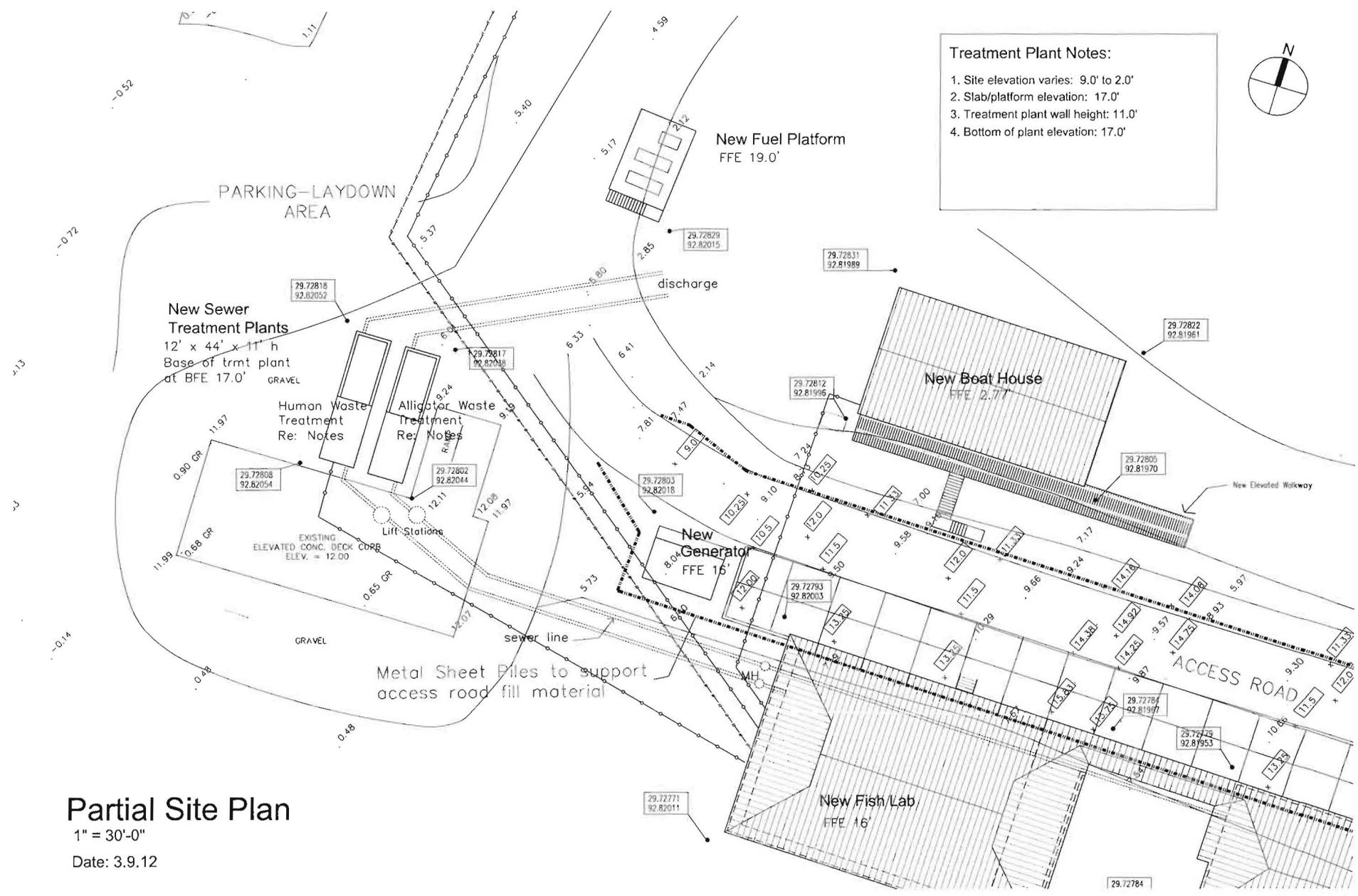
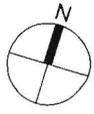


Appendix A
Project Plans



Treatment Plant Notes:

1. Site elevation varies: 9.0' to 2.0'
2. Slab/platform elevation: 17.0'
3. Treatment plant wall height: 11.0'
4. Bottom of plant elevation: 17.0'



Partial Site Plan

1" = 30'-0"

Date: 3.9.12

Appendix B
Flood Zone Maps

PANEL 1100H

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

FIRM

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

CAMERON PARISH,

LOUISIANA

PANEL 1100 OF 1275
 (SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL	SUFFIX
CAMERON PARISH	225124	100	11

