 feet above the highest BFE of 14 feet above msl indicated on any of the St. James Parish DFIRMs.

The construction of the new community center and interior safe rooms would result in added fill within the 500-year floodplain; however, the amount of fill relative to the area of the floodplain is minimal. Flood flows would be minimally impeded and redirected by construction of the proposed Welcome Park Community Center structure.

Implementing the proposed action is not likely encourage further development near or adjacent to the proposed site because the proposed new Welcome Park Community Center would be located near, and would replace, the existing community center on the same Parish-owned property. By implementing the proposed activity, the safety and welfare of critical Parish employees who must remain in the Parish during severe weather events would be improved. There are no wetlands in the immediate proposed project area that would be affected by the proposed action.

The construction and hardening of the new community center and interior safe rooms would be coordinated and comply with the local floodplain administration. All required permits will be obtained and kept for permanent documentation.

#### Impact of the flood water on the proposed facility

The proposed project area is located on a natural levee and additionally is protected from the 100-year flood event by a man-made levee or other flood control structure. The proposed hardened Welcome Park Community Center with interior safe rooms would be constructed with minimum elevation of 18.0 feet above msl, which is 4 feet above the highest BFE of 14 feet above msl indicated on any of the St. James Parish DFIRMs.

#### ***Step 5 Design or modify the proposed action to minimize threats to life and property and preserve its natural and beneficial floodplain values.***

The proposed project is designed to minimize floodplain impacts while providing a safe area for critical St. James Parish employees to stay during severe weather events. Because the proposed new community center structure would be located on currently vacant areas within a sparsely developed area surrounded by agricultural land, it would have minimal effect on the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain.

### **Step 6 Re-evaluate the proposed action.**

According to FEMA 361, structures containing community safe rooms should be located in areas at low risk to flooding and mapped as unshaded zone X on newer DFIRMs and FIRMs or zone C on older FIRMs (outside the 500-year [0.2 percent annual chance] floodplain) wherever possible. Given the potential critical importance of the proposed hardened Welcome Park Community Center and interior safe rooms to the safety and welfare of St. James Parish critical personnel and members of the community that are considered to be at risk population, the entire set of 11 St. James Parish DFIRM panels were reviewed to determine whether there would be any potential usable sites outside of the 100- or 500-year floodplain on the West Bank of St. James Parish. Review of St. James Parish effective DFIRM Panel numbers 22093C0025C, 22093C0050C, 22093C0075C, 22093C0100C, 22093C0105C, 22093C0110C, 22093C0115C, 22093C0120C, 22093C0150C, 22093C0175C, and 22093C0200C dated July 4, 2011 indicated that there are only three areas in St. James Parish that are located within unshaded zone X (outside the 100- and 500-year floodplain). Two of the unshaded zone X areas appear to be lagoons associated with a large industrial plant on the West Bank of the Mississippi River along LA Highway 18 northwest of the proposed project site. According to Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) records, this facility appears to be the Kaneb Pipeline Operating Partnership – Faustina Ammonia Terminal. These unshaded zone X areas are located near the border of St. James Parish with Ascension Parish in an area that is not readily accessible by vehicle or conveniently located to all St. James Parish West Bank employees and at risk population. Additionally, the vicinity near this site may be subject to potential exposure to toxic materials or hazardous air pollutants if an equipment failure would occur as a result of a severe weather event (see attached Figures).

The other area located within the unshaded zone X is located on the East Bank of the Mississippi River. This area also appears to be a lagoon associated with a large industrial plant. According to LDEQ records, this facility appears to be the Raven Energy LLC – Convent Marine Terminal. This unshaded zone X area is located on the East Bank in an area that is not conveniently located to St. James Parish West Bank employees and residents and is not readily accessible by vehicle as the nearest bridge crossing the Mississippi River is several miles away. Additionally, the vicinity near this site may be subject to potential exposure to toxic materials or hazardous air pollutants if there an equipment failure would occur as a result of severe weather (see attached Figures).

For these reasons, none of these areas, although they are outside of the 100- or 500-year floodplain, would be suitable locations for proposed West Bank community center/interior safe room facility. Therefore, there are no potential sites outside the 100- and 500-year floodplain on the West Bank of the Mississippi River which could be utilized to construct the proposed mitigation action.

