

Appendix D
Other Information
(Public Notice, FONSI, and 8-Step)

FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery Office St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed construction of an office building at the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery, in Lacombe, Louisiana.

The Louisiana Facility Planning, and Control (FP&C) submitted an application for FEMA Public Assistance funding being administered in response to FEMA-1603-DR-LA, Hurricane Katrina, which was signed as a Presidential Disaster Declaration on August 29, 2005. The FP&C proposes to build an office building for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to operate the activities of the fish hatchery. Currently, the operations for the fish hatchery and other fisheries research is completed out of two separate buildings; one in Slidell and the other in Point a la Hache. These Hurricane Katrina-damaged buildings have been completely destroyed. FP&C with LDWF have proposed to relocate the functions of the damaged facilities into one newly constructed office building at the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery in Lacombe, LA.

In accordance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, this EA evaluates the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. FEMA's Draft FONSI concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human and natural environment.

The fifteen (15) day comment period will end on March 8, 2012. Written comments on the proposal may be mailed to:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Environmental/Historic Preservation
Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery Building
1 Seine Ct.
New Orleans, LA 70114

Or emailed to: FEMA-NOMA@dhs.gov or faxed to FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office in New Orleans at 504-762-2323; and verbal comments will be accepted at 504-762-2912 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. This Public Notice and FEMA's Draft EA and Draft FONSI can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm and is available for public review at the St. Tammany Parish Lacombe Branch Library, 28027 Hwy 190, Lacombe, La (985)-882-7858. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft FONSI will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.



FEMA

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
HUEY P. LONG FISH HATCHERY BUILDING
LACOMBE, ST. TAMMANY, LOUISIANA
*FEMA-1603-DR-LA***

Introduction

As a result of damages from Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized under Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) to provide Federal assistance to designated disaster areas in Louisiana. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93288) Section 406 authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program to provide financial and other forms of assistance to State and local governments to support response, recovery, and mitigation efforts following Presidentially declared disasters.

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared. The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the consolidation and relocation of the Louisiana's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) office buildings and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). LDWF operated facilities at two locations in Louisiana; one in Slidell and one in Point a La Hache. The buildings at both facilities were completely destroyed. LDWF is proposing to relocate the functions of the facilities at both locations to a newly constructed office and research building in Lacombe, LA. Alternatives considered were 1) no action, 2) reconstructing the buildings in the same location, and 3) relocation of the facilities.

Proposed Action

The proposed action includes the relocation and construction of a new facility at the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery in Lacombe, Louisiana.

Findings

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to geology, soils, water resources (groundwater, wetlands and floodplains), coastal resources, biological resources, cultural resources, air quality, noise, traffic, safety, hazardous materials and environmental justice. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, water quality, transportation, air quality, and noise are anticipated. All short-term

impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

Conditions

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

- 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.
- 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>.
- 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.
- 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 (DA) regulatory requirements and may have an impact to a DA project.
- A 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 the Corps of Engineers 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), USACE 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.
- LDWF and its contractors should ensure all project activities are conducted in a safe manner and in compliance with all state and federal occupational safety regulations, including OSHA, to protect workers and the general public.
- 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.

Conclusion

The results of these evaluations, as well as consultations and input from other federal and state agencies, are presented in the EA. The Section 106 review process will be completed, including public notice participation, upon finalization of this EA and FONSI. Based on the information analyzed, FEMA has determined that the implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to the quality of the natural and human environment. In addition, the proposed project does not appear to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (per 44 CFR Part 10) and the proposed project as described in the EA may proceed once finalized.

Public Review and Comment

The EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm. The EA was also available for public review at the St. Tammany Parish Lacombe Branch Library at 28027 Hwy 190, Lacombe, LA. A legal notice was posted in the local newspaper on February 17-22, 2012. No substantive comments were received; therefore the Draft EA will become final and the initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.

Approval:

Katherine Zeringue, Environmental Liaison Officer Date
Louisiana Recovery Office
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

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

Date: 10/13/10

FEMA Disaster #: 1603

Floodplain Reviewer: Alan A. Johnson, CFM Floodplain Specialist.