Revised Preliminary

November 21, 2011

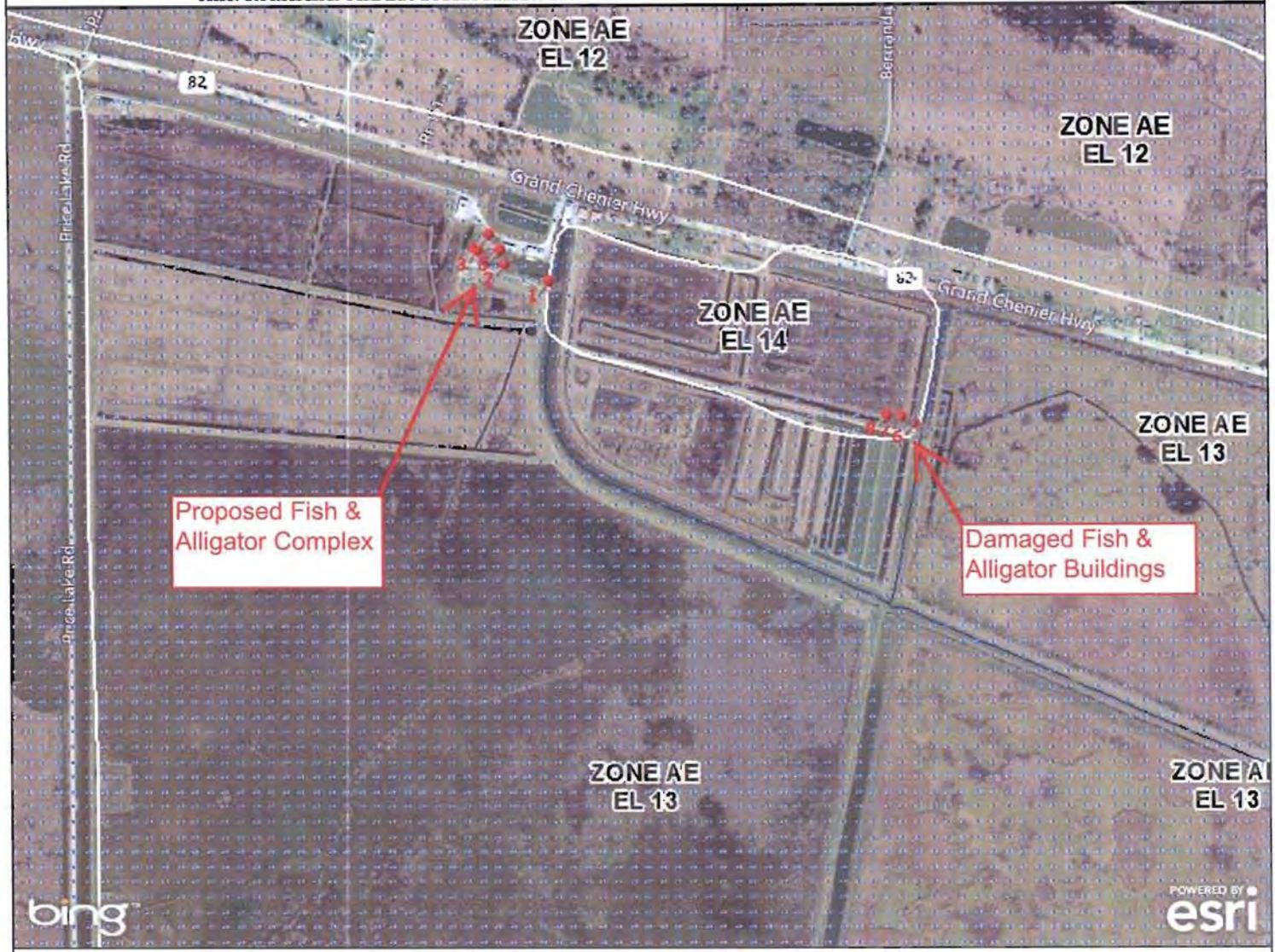
NOTE -
 THIS MAP INCLUDES BOUNDARIES OF THE COMMUNITY WHICH
 REGULATED SYSTEM DEVELOPED UNDER THE JOINT
 FEDERAL-STATE ACT OF 1968 AND IS SUBJECT TO
 REVISION/REPLACEMENT

Follow to Use: The Map Number shown below should be
 used when placing this order. The Community Number shown
 above should be used on insurance applications for the subject
 community.