St. James Parish considered developing plans to harden existing public facilities; however, these structures would require extensive re-design and reconstruction to house a suitable safe room. Additionally, most Parish structures are of a size that would only allow for occupancy of less than 20 individuals, and would accommodate less than 100 individuals in total. Based on the analysis above, any site or combination of sites located on the West Bank of the Mississippi

River that St. James Parish would consider either for construction of a new facility or for modification of any existing public structure to house the proposed interior safe rooms would have be located within either the 100- or 500 year floodplain.

In addition, Hurricane Surge Maps for St. James Parish dated 2003, and produced by the USACE and FEMA, were also reviewed. According these maps, during a Fast Moving Storm the proposed project area should not be vulnerable to storm surge from any category of hurricane. During a Slow Moving Storm, the proposed project area would be vulnerable to flooding during a Category 4 hurricane. However, base on these maps, during a Slow Moving Storm, all areas except the DFIRM zone X areas discussed above on the West Bank of St. James Parish would be vulnerable to storm surge, (see attached Figures).

There are no wetlands in the immediate proposed project area that would be affected by the proposed action.

Alternatives consisting of locating the proposed project outside the floodplain or taking “no action” are not practicable.

***Step 7 Findings and Public Explanation (Final Notification).***

The EA went out for public review from February 27, 2012 to March 17, 2012.

After evaluating alternatives, including impacts to the floodplain, St. James Parish determined that the proposed project is the most practical alternative.

