



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Louisiana Recovery Office
1 Seine Court, 4th Floor
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
for the
CALCASIEU PARISH FLOOD PROTECTION BERM PROJECT
WESTLAKE, LOUISIANA
FEMA-1786-DR-LA

BACKGROUND

The city of Westlake is located in Calcasieu Parish. Specifically, the proposed project area is located approximately 160 yards to the west of Bayou Marino and .6 miles northwest of the Vermilion River. The proposed action for this project consists of constructing an earthen berm approximately 550 linear feet in length around the perimeter of the Westlake Wastewater Treatment Facility. Localized flooding due to insufficient surface drainage combined with the facility's lack of elevation has caused repeated shutdowns of the facility in the past. These shutdowns have led to negative water quality impacts and public health and safety concerns. As a result, Calcasieu Parish (Applicant) has requested federal funding through Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA)'s 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to construct the proposed earthen berm around the Westlake Wastewater Treatment Facility.

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 construction of drainage improvements, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The need for the proposed action is to protect the Westlake Wastewater Treatment Facility from flooding events. The proposed action would reduce the risk of future damage from flooding. The alternatives considered include: (1) No Action, (2) Elevation of the Westlake Wastewater Treatment Facility (eliminated from further consideration), (3) Construction of a concrete flood wall around the Westlake Wastewater Treatment Facility (eliminated from further consideration) and (4) The proposed action, which consists of constructing an earthen berm around the Westlake Wastewater Treatment Facility, including the installation of a drain pump.

FINDINGS

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to geology, soils, water resources (surface water, groundwater, and wetlands), floodplains, coastal resources, air quality, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitats), cultural resources, socioeconomics (including minority and low income populations), safety, noise, and hazardous materials. The results of these evaluations as well as consultations and input from other federal and state agencies are presented in the EA.

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:

- 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 miles per hour to minimize pollution/fugitive dust.
- All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities.
- 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 the Department of the Army regulatory requirements and may have an impact to a Department of Army project.
- All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.
- In order to minimize impacts to waters of the U.S., the contractor is required to implement BMPs that meet the LDEQ permitting specifications form 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. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than five acres. 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.
- The applicant should contact the LDEQ to determine if a LPDES permit is required for the proposed project.
- 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.
- Construction traffic should be closely monitored and controlled as appropriate. All construction activities would be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with OSHA requirements. During construction activities, the construction site(s) will be fenced off to discourage trespassers.
- 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 (PA) contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation (HP) staff. The Applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO.

- If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present within 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.
- In accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, the applicant is responsible for acquiring any necessary permits and/or clearances prior to the commencement of any construction related activities.

CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the incorporated EA, and in accordance with Presidential Executive Orders 12898 (Environmental Justice), 11988 (Floodplain Management), and 11990 (Wetland Protection), FEMA has determined that the proposed action implemented with the conditions and mitigation measures outlined above and in the EA will not have any significant adverse effects on the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the proposed action alternative as described in the EA may proceed.

APPROVALS

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Date

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