MAP NUMBER
22023C1100H

EFFECTIVE DATE

Federal Emergency Management Agency



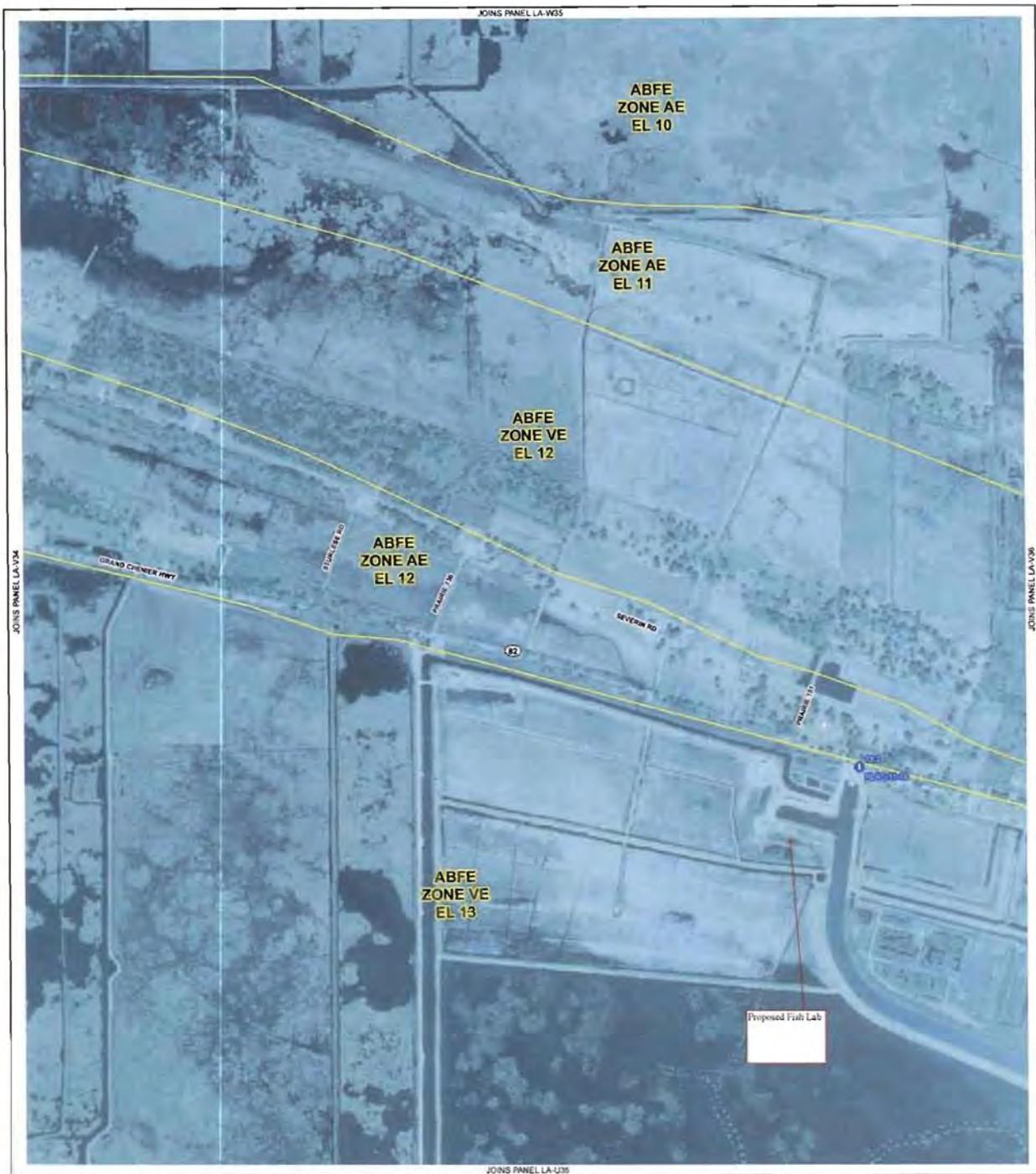
Point	Latitude	Longitude	Flood Zone	Ground Elevation	BWS*	Panel ID	User Notes
1	29.7274	-92.8187	AE	6.122 ft	123 mph	1100	
2	29.72783	-92.81986	AE	8.625 ft	123 mph	1100	
3	29.72818	-92.82063	AE	4.335 ft	123 mph	1100	
4	29.72852	-92.82031	AE	3.483 ft	123 mph	1100	
5	29.72818	-92.81999	AE	-0.999 ft	123 mph	1100	
6	29.72404	-92.80866	AE	2.196 ft	123 mph	1100	
7	29.72419	-92.80902	AE	0.993 ft	123 mph	1100	
8	29.72423	-92.80941	AE	2.002 ft	123 mph	1100	

*BWS = Basic Wind Speed

DISCLAIMER:

Floodplain data that is shown on this map is the same data that your flood plain administrator uses. This web product is not considered an official FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM). It is provided for information purposes only, and it is not intended for insurance rating purposes. Please contact your local floodplain administrator for more information or to view an official copy of the FIRM or DFIRM.

1. The ground elevation is provided by USGS's elevation web service.
2. Basic Wind Speed (BWS) is based on a 3-second gust. The BWS is used in the International Building Codes (adopted by Louisiana) as the basis for wind-resistant design and construction of buildings.



HURRICANE RITA SURGE INUNDATION and ADVISORY BASE FLOOD ELEVATION MAP Cameron Parish, Louisiana

Date of Event: September 24, 2005

Date of Map: March 9, 2006

Map Number: LA-V35

Advisory Base Flood Elevations¹

This map shows Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs) developed by FEMA. Please see http://www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/recoverydata/pdf/cameron_parish11-30-05nh.pdf for more information on how they were determined.

Estimated Rita Surge Elevations^{1,2}

13-14 ft

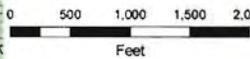


Data Sources:
Aerial Imagery: USDA, National Agriculture Imagery Program, 2004
Flood Zones and Elevations: FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (Cameron Parish, 1991-1992)
High Water Marks: PCMA (Identified and surveyed Sept-Oct., 2005)

For more information on these advisory maps, please see http://www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/recoverydata/mia_index.shtml

MAPS FOR ADVISORY PURPOSES ONLY - NOT FOR INSURANCE RATING PURPOSES

For insurance rating purposes, refer to the currently effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), available from your local government or the FEMA Map Service Center: (1-800-358-9116 or <http://msc.fema.gov>)



Notes:

¹ Measured in feet relative to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD29). To convert from NGVD29 to North American Vertical Datum of 1988 in Cameron Parish, add 0.07 feet.

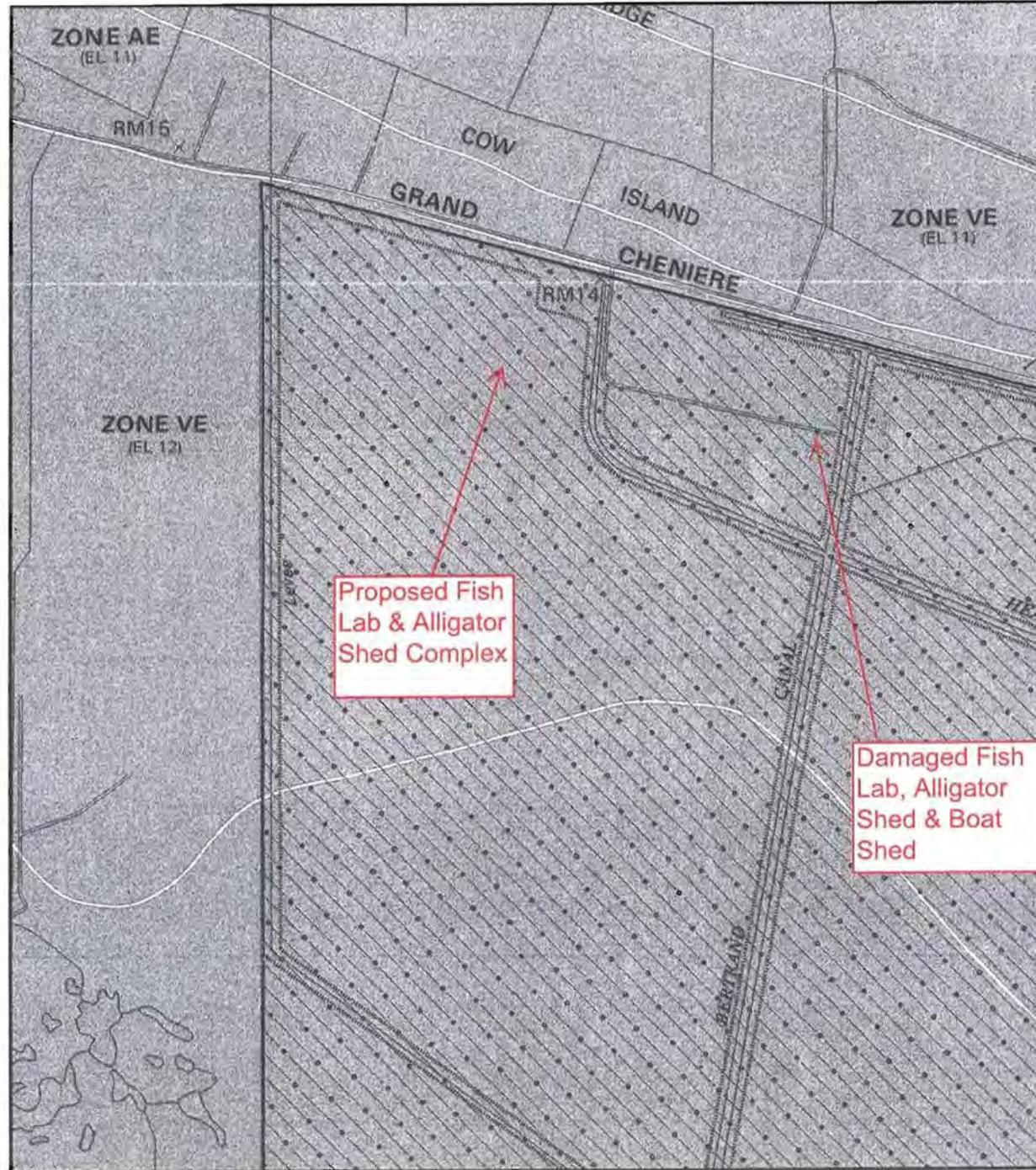
² Range estimated from surveyed, surge-only High Water Marks. Local wave effects (wave heights and wave setup) are not included in these elevations.

³ Each advice-foot ABFE shown applies to all properties located in the mapped zone, with zone boundaries outlined in yellow. These ABFEs reflect floodboard of 1 foot above current, effective Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) shown on each community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

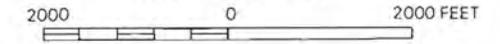
⁴ For areas outside of the ABFE limits, please refer to the community's effective FIRM for additional flood hazard information, where applicable.

LEGEND

Flood Advisory Related Data	Hurricane Rita Related Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Boundary Parish Boundary Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) Zone, including Flood Zone Type (A, AE, or VE), and elevation (in feet) Landward Limit of ABFEs⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Indoor High Water Mark^{1,2} Preliminary Outdoor High Water Mark^{1,2} Preliminary Debris High Water Mark^{1,2} Limit of Rita Surge Inundation



APPROXIMATE SCALE



NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

FIRM
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

CAMERON PARISH,
LOUISIANA
UNINCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 825 OF 875
(SEE MAP INDEX FOR PANELS NOT PRINTED)



PANEL LOCATION

NOTE

THIS MAP INCORPORATES APPROXIMATE BOUNDARIES OF COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM UNITS AND/OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED AREAS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE COASTAL BARRIER IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1990 (PL 101-581)

COMMUNITY-PANEL NUMBER
225194 0825 G

MAP REVISED:
MAY 4, 1992



Federal Emergency Management Agency

This is an official copy of a portion of the above referenced flood map. It was extracted using F-MIT On-Line. This map does not reflect changes or amendments which may have been made subsequent to the date on the title block. For the latest product information about National Flood Insurance Program flood maps check the FEMA Flood Map Store at www.msc.fema.gov

Appendix C

**8-Step Decision Making Process
And
Public Notice**

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
ROCKEFELLER WILDLIFE REFUGE FISH LABORATORY, ALLIGATOR
INCUBATOR SHED, BOAT SHED, WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS AND
FUEL TANKS
Change of Location
Reconstruction in the 100-Year Floodplain
Project Worksheets - (NEED #'S)
FEMA Disaster 1607-DR-LA**

Executive Order 11988 - FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT
Executive Order 11990 - WETLAND PROTECTION

8-STEP DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Date: 03/28/2012

Prepared By: Alan A. Johnson (CTR), PE, CFM, Floodplain Specialist

Project: Hurricane Rita, DR-1607, severely impacted Cameron Parish Louisiana and the extent of damages resulted in a presidential major disaster declaration.

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) operates the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge (RWR). High winds and coastal storm surge damaged the RWR significantly. The following structures were determined to be eligible for replacement: Fish Lab, Alligator Storage Shed, Chemical Shed, and Freezer Storage, and are to be functionally replaced. Another five facilities were also determined to be eligible for replacement, but LDWF chooses to use these facilities losses as donor projects to supplement the costs for the Fish Lab Complex. FEMA deemed it to be eligible for federal grant funds for replacement of the facility to pre-disaster condition including upgrades and improvements to meet current required codes and standards. The LDFW determined that it was not in the best interest of the refuge to restore the facilities in their current locations and instead consolidate and relocate the improved and alternate projects southwest of the RWR headquarters 5476 Grand Chenier Highway, Grand Chenier, LA 70643, approximately one half mile to the west of the original location of the damaged Fish Lab and Alligator Incubator Shed.

Hurricane Rita severely damaged the facilities of the RWR. The strong storm surge and its associated destructive waves caused significant structural damage and contributed to substantial scour and erosion around the foundation. Debris impacts likely contributed to structural damages. Land surface elevation at the proposed sites range from 2 to 9 feet, North American Vertical Datum (NAVD).. The proposed site is on an spoils bank ridge created prior to the initial Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) identification. Therefore, the proposed site has good drainage away from the sites during rainfall flooding events.

This project must be conducted in accordance with conditions for federal actions in the floodplain as set forth in presidential Executive Order (EO) 11988, *Floodplains* and presidential Executive Order 11990, *Wetlands* and the implementing regulation found at 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 9, *Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands*. These regulations apply to all direct and indirect Agency actions which have the potential to affect floodplains or wetlands or their occupants, or which are subject to potential harm by location in floodplains.

Public Assistance grant funded projects carried out in the floodplain or affecting the floodplain must be coordinated with the local floodplain administrator for a floodplain development permit prior to the undertaking any action. The action must be carried out in compliance with relevant, applicable and required local codes and standards, including buildings codes, as well as locally adopted floodplain management ordinances. These measures will reduce the risk of future flood loss, minimize the impacts of floods on safety, health, and welfare, and preserve and possibly restore beneficial floodplain values as required by Executive Order 11988. In accordance with 44CFR9.11(d)(1), no new development is allowed in a coastal high hazard zone (V or VE), with limited exceptions. At the time of the event, the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) 2251940825G, dated 5/4/1992, for Cameron Parish, showed the damaged structures, and the proposed new location in zone VE, El 12 feet NGVD29. Also, FIRM shows both the damaged and proposed sites within an "Otherwise Protected Area" (OPA), an area where federal assistance is severely restricted. US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) maintains the repository for Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), and the OPA. On April 18, 2012, FEMA received comments from FWS that reconstructed complex was a consistent use of the OPA. On March 28, 2008, FEMA issued a preliminary digital FIRM for Cameron Parish, which showed the proposed site in a zone VE, EL 15 NAVD88. Cameron Parish appealed the preliminary base flood elevations, including this area. Based on the resolution of the appeals, FEMA issued revised preliminary digital FIRM on 11/21/2011. The revised maps show the proposed site in a zone AE, El 13, NAVD88. Both the Parish and FEMA have accepted these revised base flood elevations, and the 11/21/2011 preliminary FIRM will become effective 11/16/2012. In the meantime, this 11/21/2011 preliminary FIRM is acceptable for establishing requirements for EO 11988 compliance. Since the 11/21/2011 preliminary FIRM shows the site as in a zone AE, rather than VE, the prohibition on new construction in a coastal high hazard zone no longer exists.

Restoration projects conducted with Public Assistance grant funds must be carried out in accordance with the local floodplain management plan and ordinance and shall utilize the current Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps as the "best available data" as a minimum standard. Exceptions to this requirement shall be reported to the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), FEMA Environmental, and the local floodplain

manager before undertaking the action. Local ordinances based on advisory base flood elevation (ABFE) Maps or local building codes which are compliant with IBC 2006 may require a more stringent elevation requirement. New construction must be compliant with current codes and standards, and remain consistent with 44 CFR 9.11 (d)(6), whereas, no project should be built to a floodplain management standard that is less protective than the community has adopted in local ordinances through participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. The applicant must coordinate with the local floodplain administrator to confirm that their proposed project is in compliance with the local floodplain management ordinances. . Per 44 CFR 9.11 (d) (9) the replacement of building contents, materials and equipment (mechanical/electrical) should be wet or dry-proofed, elevated, or relocated to or above the base flood elevation. Critical action components (including hazardous materials, such as fuel tanks) must be protected against the 500-year base flood elevation (19 feet NAVD88) by means of elevation, or relocation from floodplain. Attached Memorandum of January 4, 2012, from Frank Pagano, Mitigation Division Director of FEMA Region VI to John Connolly, Senior Public Assistance Director Advisor, Louisiana Recovery Office for St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana states that the 0.2% annual-chance (500-year) flood elevations for the Rockefeller Fuel Tanks project site elevation is 19 ft NAVD88.

The water quality code compliance requirement to treat the alligator wastewater and appropriately discharge the treated wastewater adds a facility that did not exist at the damaged alligator incubator. This connected action facility, while primarily requiring a discharge permit for water quality from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), also needs to demonstrate compliance with the Cameron Parish Floodplain Management Ordinance 7-41(6) & (7) which require that wastewater facilities and drain fields, or discharge, are designed and constructed to minimize or eliminate interaction between floodwaters and the wastewater. The selected wastewater systems, especially if on-site disposal of the waste stream occur, must be coordinated and permitted by the Cameron Parish Floodplain Administrator.

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

The project is located in relation to floodplains as mapped by:

Proposed Alligator Incubator Shed

Latitude: 29.7274 Longitude: -92.8187

Proposed Fish Lab

Latitude: 29.7278 Longitude: -92.8195

Proposed Human WWTP

Latitude: 29.72813 Longitude: -92.8203

Proposed Alligator WWTP

Latitude: 29.72805 Longitude: -92.8206

Proposed Fuel Platform

Latitude: 29.7284 Longitude: -92.8203

Proposed Boat House

Latitude: 29.7279 Longitude: -92.8197

Preliminary DFIRM: 22023C1100H, dated 11/21/2011 Flood Zone: AE, 13 feet NAVD

The revised maps show the proposed site in a zone AE, El 13, NAVD88. Attached Memorandum of January 4, 2012, from Frank Pagano, Mitigation Division Director of FEMA Region VI to John Connolly, Senior Public Assistance Director Advisor, Louisiana Recovery Office for St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana states that the 0.2% annual-chance (500-year) flood elevations for the Rockefeller Fuel Tanks project site elevation is 19 ft NAVD88.

All previous floodplain maps, from before 2005 until resolution of appeals leading to the revised preliminary DFIRM of 11/21/2011, show the proposed sites located in VE zones. FIRM 2251940825G, dated 5/4/1992, site in zone VE, el 12. Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) Map V-35, dated 3/9/2006, zone VE, el 13. Preliminary DFIRM, dated 3/28/2008, zone VE, el 15

The project site is not located in a regulated floodway but is located in an area of coastal flooding with primary flood hazards associated with tidal storm surge and associated waves. Tides can intrude into the low lying areas of the proposed action and water levels in past floods have been documented in excess of 9 feet above the land surface elevation. Inspection of the damaged facility also indicated damages from erosion and scour of the ground around the building foundation.

The project is located in a wetland as identified by:

A review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Wetland Inventory indicates nearby mapped wetlands at the edge of the proposed site but that the proposed

project locations are not within a mapped wetland or U.S. waters , except the boat shed. A jurisdictional Determination was conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and findings indicated that the site was not located within or affecting USACE regulated wetlands. While the site has been determined to be outside mapped or regulated wetlands, its proximity indicates proposed activities likely have the potential to affect nearby wetlands by contributing to overland flows of runoff and sediment and intrusion by equipment and activities associated with site construction.

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:

In general, FEMA has an obligation to provide adequate information to enable the public to have an impact on the decision outcome for all actions having the potential to affect adversely, or be affected by floodplains or wetlands that it proposes. FEMA shall provide the public with adequate information and opportunity for review and comment at the earliest possible time and throughout the decision-making process; and upon completion of this process, provide the public with an accounting of its final decision (see §9.12). A Cumulative Initial Public Notice was published statewide 11/7/2005-11/9/2005. Additional public notice shall be provided as required by the Executive Order.

Furthermore, a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment (EA) has been drafted to determine if the consolidation and relocation of the Fish Lab and Alligator Incubator Shed plus associated facilities, as described, will have the potential for significant adverse effects on the quality of the human and natural environment. The results of the investigation are being used to make a decision whether to initiate preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement or to prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact.

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 - Alternatives identified as described below:

The Fish Lab and Alligator Incubator Shed plus associated facilities provides key functions to the mission of the RWR. In order to meet these research needs it is imperative that the facility be located on the RWR, and preferably adjacent to the headquarters offices.

- **Alternative 1: No Action** – No action would leave the RWR without the key research facility which is a principle mission of the RWR.
- **Alternative 2: -**. This alternative involves the consolidation of approved funding for the repair or replacement of nine (9) damaged or destroyed facilities located within the RWR. The project would include the contribution of approved funding to the construction of six (6) new facilities, which comprise the Fish Laboratory Complex (FLC), at a new location. The six (6) new facilities are as follows: Fish Laboratory, Alligator Incubator Shed, Fish Laboratory Boathouse, Fuel Tanks, Domestic Waste Treatment Plant and Alligator Waste Treatment Plant (WWTP). The proposed FLC would be constructed at or in close proximity to Lat/Long: 29.72791/W-92.81966. This location, which is in a flood zone AE, base flood elevation 13 feet NAVD88 per preliminary DFIRM 22023C1100H, dated 11/21/2011 has an approximate elevation 10 feet above NAVD88, which has resulted from historical adjacent dredging of a boat harbor and disposal of dredged material. The four (4) damaged or destroyed Fish Laboratory facilities contributing funding to the proposed FLC are as follows: Fish Laboratory; Alligator Storage Shed; Chemical Shed, and Freezer Storage Shed. Additional damaged or destroyed contributing facilities, which would supplement funding for the proposed project, are as follows: Alligator Pen Pump House; Trapper's Camp; Lake 14 Observation Tower No. 1; Lake 14 Observation Tower No. 2, and Gravel Base Course of Air Strip. All contributing facilities were approved for repair or replacement at the affected sites with FEMA funding prior to the submittal of this application. All remaining portions of the contributing facilities and remaining debris would be removed from all affected areas, which would return the areas to open space. This alternative would have minor adverse floodplain and wetland impacts from construction activities and physical placement of the proposed facility at a new site within the RWR. Connected actions include construction of the two wastewater treatment plants (WWTP). In accordance with 44CFR60.3(a)(6) WWTP systems are to be permitted by the local floodplain administrator. These WWTP are designed to eliminate infiltration by floodwaters or wastewater discharge to floodwaters, and avoid impairment of the WWTP during a flood event. As of this draft EA, April 25, 2012, this issue is not resolved, but will be part of the final design considerations. Although these impacts would occur, this alternative would allow valuable scientific biological research to resume, having ceased almost seven years ago as a result of the damage from Hurricane Rita.
- **Alternative 3:** This alternative involves the replacement of the damaged or destroyed Fish Laboratory facilities at the damage site, which has an approximate elevation 0 (zero) feet NAVD88 within flood zone AE, base flood elevation 13 feet NAVD88 per preliminary DFIRM 22023C1100H,

