

Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management
 Executive Order 11990 Wetland Protection
 Eight-Step Planning Process Summary
 Bayou Din Drainage Improvements Project

<p>Step 1: Determine whether the Proposed Action is located in a wetland and/or the 100-year floodplain, or whether it has the potential to affect or be affected by a floodplain or wetland.</p>	<p>Project Analysis: According to FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), the majority of the Bayou Din Detention Facility is located within the 100-year floodplain indicated as Zones A and AE. The project is located on FIRM panel number 4803850102C, dated August 6, 2002.</p> <p>However, due primarily to diversion projects that were completed after the FIRM was produced, the floodplain in and around the proposed Lawhon Detention Project shown on the FIRM is larger than the actual existing floodplain. The proposed spoil placement areas are not, in fact, in the calculated floodplain although they are with the currently mapped AE zone on the FIRM.</p> <p>The project is part of a flood mitigation project and therefore is located in a floodplain area. The proposed project will have a beneficial effect (reduction) on the flood-prone areas, since the proposed detention facility will enlarge the hydraulic capacity of the flood plain and significantly reduce flooding of structures within the upper Bayou Din watershed as well as reduce downstream flooding. The project will not affect any wetlands or waters of the US. The basins are designed to begin capturing and detaining flood flows when the capacity of the natural channel of Bayou Din and adjacent wetlands has been exceeded.</p>
<p>Step 2: Notify public at 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.</p>	<p>Project Analysis: An initial public notice will be posted in the local newspaper(s) providing notice of the availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment. The notice will indicate that actions will occur in the floodplain.</p>
<p>Step 3: Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating the Proposed Action in a floodplain or wetland.</p>	<p>Project Analysis: The following alternatives were evaluated:</p> <p><u>Alternative 1:</u> No Action.</p>

	<p><u>Alternative 2:</u> Proposed Action. The construction of a 41 acre flood detention facility on uplands adjacent to Bayou Din.</p> <p><u>Alternative 3:</u> Buyout of 47 flood prone existing Structures.</p> <p><u>Alternative 4:</u> Channelization of several miles of Bayou Din.</p> <p><u>Hazard Mitigation:</u> The problem to be mitigated in the Bayou Din detention basin watershed is frequent and severe structure flooding. The project area's current outfall system has insufficient capacity to convey the required flood flows at acceptable water surface elevations. The 266-acre Benefit Area is the lowest elevation in this 374-acre watershed. As heavy rain events occur, as described above, storm water drains into the Bayou Din floodplain. This storm water flows downstream through the previously described outfall system but also backs up into the Benefit Area. Because the Bayou Din channel is so small and the flat topography of the area, it has a relatively large floodplain that acts like a natural detention basin. Unfortunately, many structures were previously built in the floodplain resulting in repetitive flooding of those structures.</p> <p>As part of FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Program, <u>Alternative 2</u> would provide a cost-effective solution to the flooding problems with a benefit/cost ratio of 2.06.</p>
<p>Step 4: Identify the full range of 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.</p>	<p>Project Analysis: The <u>No-Action Alternative</u> would result in the continued flooding potential for approximately 47 structures in western Jefferson County. This alternative does not achieve the stated project purpose of providing flood relief.</p> <p>Alternative 2, the <u>Proposed Action</u>, would have beneficial effects to the floodplain by providing increased detention volume in the flood plain to mitigate flood problems in the benefit area. The project will not impact wetlands or waters of the US. Approximately 18.6 acres of prime farmland will be affected. The project would have only</p>

	<p>positive benefits to the floodplain area.</p> <p><u>Alternative 3, Buyout of Existing Structures</u>, would cost and estimated \$4.4 million for the buyout of approximately 47 flood prone structures. This cost is more than twice that of the proposed action. For this reason, this alternative was eliminated from further consideration.</p> <p><u>Alternative 4, Channelization of Bayou Din</u> would adversely affect several miles of Bayou Din, a waters of the US.</p>
<p>Step 5: Minimize the potential adverse impacts to work within floodplains and wetlands to be identified under Step 4; restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by wetlands.</p>	<p>Project Analysis: The project would have beneficial effects to the floodplain by providing increased hydraulic volume (detention) in the flood plain. The project will not impact wetlands or waters of the US. The basins are designed to begin capturing and detaining flood flows when the capacity of the natural channel of Bayou Din and adjacent wetlands has been exceeded.</p>
<p>Step 6: Re-evaluate the Proposed Action to determine 1) if it is still practicable in light of its exposure to flood hazards; 2) the extent to which it will aggravate the hazards to others; and 3) its potential to disrupt floodplain and wetland values.</p>	<p>Project Analysis: The Proposed Action remains practicable based on the fact that it will provide significant benefits to the floodplain areas. The project will not impact wetlands or waters of the US.</p>
<p>Step 7: If the agency decides to take an action in a floodplain or wetland, prepare and provide the public with a finding and explanation of any final decision that the floodplain or wetland is the only practicable alternative. The explanation should include any relevant factors considered in the decision-making process.</p>	<p>Project Analysis: A public notice will be made based on the decision to proceed with the Proposed Action. At a minimum, this notice shall state a reason for locating the Proposed Action in the floodplain; a description of all significant facts considered; a statement indicating whether the action conforms to state and local floodplain protection standards; and a statement indicating how the action affects the floodplain and wetlands, and how mitigation is achieved.</p>
<p>Step 8: Review the implementation and post-implementation phases of the Proposed Action to ensure that the requirements of the Executive Orders are fully implemented.</p>	<p>Project Analysis: This step is integrated into the NEPA process and FEMA project management and oversight functions.</p>

Oversight responsibility shall be integrated into existing processes.	
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