

Federal Emergency Management Agency

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)
for the Construction of the Pueblo County Emergency Services Center
Pueblo, Pueblo County, Colorado**

FEMA and the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)

CFDA # CSEPP-97.040

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Pueblo County Emergency Services Center (ESC) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) for funding to construct a new ESC. The CSEP Program is a federally funded program designed to improve the emergency response capabilities on the installations that store, and the communities that surround, the United States Army's chemical weapons storage facilities. The U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot located in Pueblo County is one of those facilities.

FEMA through the CSEPP has agreed to provide funding to the Pueblo County Sheriff's Department for the construction of the Emergency Services Center. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has developed regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These regulations require an investigation of the potential environmental impacts of a federal action, and an evaluation of alternatives as part of the environmental assessment process. FEMA also has regulations that establish the agency-specific process for implementing NEPA. An EA was prepared in accordance with both FEMA and CEQ NEPA regulations. Three alternatives were considered in the EA:

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE (1) The No Action Alternative - A No Action Alternative is required to be evaluated for all EA's. Under this alternative, the Pueblo County Emergency Services Center would continue to run its operations out of the existing basement location of the Pueblo County Judicial Building without any alteration or changes to the location.

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE (2) would implement the construction of a Pueblo County Emergency Services Center located in downtown Pueblo, Colorado at 1001 N. Santa Fe Avenue.

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE (3) would implement the construction of a Pueblo County Emergency Services Center at the following location, 829 E. Industrial Blvd. located in Pueblo West, Colorado.

FEMA has agreed to provide funding to Pueblo County for the construction of the ESC at the location known as 1001 N. Santa Fe Avenue. The proposed site is located in downtown Pueblo, Colorado in the heart of the government and business district. The proposed project would be on the city block between Main St. and Santa Fe Ave. and 10th and 11th Streets.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Orders 11988 & 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environmental, and potential environmental consequences for the proposed action.

The Draft EA is available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region8.shtm>, the Pueblo County website at <http://county.pueblo.org/government/public-notice> or viewed at the following location: Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library located at 100 E. Abriendo in Pueblo, Colorado from March 7 thru April 6, 2012 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday-Friday. An open house, to present the Draft Environmental Assessment and address any questions, will be held on March 19, 2012 at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library located at 100 E. Abriendo Ave. in Pueblo, CO 81004 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm in the Bret Kelly Room located on the first floor.

The comment period will end 30 days from the initial notice publication date of March 7, 2012. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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