Applicant: Facility Planning and Control

Project Title: Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery New Office Building and parking lot

FIPS #: 000-UXL4N-00; Applicable PWs 14715 & 14982

Request: Change of Location/Improved Project

Damaged Location: Coastal Study Area 1 - Harbor Inn Marina on Lake Pontchartrain

Coordinates: Latitude 30.17829 Longitude -89.72629

Proposed Location: Lacombe, Louisiana; St. Tammany Parish

Coordinates: Latitude 30.32035 Longitude -89.943510

Floodplain Review:

Facility Planning & Control is requesting approval for a Relocation/Improved Project. Project Worksheets (PWs) 14715 & 14982 were formulated for a storage and office trailer, both are located within a Zone "VE" EL 16, respectively. Both trailers were operated by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Coastal Study Area 1, Harbor Inn Marina on Lake Pontchartrain and were determined by FEMA to be eligible for replacement. It is the intention of Facility Planning & Control to relocate the functions of the trailers to the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery's proposed Office Building, in Lacombe, La. The proposed site is located within an "AE" Zone. According to the applicant the new structure will be built to meet construction codes and standards for the area in which it is to be located. New construction must be built to the Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Base Flood Elevation (BFE) or local floodplain ordinances; whichever is more stringent and built to current codes and standards. The proposed structure is proposed along Bayou Lacombe, a stream with a designated floodway. The structure appears to be proposed outside the floodway. 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. As per 44 CFR 9.12, a Cumulative Final Public Notice was published 10/26/07 – 11/02/07 and is attached or on file.

8-STEP PLANNING PROCESS

EO 11988-FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

EO 11990-WETLAND PROTECTION

Date: 10/13/10

FEMA Disaster #: 1603

Floodplain Reviewer: Alan A. Johnson, CFM Floodplain Specialist.

Applicant: Facility Planning and Control

Project Title: Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery New Office Building and parking lot

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

The project is located in a floodplain as mapped by:

Damaged Site: Revised Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Panel #: 22103C0665 F, dated 04/30/08, Zone "VE", EL 16, area of coastal flooding with velocity hazard (wave action), Base Flood Elevation (BFE) determined.

Proposed Site Two: Revised Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Panel #: 22103C0455 F, dated 04/30/08, Zone "AE", Base Flood Elevation (BFE) determined.

The project is located in a wetland as identified by:

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

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

Applicable - Notice will be or has been provided by:

A Cumulative Public Notice was published in the New Orleans Times Picayune, Baton

Rouge Advocate, Lafayette Daily Advertiser, Lake Charles American Press and the Hammond Star, November, 7-9, 2005.

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

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

Alternative 1: The no action alternative would forego disaster assistance and is not a viable alternative.

Alternative 2: Replacement – The structures were destroyed by tidal storm surges and are eligible for replacement. This Coastal Study Area 1 Harbor Inn Marina on Lake Pontchartrain was located within a “VE” Zone, EL 16, per the DFIRM. However, since the structures were greater than 90% damaged, replacement at the same site, constitutes new construction. Per 44CFR 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.

Alternative 3: Relocation/Improved Project - The applicant intends to relocate the functions of the damaged facility to the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery’s new proposed office building which is located within an “AE” Zone. According to the applicant the new structure will be built to meet construction codes and standards for the area in which it is to be constructed. New construction must be built to the Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (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.

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

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

Alternative 3: The proposed request to relocate to anew 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.

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

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

Alternative 3: Proposed request, with suggest modifications in step 4, is not likely to have an adverse affect on the floodplain.

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

- Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.
- Applicable - Action proposed is located in the only practicable location as described below:

The proposed action has no other practicable location. Even though this is new development in the floodplain, it supports activities that enhance floodplain and wetlands values. Possible design options exist to further minimize any residual adverse impacts.

- Applicable - Action proposed is not located in the only practicable location. Describe below:

STEP 7 **Prepare and provide the public with a finding and public explanation of any final decision that the floodplain or wetland is the only practicable alternative (see 44 CFR 9.12).**

- Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.
- Applicable - Finding is or will be prepared as described below:
Public notice dated:

As per 44 CFR 9.12, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will serve as the Final Public Notice and will be published on February 17- 22, 2012.

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

- Not applicable - Project is not located in a floodplain or in a wetland.
- Applicable - Approval conditioned on review of implementation and post-implementation phases to insure compliance of the order(s).

Review the implementation and post-implementation phases of the proposed action to ensure that the requirements stated in 44 CFR 9.11 are fully implemented. Oversight responsibility shall be integrated into the existing process.

- Applicable - Oversight responsibility established as follows: