

Environmental Assessment

Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery Office Building

St. Tammany Parish

DR-1603-LA

February 2012



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABFE	Advisory Base Flood Elevation
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
APE	Area of Potential Effects
BMP	Best Management Practices
BFE	Base Flood Elevation
CAA	Clean Air Act
CBRA	Coastal Barrier Resources Act
CBRS	Coastal Barrier Resources System
CERCLIS	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CUP	Coastal Use Permit
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWPPRA	Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DA	Department of the Army
DFIRM	Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map
EA	Environmental Assessment
EDMS	Electronic Document Management System
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FP&C	Facility Planning and Control
GOHSEP	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
LCRP	Louisiana Coastal Resources Program
LDEQ	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
LDNR	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
LDWF	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
LPDES	Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
LSRA	Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act
LSB	Louisiana State Brownfield
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPL	National Priorities List
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Services
OPA	Otherwise Protected Area
PA	Public Assistance
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RHA	Rivers and Harbors Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office/Officer

SONRIS	Strategic Online Natural Resources Information System
SPOC	Single-Point-of-Contact
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Office/Officer
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VRP	Voluntary Remediation Program
WRDA	Water Resources Development Act
WSRA	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Authority

Hurricane Katrina, a Category 4 hurricane with a storm surge above normal high tide levels, moved across the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama Gulf Coasts on August 29, 2005. Maximum sustained winds at landfall were estimated at 140 miles per hour. President George W. Bush declared a major disaster for the state of Louisiana due to damages from Hurricane Katrina and signed a disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) on August 29, 2005, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana. FEMA is administering this disaster assistance pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. Section 406 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance Program to repair, restore, and replace state and local government and certain Private Nonprofit facilities damaged as a result of the declared event.

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Subpart B – Agency Implementing Procedures, Section 10.9, an environmental assessment (EA) was prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). This EA is to analyze potential environmental impacts of consolidation and relocation of office and research facilities owned by Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) and leased by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). The results of this EA will be used to make a decision whether to initiate preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or to prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

1.2 Project Location

St. Tammany Parish is located in the Northshore area of Southeast Louisiana. It is approximately 854 square miles, bordered to the east by Pearl River, to the south by Lake Pontchartrain, and to the west by the Tchefuncte River. The City of Slidell is located in the southeastern tip of St. Tammany Parish, and is the parish's largest municipality with approximately 28,089 residents according to 2006 census figures. It is approximately three (3) miles from the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain (Figure 1.0). Three (3) major highways, Interstate 10, Interstate 12, and Interstate 59, form a "cross roads" in the city. Slidell is approximately 30 miles from New Orleans, Louisiana and 82 miles from Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Lacombe is a small town located approximately 11 miles east of Slidell. It is mostly rural area with a population of approximately 7,363 according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

The applicant, FP&C, currently owns several buildings in St. Tammany and Plaquemines Parishes. The Wildlife and Fisheries Coastal Study Area 1 is currently located in Harbor Inn Marina on Lake Pontchartrain in Slidell, Louisiana (Figure 1.1). The address for this property is 52282 Highway 90, Slidell, LA (30.17829, -89.72629). The facilities in St. Tammany

Parish consisted of three (3) buildings prior to Hurricane Katrina: two house trailers and a radio tower. The Wildlife and Fisheries Field Office in Plaquemines consisted of another office building which is located on Bass Road, Point a la Hache, LA (29.58114, -89.80067) (Figure 1.2).



Figure 1.0 General Location of Slidell, LA

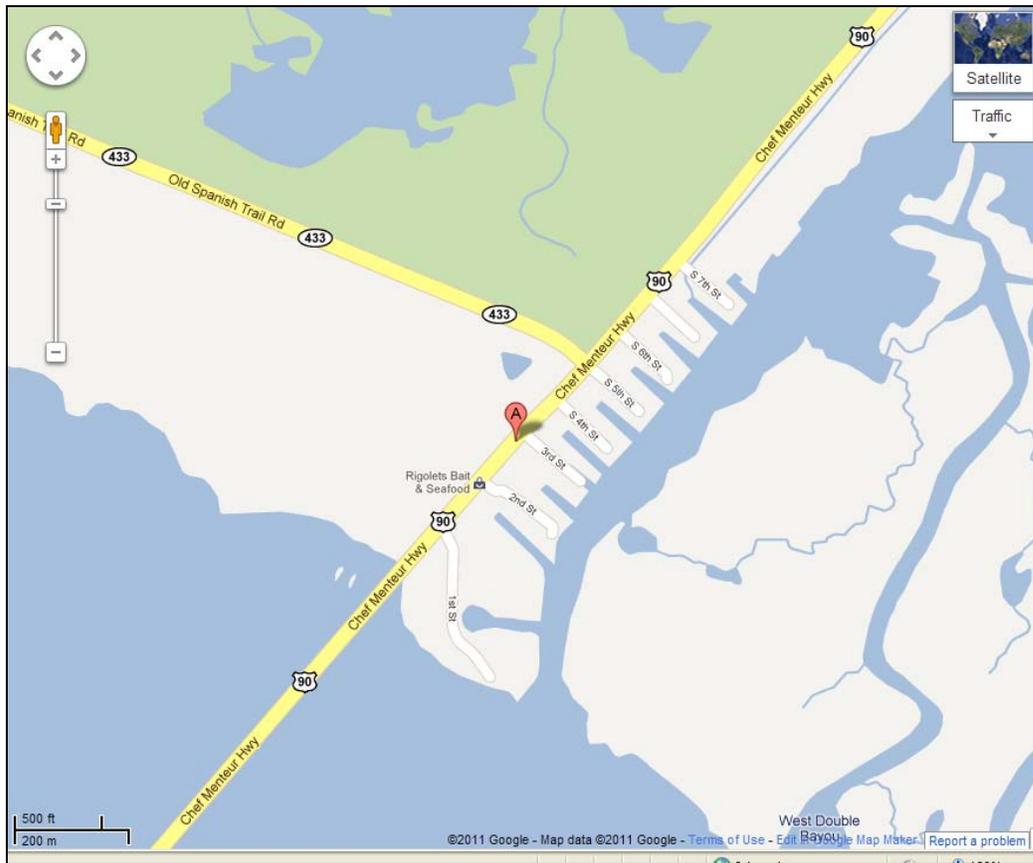


Figure 1.1 Original Location of the Wildlife and Fisheries Coastal Study Area 1, 52282 Hwy. 90, Slidell, LA

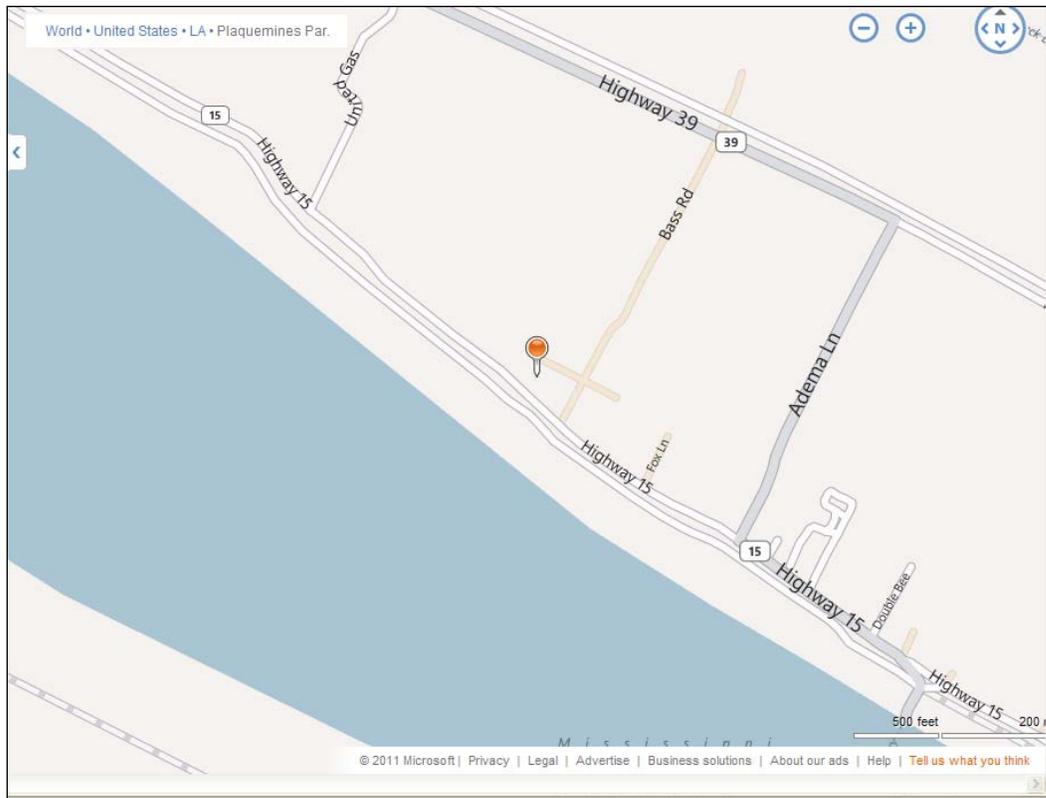


Figure 1.2 Original Location of the Wildlife and Fisheries Point a la Hache Field Office, Bass Rd., Point a la Hache, LA

2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

Wildlife and Fisheries Coastal Study Area 1 in St. Tammany Parish and Wildlife and Fisheries Field Office in Plaquemines Parish are leased by LDWF. The Coastal Study Area 1 is located in a V-zone, and all structures at both St. Tammany and Plaquemines Parish were destroyed by tidal storm surges.

The objective of the Public Assistance (PA) Program is to provide assistance to State, Tribal and local governments, and certain types of Private Nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies.

The facilities provided LDWF with office, research, and storage space to carry out duties necessary for coastal fisheries research and to conduct meetings. LDWF needs to restore the lost functions and capacity of office and research space for continuance of the coastal fisheries programs. This document analyzes alternatives presented by the applicant to 1) reduce potential for future disaster assistance and 2) ensure the project will be in compliance with NEPA and other environmental laws.

3.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

3.1 No Action

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would entail no public assistance measures for the damaged facilities. Consequently, the research facilities would be left completely destroyed. The applicant would no longer have the resources and space needed to continue their fisheries research and meeting space. They would have to use their own funds to replace the lost facilities in their current locations. Under this alternative, damage will continue to occur and both insured and uninsured losses would be experienced. This alternative would perpetuate the “damage-repair-damage” cycle and could require additional funding to be drawn from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as well as depleting local and national disaster funds.

3.2 Alternative Eliminated from Further Consideration: Replace Facilities at Current Location

An alternative considered and eliminated was to replace the damaged facilities at their current locations, the two buildings at Harbor Inn Marina in St. Tammany Parish and one on Bass Rd. in Plaquemines Parish. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the site at Harbor Inn Marina on Lake Ponchartrain consisted of a 16 feet (ft) x 56ft mobile office trailer and a 12ft x 40ft storage building. The mobile office trailer was a modular building with a wood frame, metal clad walls, arched roof, and set on steel under carriage that served as the support base. It included two bedrooms, a kitchen, a single bathroom with a shower, living and dining rooms, a hot water heater, and a 3-ton air conditioning unit. The storage building was prefabricated construction with metal panels and metal roof, and set on a steel undercarriage that served as the support base.

Both structures were destroyed by tidal surge and would need to be replaced, resulting in the requirement that the structures would need to be elevated above the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE). Both structures would be required to be elevated approximately 17 ft above the ground, thus meeting the ABFE of 19 ft. To accomplish this required elevation, the mobile office trailer would be elevated by constructing a 60ft wide x 24ft long wooden frame platform, including an 8ft wide x 60ft long cedar working deck area with cedar perimeter railing 3ft high. Cedar wooden stairs would provide man access to the platform, and a five ton material chain hoist platform with a motor and concrete foundation would provide a lift for materials to the office area. The area under the building would be covered with 4,800 square feet (sf) of 6 inch (in) compacted gravel. The storage building would also be elevated by constructing a 40ft wide x 20ft long wooden frame platform, including an 8ft wide x 40 ft long cedar working deck area with cedar perimeter railing 3 ft high. A five ton material chain hoist platform with motor and concrete foundation would provide a lift for contents to the office area. The area under the building would be covered with 3,000 sf of 6 in compacted gravel.

A second field office used by the LDWF is on Bass Rd. in Point a la Hache, Plaquemines Parish. This mobile field office was totally destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The building was 12ft wide x 72ft long, approximately 864 sf, and staged on concrete block piers. It was

constructed of a prefabricated wood frame with metal side panels, a metal roof, and an attached 5ft x 8ft porch with a set of stairs and standard utility service connections.

This office was totally destroyed by tidal surge and would need to be replaced, resulting in the requirement that the structure would need to be elevated above the ABFE. The ABFE of 16ft would require the building to be elevated approximately 11ft above the existing ground elevation. To accomplish this, the applicant would construct a 72ft long x 20ft wide cedar work and access deck area with cedar, perimeter railing 3ft high. A five ton material chain hoist platform with motor and concrete foundation would provide a lift for contents to the office area. The area under the building would be covered with 4,800 sf of 6in compacted gravel.

The structures located in St. Tammany Parish are in a V-zone; therefore, this alternative includes actions that would included new construction in a V-zone and promote development in a coastal high hazard area for structures that are not functionally dependant on water (see section 4.1.3 for further discussion). This alternative is eliminated from consideration and will not be reviewed further.

3.3 Relocation of the Facilities (Proposed Action)

This alternative is to relocate the functions of the Coastal Study Area 1 and the Point a la Hache Field office to the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery's new proposed building located in Lacombe, LA: Section 48, Township 8 South, Range 12 East, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Specifically, this property is identified as lot 12 at the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery. The approximate center of the site is located at latitude 30.320314, longitude -89.943474 (Figure 2.0).

The Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery is an 11.76 acre fish hatchery facility that was constructed in the 1930s on donated land. The facility has produced fish for the state of Louisiana continuously since its inception, and currently consists of six (6) ponds, used to grow-out fish fingerlings before being released into the inland water ways. The proposed site of the new building currently consists of one (1) boat shed, four (4) modular buildings, and a gravel driveway. The applicant would demolish the existing buildings and reconfigure the fish ponds to construct the new proposed building along with associated parking lot. See attached photos in Appendix A.

Currently, there are two (2) ponds to the east of the proposed building site. The applicant is proposing to first remove the earthen material that divides the two (2) smaller ponds, resulting in one large pond. The applicant would then use the material to fill in the western end of the pond to create a new land area where part of the new building and parking would be constructed. See attached site plans in Appendix B.

The new building would be approximately 7,193 square feet and consist of an entry lobby, five (5) offices, conference room, break room, restrooms, copy room, fish sampling lab, walk in freezer, and an open office with ten (10) workstations. The facility is to be of wood frame construction to withstand the designated 120 mph wind zone. The exterior materials would consist of a standing seam metal roof, cementitious siding, storefront, and treated wood decking and railing. Once a design engineer is selected, the applicant would use their

recommendations to decide whether to build the office slab on grade with fill brought in or on open piles with crawl space to raise the structure above the floodplain. A floor plan and reference map can be found in Appendix B.

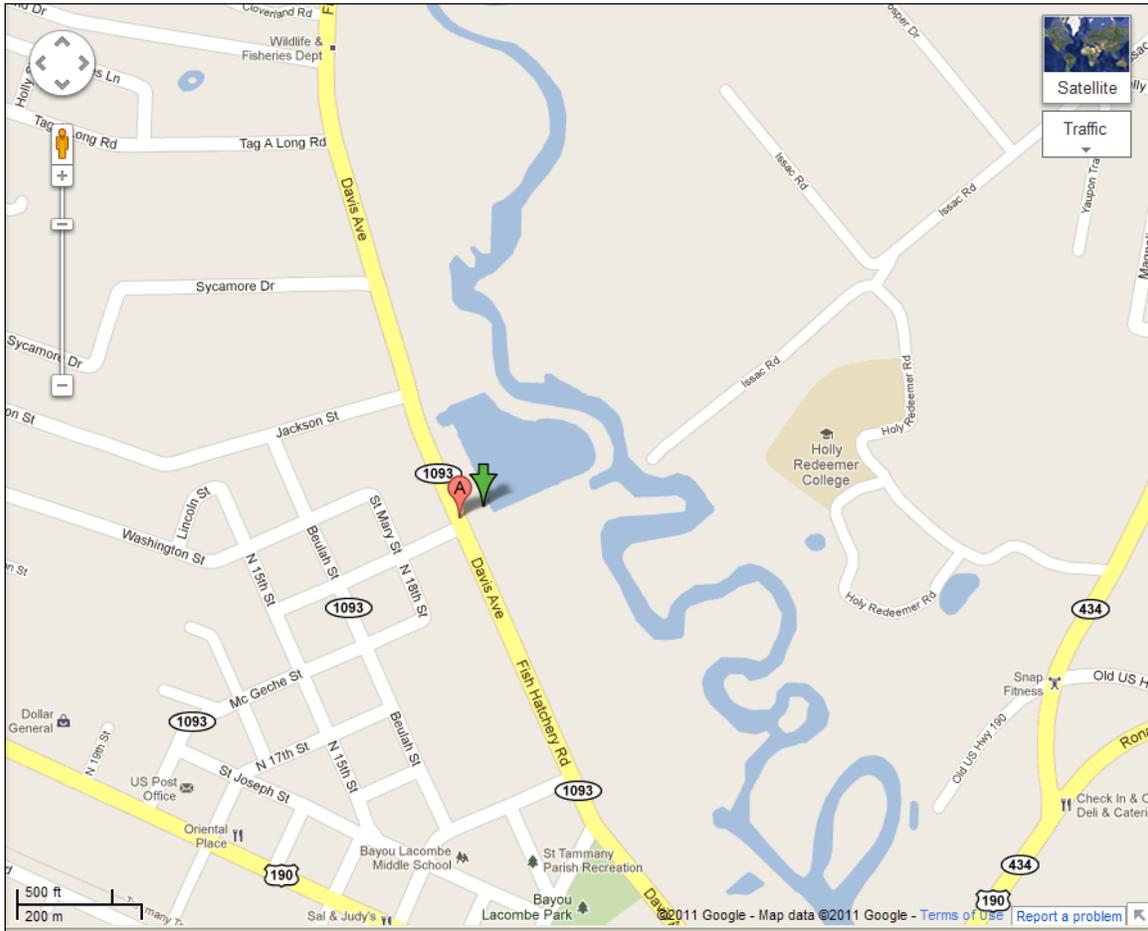


Figure 2.0 Proposed Location of New Building, Lot 12 at the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery

4.0 Affected Environment and Impacts

4.1 Impact Summary

The following matrix summarizes the results of the environmental review process (Table 1). Potential environmental impacts that were found to be negligible are not evaluated further. Resource areas that have the potential for impacts of minor, moderate, or major intensity are further developed in the following sections. Definitions of the impact intensity are described below:

Negligible: The resource area (e.g., geology) would not be affected, or changes would be either non-detectable or if detected, would have effects that would be slight and local. Impacts would be well below regulatory standards, as applicable.

Minor: Changes to the resource would be measurable, although the changes would be small and localized. Impacts would be within or below regulatory standards, as applicable. Mitigation measures would reduce any potential adverse effects.

Moderate: Changes to the resource would be measurable and have both localized and regional scale impacts. Impacts would be within or below regulatory standards, but historical conditions are being altered on a short-term basis. Mitigation measures would be necessary and the measures would reduce any potential adverse effects.

Major: Changes would be readily measurable and would have substantial consequences on a local and regional level. Impacts would exceed regulatory standards. Mitigation measures to offset the adverse effects would be required to reduce impacts, though long-term changes to the resource would be expected.

Table 1 - Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences Matrix

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Geology and Soils	X				<p>Potential for short-term localized increase in soil erosion during construction.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Alexandria, LA office has determined that the proposed project will not impact any Prime, Unique, or Local Important Farmland.</p>	<p>Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) email dated 8/10/2011. NRCS letter dated 10/13/11. (See Appendix D)</p>	<p>Implement construction Best Management Practices (BMPs); install silt fences/straw bales to reduce sedimentation. Area soils would be covered and/or wetted during construction. If fill is stored on site as part of unit installation or removal, the contractor would be required to appropriately cover it. Construction contractor would be required to obtain applicable Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit, and implement stormwater pollution prevention plan. See also Section 6.0.</p>
Hydrology and Floodplains (Executive Order 11988)		X			<p>The structures were destroyed by tidal storm surges and are eligible for replacement. The Coastal Study Area 1 Harbor Inn Marina on Lake Pontchartrain was located within a "VE" Zone, EL 16, per the Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) 22103C0670F. However, since the structures were greater than 90% damaged, replacement at the same site, constitutes new construction. The other site, at Point a la Hache, Plaquemines Parish, is found on preliminary DFIRM, 22075C0475D, as in the special flood hazard area, zone AE, EL 18. Both sites were not good candidates for replacement</p> <p>According to Preliminary (DFIRM) 22103C0455F, dated 4/30/08, the proposed site is located in zone AE, in the joint probability floodplain of Bayou Lacombe</p> <p>See also Appendix C.</p> <p>See also Sections 4.1.3.</p>	<p>Preliminary DFIRM 22103C0670F. preliminary DFIRM, 22075C0475D, and preliminary DFIRM 22103C0455F</p>	<p>New construction must be built to the Preliminary DFIRM Base Flood Elevation (BFE) or local floodplain ordinances; whichever is more stringent and built to current codes and standards. The applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files. As per 44 CFR 9.11 (d) (9), mitigation or minimization standards must be applied, where possible. The replacement of building contents, materials and equipment should be, where possible, wet or dry-proofed, elevated, or relocated to or above the Preliminary DFIRM BFE or local floodplain ordinances; whichever is more stringent. If the construction is built on an open works foundation, rather than fill, and the parking lot maintains existing grade and uses porous pavement techniques there will be no discernible adverse impacts. St. Tammany Parish floodplain management ordinances require no net fill in the floodplain. This no net fill requirement should be met by applicant. Using fill to elevate structure may also be an acceptable option. See also Sections 4.1.3 and 6.0.</p>

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Wetlands (Executive Order 11990)		X			U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-mapped wetlands are present in the proposed project area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) determined that the proposed project requires a Department of the Army (DA) permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) See also section 4.1.2	Jurisdictional determination from the USACE, dated 7/7/11 and letter dated 9/2/2011 (See Appendix D)	Any changes or modifications to the proposed project will require a revised determination. Off-site locations of activities such as borrow, disposals, haul- and detour roads, and work mobilization site developments may be subject to USACE regulatory requirements. DA Section 404 permit will be required prior to the deposition or distribution of dredged or fill material into the wetland See also Section 4.1.2 and Section 6.0.
Surface Water and Water Quality		X			Project will involve re-configuring of existing ponds. Potential for short-term localized increase in sedimentation during construction. See also section 4.1.1	LDEQ email dated 08/10/2011. USACE letter dated 09/02/2011 (See Appendix D)	Implement construction BMPs, install silt fences/straw bales to reduce sedimentation. 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 the applicant contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3181 to determine if the proposed project requires a permit See also Section 4.1.2 and Section 6.0.
Groundwater	X				St. Tammany Parish overlies the Southern Hills Regional Aquifer system, which is a Sole Source Aquifer; however, the project is not anticipated to affect the groundwater.	LDEQ email dated 8/10/2011. (See Appendix D)	The contractor should observe all precautions to protect the groundwater of the region. See also Section 6.0.
Wild and Scenic River	X				Project is located within ¼ mile of Bayou Lacombe, which is designated as a state Scenic River. Project construction will not need a permit because it is more than 100 feet from the bank of the river.	LDWF letter dated August 17, 2011 and email dated 10/12/2011 (See Appendix D)	Implement construction BMPs, install silt fences/straw bales to reduce sedimentation
Coastal Resources		X			According to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR), the project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Zone and will require a Coastal Use Permit (CPU). The project is not located within the Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS). See Section 4.2	LDNR response letters dated 8/18/11 (See Appendix D) Preliminary DFIRM 22103C0670F. preliminary DFIRM, 22075C0475D, and preliminary DFIRM 22103C0455F (for CBRS)	Applicant must check with LDNR for permitting or other authorization requirements. Project may be coordinated by contacting LDNR at 1-800-267-4019. Project may require additional review by the appropriate agencies due to the following sensitive features: Master Plan, CWPPRA, and WRDA Fed Diversion. See also Section 4.2 and Section 6.0.

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Air Quality	X				During construction, there is potential for short-term localized increase in vehicle emissions and dust particles. The St. Tammany Parish air shed is in attainment for all criteria pollutants per the Clean Air Act (CAA). Project involves the demolition of existing storage sheds and a boat shed; applicant should take precautions against potential asbestos containing materials.	LDEQ email dated 08/10/2011. (See Appendix D)	Vehicle operation times would be kept to a minimum. Area soils would be covered and/or wetted during construction to minimize dust. 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. See also Section 6.0.
Vegetation and Wildlife	X				The proposed project located in an area which is sparsely developed and borders bottomland hardwood forest/riverine wetlands and residential areas. The developed areas of the project site consist of maintained lawns, commercial ponds, paved roadways and driveways. No long term affects to vegetation or wildlife are anticipated.	USFWS determination of no effect, dated 8/3/2006 and 4/29/2011. (See Appendix D)	
Threatened and Endangered Species (Endangered Species Act Section 7)	X				No impact to federally listed threatened or endangered species is anticipated. No impacts to critical habitats are anticipated. No impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the proposed project. No state or federal parks, wildlife refuges, or wildlife management areas are known at the specific site.	USFWS determination of no effect on Federal trust resources, dated 8/10/2011 (See Appendix D) LDWF letter dated 8/17/11. (See Appendix D)	If a bald eagle or its nest is spotted within 1,500 feet of the project site during the months of October through mid-May, the applicant must cease construction activities and contact LDWF and USFWS immediately. All correspondence must be documented and remain in the project permanent files. See also Section 6.0.
Bald and Golden Eagle Act	X				The bald eagle is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Act. Bald eagles are known to occur in St. Tammany Parish.		If a bald eagle or its nest is spotted within 1,500 feet of the project site during the months of October through mid-May, the applicant must cease construction activities and contact LDWF and USFWS immediately. All correspondence must be documented and remain in the project permanent files. See also Section 6.0.

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Cultural Resources (National Historic Preservation Act Section 106)	X				<p>A review of this project was conducted in accordance FEMA's Programmatic Agreement dated August 17, 2009. There is one structure aged fifty years or older within the Area of Potential Effects (APE): the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery (1931-32). FEMA determined this property is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) due to a lack of significance. A FEMA Archaeologist made a field visit on May 4, 2011. The project area consisted of a grassy field flanked by large oaks and bushes and occupied by a row of several small portable buildings and a pole barn. A gravel access road runs into the facility along the northern boundary of the project area then turns south to bisect the APE. In addition, the project area partially overlaps one of the fish ponds with associated earth berms and utility roads. The tract slopes to the east toward the fish ponds and is generally eroded due to the use of trucks, boat trailers, and tractors around the pole barn in the corner of the lot. The area adjacent to the fish pond has been partially excavated to create a level ground surface in the location of the gravel access road and an adjacent shallow ditch. Surface visibility was over 50%. Three soil tests were spaced along the western edge of the APE nearest the Davis Avenue in the least disturbed and most elevated area. Nonetheless, the elevation of this area was lower than the road adjacent land on the opposite side of the road. No cultural material was identified during the testing or on the ground surface which was highly deflated. No cultural material was identified within the project boundaries. FEMA has determined that No Historic Properties are affected by the proposed undertaking. State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurrence with this determination was received September 21, 2010. Consultation with affected tribes including the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana was conducted per 36 CFR §800.2(c)(2)(i)(B). No tribal responses were received within the allotted time. See Section 4.3</p>	<p>SHPO concurrence letter dated September 21, 2010. (See Appendix D)</p>	<p>If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present with the project area, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) is required. The applicant shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within twenty-four hours of the discovery. The applicant shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within seventy-two hours of the discovery.</p> <p>If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered, the applicant shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The applicant shall inform their Public Assistance contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA Historic Preservation completes consultation with the SHPO.</p> <p>Any fill or borrow material used must be sourced from areas that do not contain any buried cultural materials (e.g. brick foundations, prehistoric Indian artifacts, human burials, and the like). See also Section 4.3 and Section 6.0.</p>

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898)/Socioeconomics	X				According to the American Census data for year 2005-2009 (5-year estimates), the percentage of families in Lacombe, LA below the poverty level is 16.3%. This figure for the U.S. as a whole is 9.9%. The median household income in Lacombe, LA is \$39,256. This figure for the U.S. as a whole is \$51,425. The year 2005-2009 estimates demographic census data for Lacombe, LA are as follows: White: 66.9%, African American: 24.8%, American Indian and Alaska Native: 0.6% The comparable census demographic for the U.S. as a whole are: White: 74.5%, African American: 12.4% and American Indian and Alaska Native: 0.8% The proposed work has no potential to adversely impact any population.	U.S. Census Bureau, American Fact Finder, Data for Lacombe, Louisiana	
Resource Recovery and Conservation Act (RCRA)	X				Project involves demolition of existing storage sheds and a boat shed. All debris must be disposed of in an approved landfill.	LDEQ email dated 8/10/2011 (See Appendix D)	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 See also section 6.0
Noise		X			During the construction period there will be a short-term increase in noise levels. St. Tammany Parish noise ordinances state that construction activities shall be exempt from daytime decibel restrictions, but the maximum nighttime sound levels shall apply in all instances. See also Section 4.4.	St. Tammany, Louisiana – Code of Ordinances Article IV Sec. 14 -035.00	The work schedule at the site is to follow St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances for noise. See also Sections 4.4 and 6.0.
Public Safety and Access	X				Although this is public land, it is the office/research space of LDWF and is not accessed by the general public often.		To minimize worker and public health and safety risks from project construction and closure, all construction and closure work would be done using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of construction equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, all activities would be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with the standards specified in OSHA regulations and the USACE safety manual. The contractor would post appropriate signage and fencing to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns. See also Sections 6.0.

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Traffic and Transportation	X				The work would take place behind the property fence, Only anticipated traffic impacts would be due to construction materials and equipment accessing the site. Traffic volumes along the respective work access areas would increase temporarily during work activities.		Appropriate signage and barriers should be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes. The contractor would implement traffic control measures, as necessary. See also Section 6.0.
Hazardous Materials and Toxic Wastes	X				A review of regulatory environmental databases was conducted via the Internet. A database search revealed that no Louisiana Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Louisiana State Brownfield (LSB) sites are located within 1.0 mile of the property. Searches of the EPA National Priorities List (NPL), EPA Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) List, EPA hazardous waste sites, EPA toxic release sites, EPA waste water discharge sites, EPA air emission sites, and EPA multi-activity sites revealed no sites within 1.0 mile of the property. A search of the LDEQ Electronic Document Management System revealed no hazardous waste sites or hazardous materials incidents within 1.0 mile of the property. A search of the LDEQ Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) List revealed no known sites within 1.0 mile of the property. There are no authorized debris sites or oil and gas wells or fields within 1.0 mile of the property. No impacts related to hazardous materials and wastes are anticipated.	EPA Envirofacts Database EPA EnviroMapper EPA Brownfields Database LDEQ Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) LDEQ Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) Database LDEQ Louisiana State Brownfields Database LDNR SONRIS Database LDEQ Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Database LDEQ Authorized Debris Sites Database	If hazardous materials are unexpectedly encountered in the project area during the proposed construction operations, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contamination would be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. The contractor would be required to take appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control the spill of hazardous materials in the construction area. See also Section 6.0.

4.1 Water Resources

4.1.1 Surface Water

Drainage for storm water runoff is provided by six ponds that are located to the north and to the east of the proposed structure along with Bayou Lacombe which runs along the eastern property line. From here, the water flows to Lake Pontchartrain (Figure 3.0).

Alternative 1- No Action: The No Action alternative would not change site drainage or have an effect on the surface water quality of the area.

Alternative 2- Proposed Action: During construction, there would be the potential to impact surface waters through minor erosion and runoff. Excavating and trenching would be required for the reconfiguration of the ponds and the excavation of a borrow pit. Fill is to be brought in for construction of the building and the configuration of the ponds. Storm water runoff could carry sediment offsite into the receiving wetlands, bayous and lakes. In order to minimize impacts to waters of the U.S., the contractor is required to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) that meet the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (LDEQ) permitting specifications for storm water discharge regulated under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). This includes designing the site with specific construction measures to reduce or eliminate run-off impacts. Any adverse effects to water quality associated with the construction of the projects would be short term and minimized by the measures described above. There would be no long-term effects to water quality because once structures and facilities are in place, natural vegetation will reemerge.



Figure 3.0 Aerial of Water Sources Around the Proposed Project Area

4.1.2 Waters of the U.S. including Wetlands

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA. USACE also regulates the building of any structures in waters of the U.S. pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA). Bayou Lacombe borders the property to the east. Bayou Lacombe is considered a state designated wild and scenic river, as designated under the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act (LSRA).

Jurisdictional wetlands are defined as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. The property contains six excavated ponds that are considered wetlands and subject to USACE jurisdiction. Bayou Lacombe is considered a slow moving river with a well defined floodplain, per USFWS wetland maps, and is surrounded by forested or wooded

swamps; which are also subject to USACE jurisdiction. Jurisdictional wetland determinations are regulated by the USACE pursuant to the CWA. In addition, Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, directs federal agencies to take actions to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands (Figure 4.0).

Alternative 1- No Action: The No Action alternative would have no effect on wetlands or other waters of the U.S. and would not require permits required under Sections 401 or 404 of the CWA, or Section 10 regulated under the RHA.

Alternative 2- Proposed Action: The proposed action would modify wetlands subject to USACE jurisdiction; however, it is not anticipated to have an adverse effect on the natural values of wetlands, or directly nor indirectly support new development on wetlands.

During a site visit on May 4, 2011, FEMA EHP determined that wetlands were present, and recommended that the applicant contact the USACE regarding permitting requirements for the reconfiguration of the ponds and potential impacts to jurisdictional wetlands. The applicant submitted a wetland jurisdictional determination request to USACE on June 9, 2011 (see Appendix D).

A wetland jurisdictional determination was sent from USACE to the applicant on July 7, 2011 (see Appendix D). This determination states that part of the property is a wetland and subject to USACE jurisdiction. The map provided outlined the wetlands, and showed areas as waters of the U.S. The letter also states that a Department of the Army (DA) Section 404 permit will be required prior to the deposition or redistribution of dredged or fill material into this wetland or the areas designated on the map. The wetland and Bayou Lacombe is also subject to USACE jurisdiction under Section 10 of the RHA, and a DA Section 10 permit will be required prior to any work in these areas.

FEMA initiated contact with USACE on August 9, 2011. In a response letter dated September 2, 2011 USACE stated no adverse impacts to any USACE projects are anticipated. Per USACE site visit on July 7, 2011 the property contains jurisdictional wetlands and are subject to DA Section 404 and DA Section 10 permits (see Appendix D). The applicant submitted a permit application on September 9, 2011 to USACE (see Appendix D). Any expansion, changes, or modifications to the proposed project will require a revised determination. Off-site locations of activities such as borrow, disposals, haul-and detour-roads, and work mobilization site developments may be subject to the DA regulatory requirements and may impact a DA project.

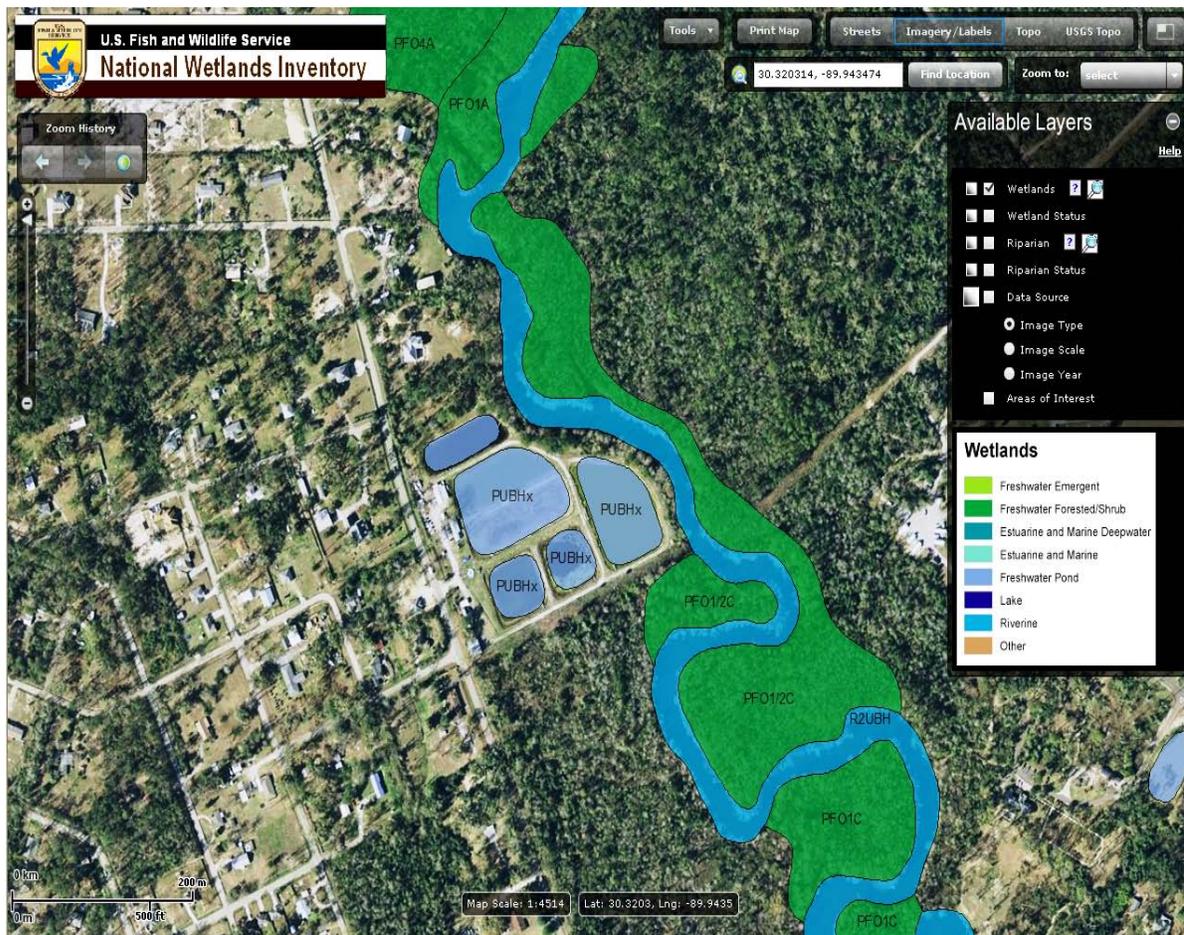


Figure 4.0 Wetlands Near Proposed Project Area

4.1.3 Floodplains

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) requires federal agencies to avoid or minimize development in the floodplain except when there are no practicable alternatives. St. Tammany Parish enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on April 23, 1971. This Coastal Study Area 1 Harbor Inn Marina on Lake Pontchartrain is located within a “VE” Zone, EL 16, per the preliminary DFIRM 22103C0670F. However, since the structures were greater than 90% damaged, replacement at the same site, constitutes new construction. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d) (1), “There shall be...no new construction in a coastal high hazard area (V or VE zone).” Therefore, replacement on site is not a viable alternative. The other site, at Point a La Hache, Plaquemines Parish, is found on preliminary DFIRM, 22075C0475D, as in the special flood hazard area, zone AE, El 18.

Alternative 1- No Action: The No Action alternative would have no effect on floodplains.

Alternative 2- Proposed Action: The applicant intends to relocate the functions of the damaged facilities to the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery’s new proposed office building, which is located within an “AE” Zone, according to preliminary DFIRM 22103C0455F, dated April

30, 2008 (Figure 4.1). The new structure would be built to meet construction codes and standards for the area in which it is to be constructed. The request to relocate to a new proposed Office Building is likely to have a limited adverse affect on the floodplain. This will be a new development in this portion of the Bayou Lacombe floodplain. If the construction is built on an open works foundation, rather than fill, and the parking lot maintains existing grade and uses porous pavement techniques there will be no discernible adverse impacts. St. Tammany Parish Floodplain Management Ordinances require no net fill in the floodplain. This no net fill requirement should be met by applicant. Using fill to elevate structure may also be an acceptable option, but would likely have more impacts than an open frame foundation building. If it is determined a borrow pit is created to satisfy the no net fill ordinance, the project will be subject to additional floodplain review.

To comply with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, FEMA is required to follow the procedure outlined in 44 CFR Part 9 to assure that alternatives to the proposed action have been considered. This process, also known as the "Eight Step Planning Process," has been applied to this mitigation project and is described in Appendix D. This action must be coordinated with the local floodplain manager as well as comply with local floodplain ordinances.

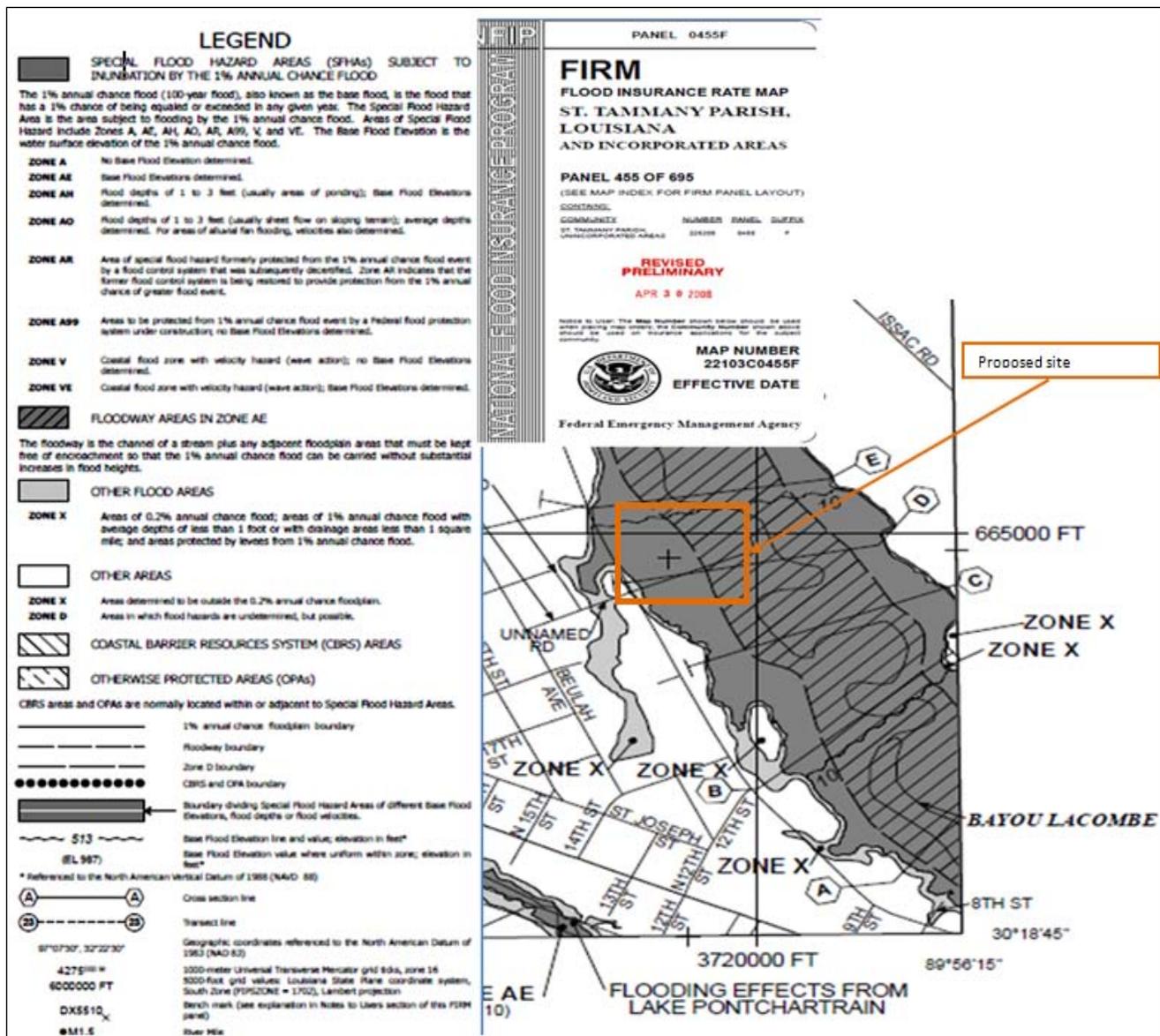


Figure 4.1 Preliminary DFIRM Panel 22103C0455F, Proposed Location

4.2 Coastal Resources

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) regulates development in the designated coastal zone under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972. A central requirement of the CZMA is that each state develops a management program for its coastal zone. In 1978, the Louisiana Legislature passed the State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act. This act established a coastal zone boundary and a system of Coastal Use Permits (CUP) to regulate uses and activities in Louisiana's coastal zone. These CUPs are required for projects that have a direct impact on coastal waters.

Federally-funded activities that affect the coastal zone are also subject to federal consistency provisions of the CZMA. Before the federal agency can grant financial assistance, the applicant must attach a consistency certification issued by the state coastal agency.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) administers the Coastal Barrier Resource Act (CBRA). The Act designated various undeveloped coastal barrier islands and other areas, depicted by specific maps, for inclusion in the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS). Areas so designated were made ineligible for direct or indirect federal financial assistance that might support development, including flood insurance, except for emergency and life-saving activities. There are designated CBRS units in Louisiana and in Plaquemines Parish, but not near the proposed project area.

Alternative 1- No Action: The No Action Alternative would have no effect on the coastal zone or any designated Coastal Barrier Resource System unit.

Alternative 2- Proposed Action: The proposed site is located in the designated Louisiana Coastal Management Zone. Projects within the coastal zone would require a CUP or other authorization from LDNR. The applicant would be required to contact LDNR for consistency determinations prior to initiating work.

Since the applicant did not consult with this agency, FEMA initiated consultation with the LDNR on August 9, 2011 regarding consistency with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program (LCRP). In a response dated August 18, 2011, the LDNR indicated that the project is inside the Coastal Zone and may require a CUP from the LDNR. The letter also states that the "following sensitive features may require additional processing time by the appropriate resource agencies: A Master Plan feature and Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) and Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Fed Diversion project may be affected by the proposed demolition of the buildings located in the Harbor Inn Marina in Slidell, Louisiana." Copies of the agency correspondence are presented in Appendix D.

The project site is not part of a designated CBRS unit and thus CBRA does not apply.

4.3 Cultural Resources

The project area measures approximately 2.25 acres. FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map and determined that the project area is not located within or adjacent to a listed or eligible National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Historic District. Upon consultation of data provided by SHPO, there are no previously identified archaeological sites located within a 0.5 mile radius from the proposed construction location. The project area is situated along the banks of Bayou Lacombe, a drainage that empties into Lake Pontchartrain 4.3 miles to the south of the project area. The proximity of the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery to a large waterway indicates a potential for the presence of prehistoric archaeological deposits. In addition, the proximity of the facility to Davis Road indicates a potential for the presence of historic archaeological deposits. The soils consist of well-drained Cahaba fine sandy loam near Davis Road and frequently flooded Ouachita and Bibb soils near the fish ponds. A review of historic maps was also conducted. The fish hatchery is shown on the 1935 USGS topographic map. While the fish ponds are present, no structures are shown in close proximity to the project area.

Alternative 1 – No Action: In the No Action alternative, there would not be ground disturbing activities and no potential to affect archaeological deposits or structures.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action: FEMA, through its Public Assistance Program, proposes to fund the construction of an administrative office building and parking lot, demolition of a pole barn, and modifications to fish hatchery ponds at the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery along Davis Avenue in Lacombe, Louisiana. Proposed project activities involved in demolition and construction has the potential to affect historic resources. A review of this project was conducted in accordance FEMA's Programmatic Agreement *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*" dated August 17, 2009 and amended on July 22, 2011 (2009 Statewide PA as amended). There is one structure aged fifty years or older within the APE: the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery (1931-32). FEMA determined this property is not eligible for listing in the NRHP due to a lack of significance. A FEMA archaeologist conducted a field visit on May 4, 2011. The project area consisted of a grassy field flanked by large oaks and bushes and was occupied by a row of several small portable buildings and a pole barn. A gravel access road runs into the facility along the northern boundary of the project area then turns south to bisect the APE. In addition, the project area partially overlaps one of the fish ponds with associated earth berms and utility roads. The tract slopes to the east toward the fish ponds and is generally eroded due to the use of trucks, boat trailers, and tractors around the pole barn in the corner of the lot. The area adjacent to the fish pond has been partially excavated to create a level ground surface in the

location of the gravel access road and an adjacent shallow ditch. Surface visibility was over 50%. Three soil tests were spaced along the western edge of the APE nearest Davis Avenue in the least disturbed and most elevated area. Nonetheless, the elevation of this area was lower than the road adjacent to the land on the opposite side of the road. No cultural material was identified during the testing or on the ground surface which was highly deflated. No cultural material was identified within the project boundaries. FEMA has determined that No Historic Properties are affected by the proposed undertaking. SHPO concurrence with this determination was received September 21, 2010. Consultation with affected tribes including the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana was conducted per 36 CFR §800.2(c)(2)(i)(B). No tribal responses were received within the allotted time. The applicant must comply with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) and the Inadvertent Discovery Clause. In addition, any fill or borrow material used must be sourced from areas that do not contain any buried cultural materials (e.g. brick foundations, prehistoric Indian artifacts, human burials, and the like).

4.4 Noise

Noise is generally described as unwanted sound. Per St. Tammany, Louisiana – Code of Ordinances Article IV Sec. 14 -035.00, St. Tammany Parish’s noise ordinance pertaining to construction states the work schedule at the site is to follow St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances for noise. The project location is zoned PF-1, public Facility, per St. Tammany’s Zoning Districts Map. There are no noise restrictions for this zone, per the ordinance. Existing ambient noise levels in the area are consistent with rural automobile traffic on Fish Hatchery Rd. and residential landscaping equipment. There are no noise sensitive receptors (i.e. hospitals, schools, churches) in or adjacent to the project area. The closest noise receptors to the project site are approximately 150 feet or greater from the property, which are residential properties to the west. Noise levels within and adjacent to the project area would increase during the proposed construction activities as a result of construction equipment and vehicular activity. The noise levels generated would be limited to workday daylight hours for the duration of the project.

Alternative 1- No Action: The No Action alternative would have no effect on noise in the project area.

Alternative 2- Proposed Action: Construction of the new building and the reconfiguration of the fish hatchery ponds would result in a slight increase in noise during the construction activities. This increase in noise may be perceived by residential property owners that are located within 250 yards of the construction area. The increase is expected to be minor and would not affect any sensitive receptors; however, no change to the long term noise levels that existed prior to the proposed action would be anticipated.

5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those effects on the environment that result from the incremental effect of the action when added to past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. The fish hatchery's master plan is to reconfigure all of the ponds on the property. Because the ponds were built in the 1930s, they are based on old technology. By redesigning the ponds utilizing the latest scientific technology, the Hatchery will increase productions of fish hatchlings. There are no other known projects that, when added to the proposed action, have a cumulative impact on the human environment.

6.0 CONDITIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Based upon the studies and consultations undertaken in this EA, several conditions and mitigation measures must be taken by the applicant prior to and during project implementation.

Environmental

- In order to minimize impacts to waters of the U.S., the contractor is required to implement BMPs that meet the LDEQ permitting specifications for storm water discharge regulated under Section 402 of the CWA. This includes designing the site with specific construction measures to reduce or eliminate run-off impacts.
- Applicant must complete a 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 to LDNR. A free application packet can be obtained by calling LDNR at (225) 342-7591 or (800) 267-4019, or by visiting LDNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.la.us/crm/coastmgt/cup/cup.asp>.
- The contractor will be responsible for keeping all excavated areas periodically sprayed with water, all equipment maintained in good working order, and all construction vehicles would be limited to 15 mph to minimize pollution/fugitive dust.
- If the 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.

- LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that the LDEQ Water Permit Division be contacted at (225) 219-3181 to determine whether the proposed improvements require one of these permits.
- All precautions must be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities.
- Changes or modifications to the proposed project will require a revised determination. Off-site locations of activities such as borrow, disposals, haul-and detour-roads and work mobilization site developments may be subject to the Department of the Army regulatory requirements and may have an impact to a Department of Army project.
- A Department of the Army (DA) Section 404 permit will be required prior to the deposition or redistribution of dredged or fill material into this wetland. This wetland, along with Bayou Lacombe, is subject to USACE jurisdiction under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. A DA Section 10 permit will be required prior to any work in the waterway or the wetland.
- If any of the proposed work is located in wetlands or other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE, they should be contacted directly to inquire about the possible necessity for permits. If a USACE 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.
- Water softeners generate wastewaters that may require special limitations, depending on local water quality considerations. Water system improvements include water softeners; the applicant is 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.

- If a bald eagle or its nest is spotted within 1,500 feet of the project site during the months of October through mid-May, the applicant must cease construction activities and contact LDWF and USFWS immediately. All correspondence must be documented and remain in the project permanent files.
- If hazardous materials are unexpectedly encountered in the project area during the proposed construction operations, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contamination would be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. The contractor is required to take appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control the spill of hazardous materials in the construction area.
- Appropriate signage and barriers must be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes, and to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns.
- The contractor must implement traffic control measures, as necessary.
- To minimize worker and public health and safety risks from project construction and closure, all construction and closure work would be done using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of construction equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, all activities would be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with the standards specified in OSHA regulations and the USACE safety manual.
- New construction must be built to the preliminary DFIRM Base Flood Elevation (BFE) or local floodplain ordinances, whichever is more stringent and built to current codes and standards. The applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files. As per 44 CFR 9.11 (d) (9), mitigation or minimization standards must be applied, where possible. The replacement of building contents, materials and equipment should be, where possible, wet or dry-proofed, elevated, or relocated to or above the Preliminary DFIRM, BFE, or local floodplain ordinances, whichever is more stringent.

Cultural Resources

To remain in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Applicant (Facility Planning and Control) must adhere to conditions outlined below.

- Any fill or borrow material used must be sourced from areas that do not contain any buried cultural materials (e.g. brick foundations, prehistoric Indian artifacts, human burials, and the like).

- If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present with the project area, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) is required. The applicant shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within twenty-four hours of the discovery. The applicant shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within seventy-two hours of the discovery.
- If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered, the applicant shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The applicant shall inform their Public Assistance contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO.

Failure to comply with these conditions may make part or the entire project ineligible for FEMA funding.

7.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public will be invited to comment on the proposed action. A legal notice was published in the Times Picayune from February 17-22, 2012. Additionally the Environmental Assessment was made available at the St. Tammany Parish Library-Lacombe Branch. The Environmental Assessment was published on FEMA's websites. A copy of the Public Notice is attached in Appendix C.

8.0 AGENCY COORDINATION

Environmental Protection Agency
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
 Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
 Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office
 Tribal Historic Preservation Office and/or cultural offices

9.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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 Tiffany Spann-Winfield- Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer
 LeSchina Holmes, Lead Environmental Protection Specialist
 Daphne Owens, Historic Preservation Specialist, CTR
 Alan Johnson, Floodplain Specialist, CFM, CTR

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