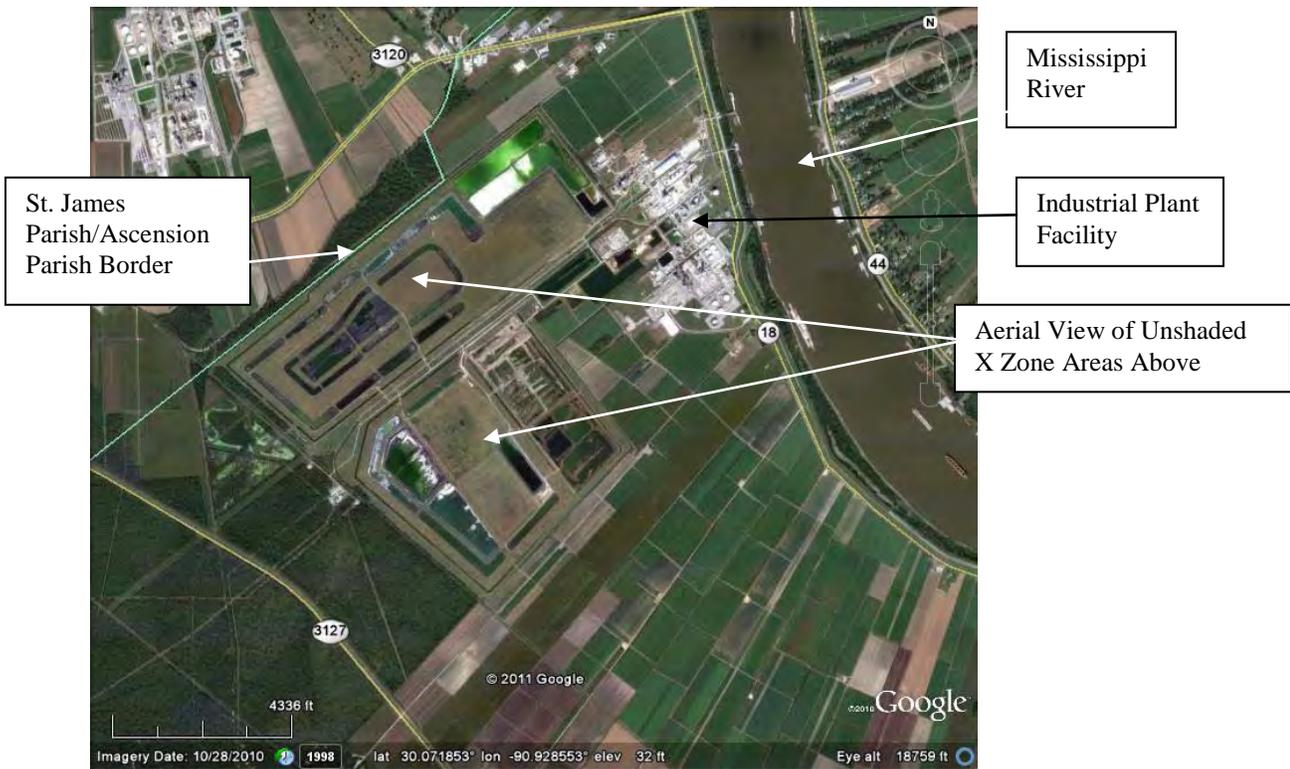
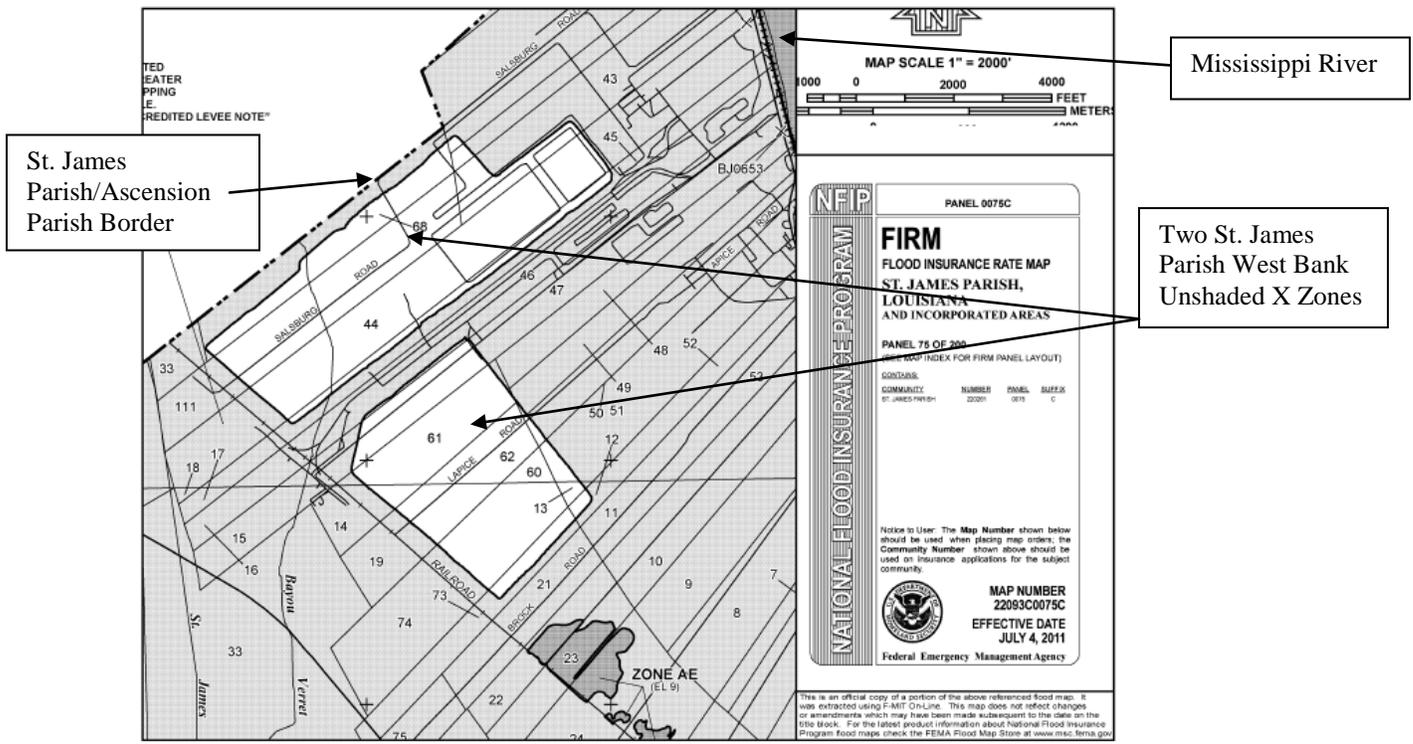
It was determined that there is no practicable alternative to constructing and hardening the new community center and interior safe rooms within the 500-year floodplain because:

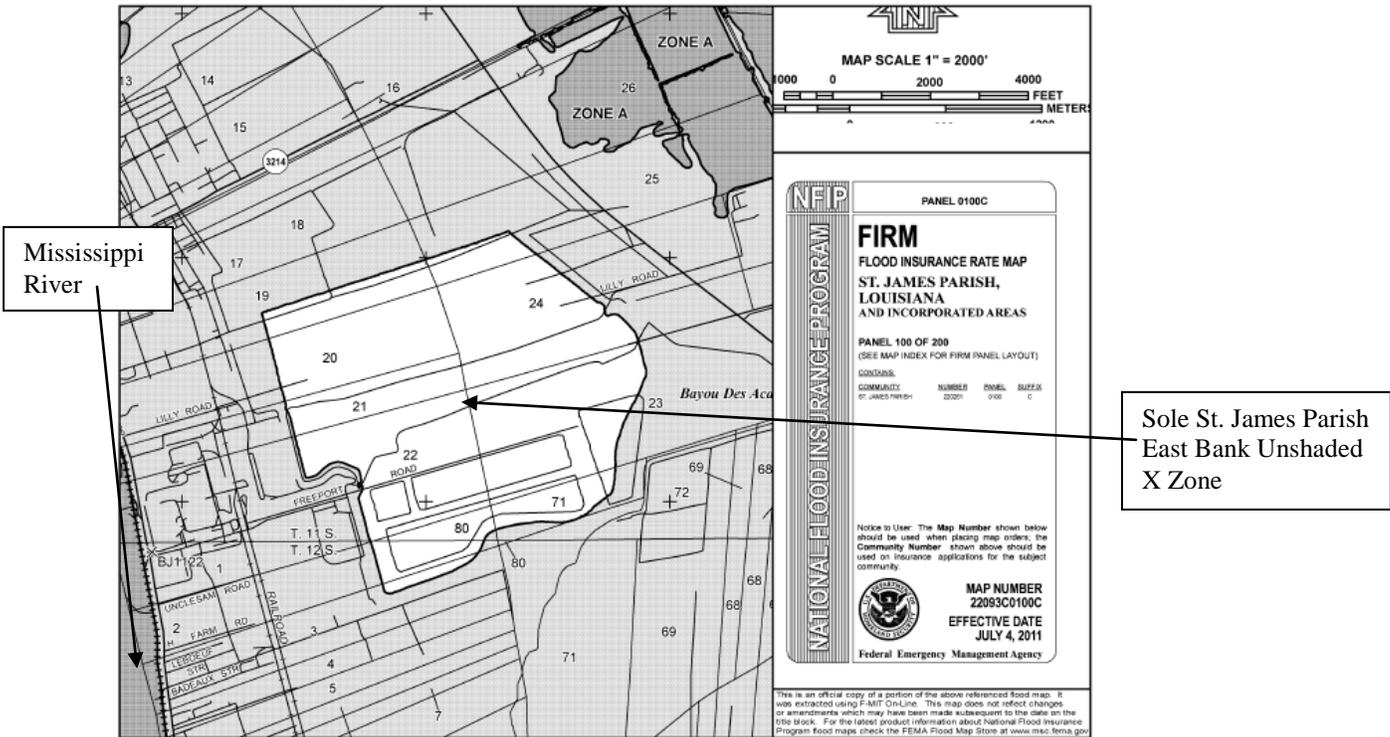
1. The entire proposed project area and surrounding community lies within 500-year floodplains and there are no practical locations outside of the 100-year or 500-year floodplain that St. James Parish could utilize for the proposed community center and safe rooms on the West Bank of the Mississippi River within the Parish.
2. A “no action” plan would not provide a feasible solution to providing a safe area for critical St. James Parish West Bank personnel and at risk population to stay immediately before, during, and after severe weather events.

