

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FEMA NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FLOOD PROTECTION BERM PROJECT
WESTLAKE, CALCASIEU 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 earthen berm to be constructed around the Westlake Wastewater Treatment Facility, 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 location of the site is at the Westlake Wastewater Treatment Facility in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. The proposed action consists of constructing an earthen berm around the Westlake Wastewater Treatment Facility and installing a pumping station to service the area inside of the berm during storm events. The proposed action is aimed at reducing shutdowns of the facility caused by flooding. These shutdowns have led to negative water quality impacts and public health and safety concerns.

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 Westlake Branch Library, located at 937 Mulberry, Westlake, LA, from March 1, 2012 through March 19, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Additionally, a legal notice regarding the proposed action will be published in the Baton Rouge Advocate from March 1, 2012 to March 5, 2012. The documents can also be downloaded from FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm. The comment period will end on 3/19/2012 at 6:00 pm. Comments may be mailed to: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY--FEMA E/HP—Calcasieu Parish Flood Protection Berm Project 1 Seine Court, 4th Floor New Orleans, LA 70114. Comments may be emailed to: FEMA-NOMA@dhs.gov or faxed to: 504-762-2353. Verbal comments will be accepted or recorded at 504-762-2361. 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.