***Step 8 Implement the action.***

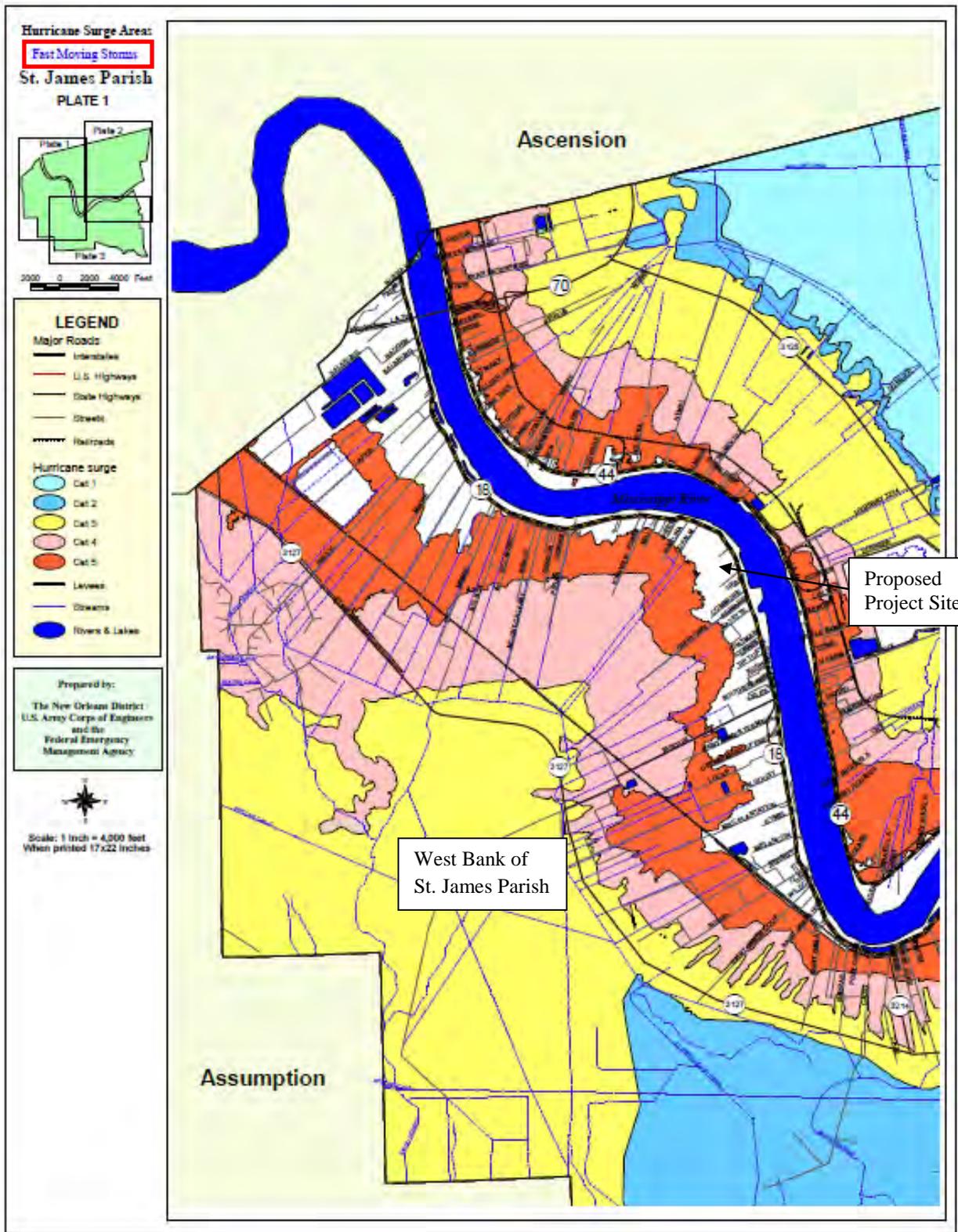
The proposed flood protection project consisting of the construction and hardening of a new community center and safe rooms would be constructed in accordance with all applicable floodplain requirements.

**Locations of St James Parish Unshaded X Zones on the Effective DFIRMs (Outside the 100- and 500-year Floodplain)**





# Hurricane Storm Surge Maps for the West Bank of St. James Parish

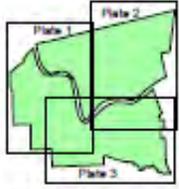


Hurricane Surge Areas

Slow Moving Storms

St. James Parish

PLATE 1



0 2000 4000 Feet

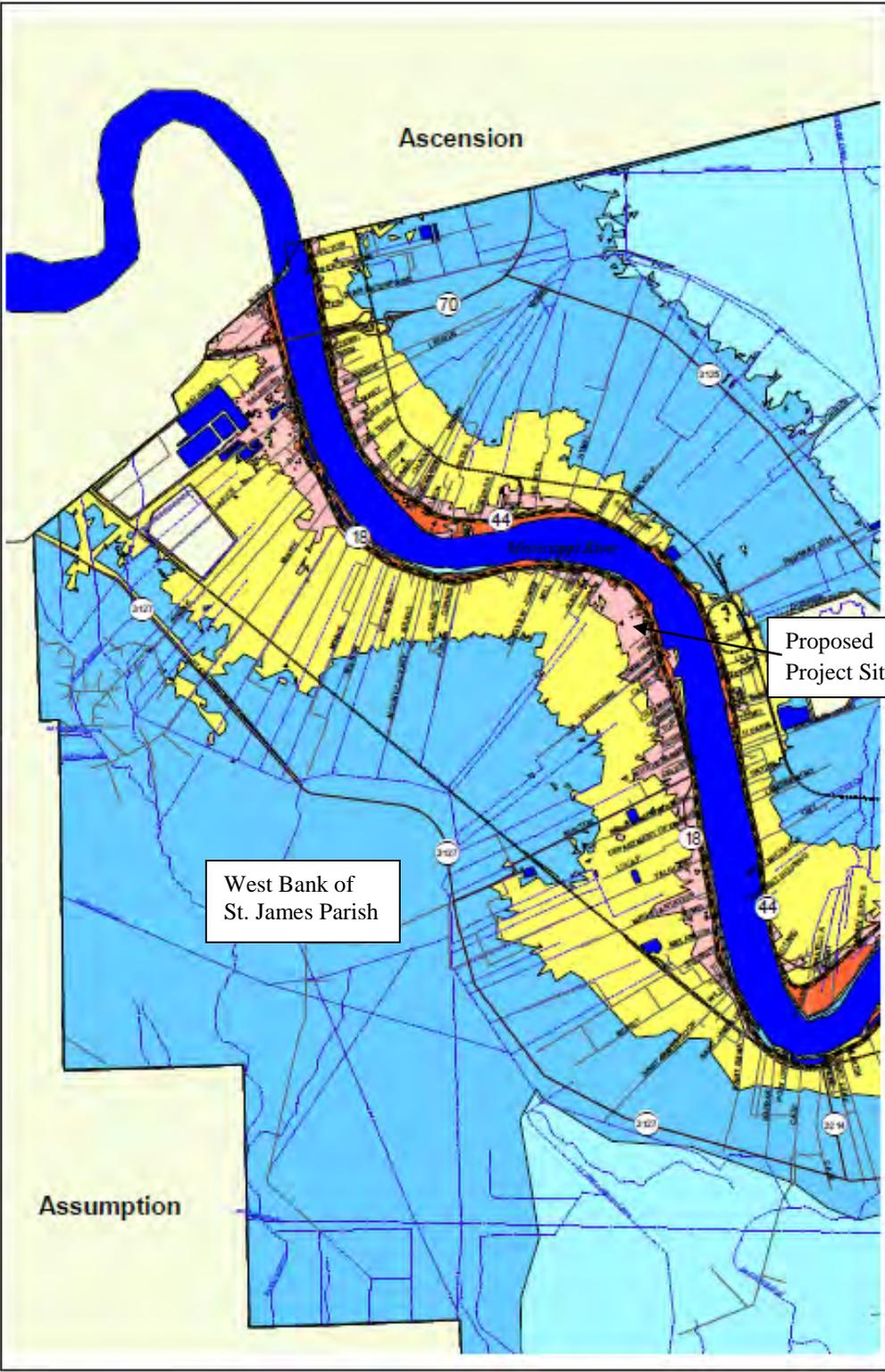
LEGEND

- Major Roads
  - Interstates
  - U.S. Highways
  - State Highways
  - Streets
  - Railroads
- Hurricane surge
  - Cat 1
  - Cat 2
  - Cat 3
  - Cat 4
  - Cat 5
- Levees
- Streams
- Rivers & Lakes

Prepared by:  
The New Orleans District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
and the  
Federal Emergency  
Management Agency

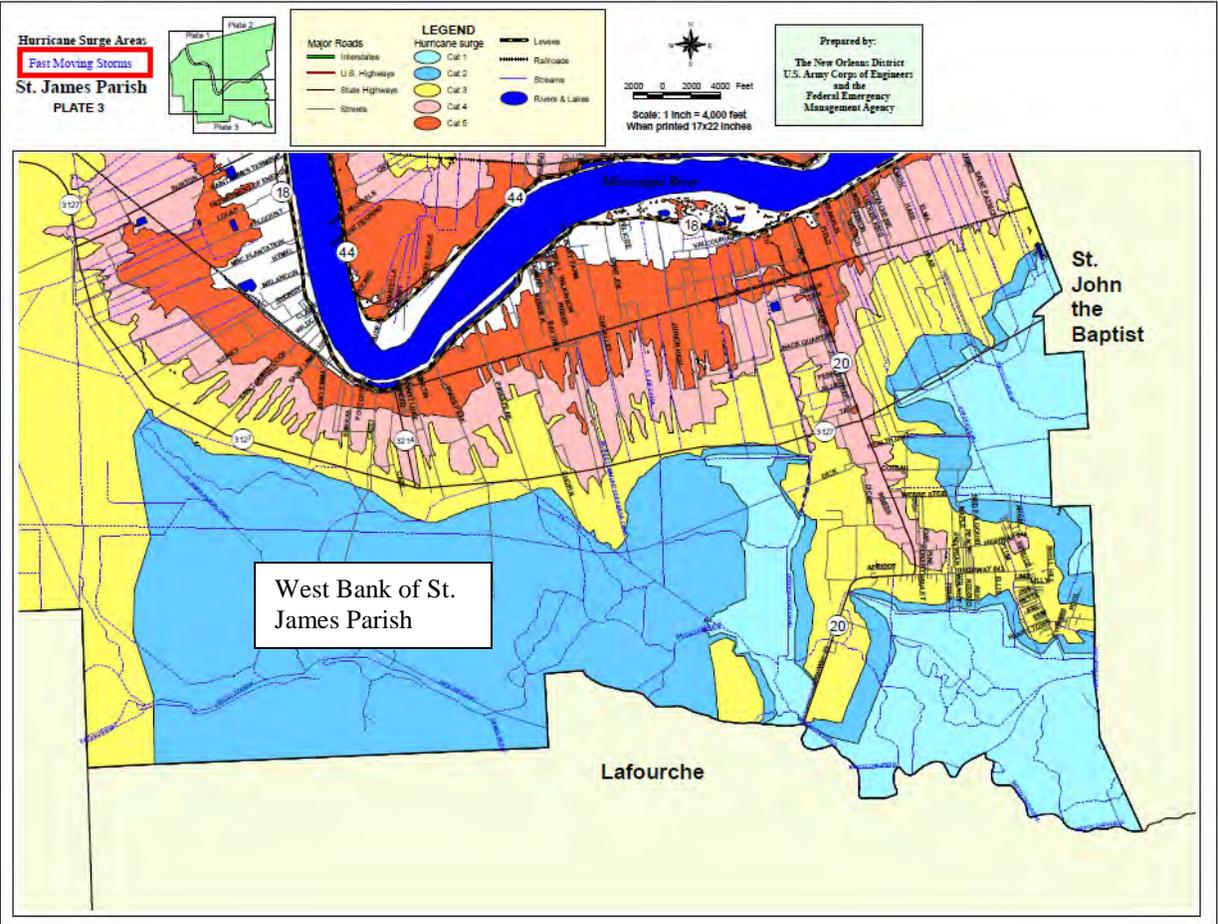


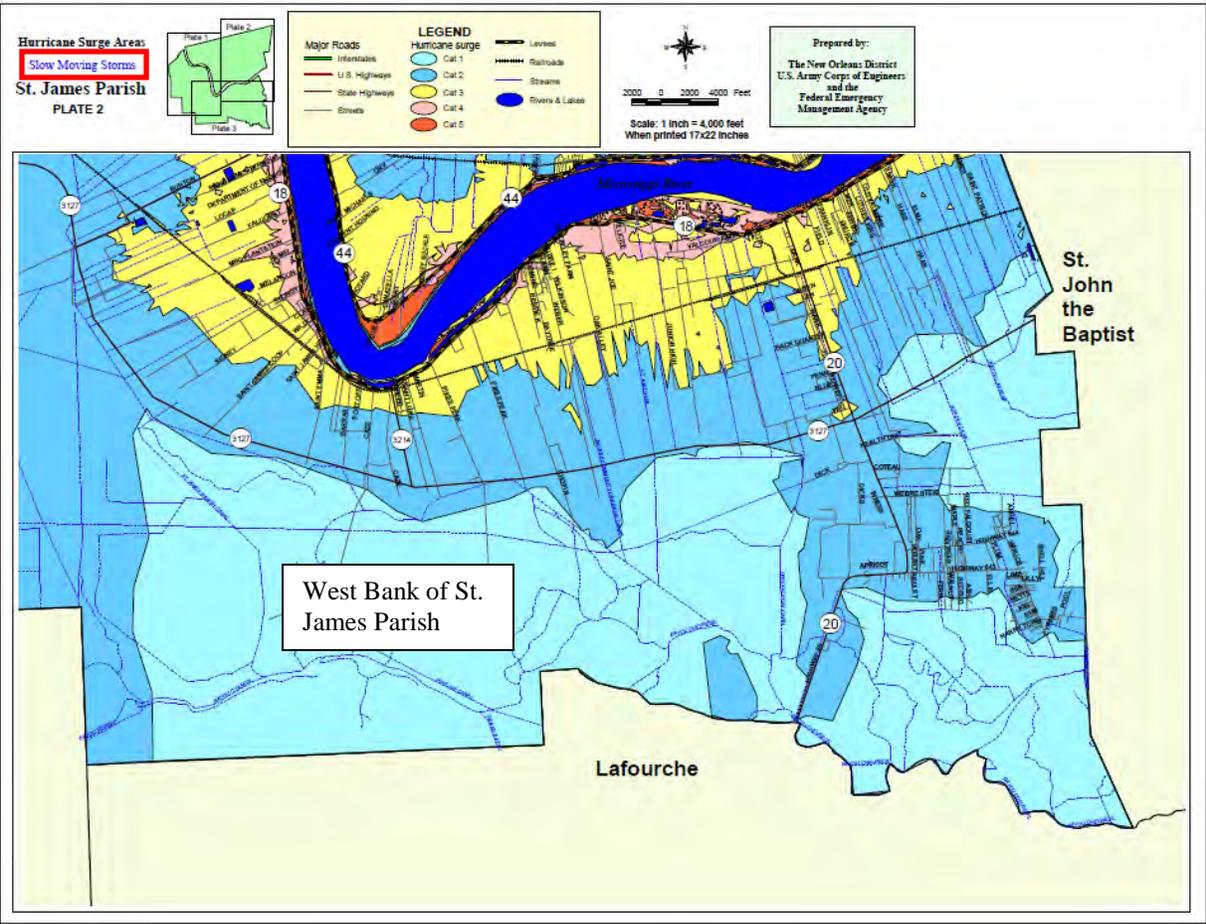
Scale: 1 inch = 4,000 feet  
When printed 17x22 inches



West Bank of  
St. James Parish

Proposed  
Project Site





**Draft**

**APPENDIX G  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
FEMA NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
CONSTRUCTION AND HARDENING OF THE WELCOME PARK  
COMMUNITY CENTER AND SAFE ROOM PROJECT  
WEST BANK, ST. JAMES PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of the EA and FONSI is to assess the effects on the human and natural environment from the proposed "hardening" of the to-be-constructed Welcome Park Community Center and the construction of two interior tornado safe rooms within the new community center to accommodate 190 essential St. James Parish personnel and at risk population on the West Bank of St. James Parish, LA, a proposed action for which FEMA is considering providing funding assistance.

The draft EA evaluates a No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action stated above. The FONSI will be FEMA's finding that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human and natural environment, if no additional substantive information is discovered during the public review and comment period.

The proposed hardened Welcome Park Community Center with two interior safe rooms would be constructed on public property with minimum elevation of 18.0 feet above mean sea level (msl), which is 4 feet above the highest Base Flood Elevation (BFE) of 14 feet above msl indicated on any of the St. James Parish Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs). The proposed Welcome Park Community Center, which would be an approximate 12,000 SF building according to construction plans provided by St. James Parish, would be constructed at 7248 Park Street, St. James, Louisiana (30.046556, -90.851331) on the West Bank of the Mississippi River, just west of LA Highway 18. The proposed project site is located on a public park complex which includes a picnic pavilion, a basketball court, a pond, and a jogging trail. The proposed Welcome Park Community Center site is located southwest of the existing Community Center/Senior Citizens Center/Sheriff's Office building.

A draft EA evaluates the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. It summarizes the purpose and need, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

The draft EA and draft FONSI are available for review at the St. James Public Library (Vacherie Branch), 2593 Highway 20, Vacherie, LA 70090, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Friday; and 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saturday. The documents can be downloaded from FEMA's website at [www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm). After the comment period has closed, and for documents from previous years, EAs will be moved to the archives page at [http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/archives\\_index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/archives_index.shtm). The comment period will begin February 27, 2012 and will end March 17, 2012 at 4 pm. Comments may be mailed to: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY--FEMA E/HP--Construction and Hardening of the St. James Parish West Bank Welcome Park Community Center and Safe Room Project, 1 Seine Court, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, New Orleans, LA 70114. Comments may be emailed to: FEMA-NOMA@dhs.gov or faxed to: 504-762-2323. Verbal comments will be accepted or recorded at 504-762-2205. If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice for work in the floodplain in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9.12.