dated 11/21/2011. This alternative would require substantial elevation on pilings to be above base flood elevation (BFE). It would also require construction beyond the limits of the dredged materials berms, on which the damaged facilities were built, into lower adjacent aquatic/wetland areas. These areas are periodically pumped during periods of excessive rainfall (i.e. water-controlled units contained by berms and managed by RWR). Further, it would require an expansion of the pre-disaster footprint to accommodate ramp construction on pilings required for vehicular access. Ramp(s) constructed for vehicular access would be substantial in size and would further encroach into adjacent aquatic/wetland areas. Although eligible for FEMA funding, this alternative has been determined to be impracticable and, thus, is not being carried forward for further consideration.

STEP 4

Identify the 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 as described below:

Alternative 2: Reconstruction at the new location with mitigation results in restoration of the lost functions of the damaged infrastructure and eliminates the hazards of unrepaired facilities.

This alternative enables RWR to replace the key fish and alligator lab facilities in an area closer to the headquarter offices, on a higher ridge of ground, and adjacent to both water borne and road travel options.

This action represents a significant investment in the floodplain that will be at risk in future flood events.

Siting of the facility within the floodplain near the shoreline reduces beneficial floodplain values such as natural flood and erosion control. Because this is a wildlife research center, using this location could enhance biological productivity and diversity, and the increase societal understanding benefits of scientific knowledge gained from studying them.

Reconstructing this new high quality public facility supports existing development and structures that may be subject to repetitive flooding and loss.

Location of the facility in the floodplain will include appurtenant equipment such as vehicles and boats, and boat trailers that could be damaged during storm events if not prudently evacuated out of the threatened area.

A review of the natural environment, social concerns, and the economic aspects of the proposed project indicates that relocation and consolidated Fish Lab and Alligator Incubator Shed plus associated facilities at the new location is the best choice possible and is a practicable alternative. No other practicable alternative has been identified outside the special flood hazard area.

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 as described below:

Alternative 2: Construction shall be in accordance with local floodplain ordinances with applicable codes and standards applied to mitigate and minimize adverse effects (compliance with minimum National Flood Insurance Program standards and requirements).

Buildings in flood-prone areas are required to be designed and adequately anchored to resist floatation, collapse, or lateral movement of the structure resulting from hydrodynamic and hydrostatic loads, including the effects of buoyancy. The foundation of the building shall extend to a depth sufficient to provide the support needed as stated above and shall take into account the effects of scour from velocity flow of floodwater.

Enclosures below the design flood elevation (DFE) shall be allowed only where they are designed and constructed as breakaway construction that will not adversely affect any structure by redirecting floodwaters or by producing debris capable of causing damage to structures. Openings for entry and exit of floodwaters shall be required in breakaway walls due to the location in a Coastal A Zone.

This building will be constructed with materials resistant to flood damage and be built with methods and practices that minimize flood damages. Building utilities will be protected by methods including elevation and component protection in place.

The Fish Lab and Alligator Incubator Shed plus associated facilities will be required to be built compliant with the minimum NFIP standards and to higher Coastal A Zone requirements per Cameron Parish and State of Louisiana compliance with International Building Codes, as adopted by ordinance and statute. This construction includes elevation on piles, restricting uses below the

DFE to parking, building access and storage, and certifying that the structure is able to resist the combined forces of floatation, impact, scour, erosion, wind, and impacts.

Placement of nonstructural fill will be limited to minimal site grading and landscaping and to meet local drainage requirements. Construction will be conditioned to include best management practices to minimize impacts from erosion, material storage, and vehicle activities on nearby wetlands.

STEP 6 **Reevaluate the proposed action to determine first, if it's 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's the only practicable location.**

- 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 is the chosen practicable alternative based upon a review of possible adverse effects on the floodplain, the inclusion of measures to mitigate and minimize harm from floods, and community socioeconomic expectations. There is no practicable site for the project which is not in the special flood hazard area.

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:

Reconstruction of the Fish Lab and Alligator Incubator Shed plus associated facilities in the floodplain has been determined to be a practicable alternative with significant benefits to the RWR which override the prudence of location outside the floodplain. This review and analysis of this proposed action was documented through the required 8-step public participation and decision-making process. A NEPA EA is being drafted that includes a Solicitation of Views from potentially affected parties and a public notice was prepared and advertised that presented these findings (Public Notice attached herein).

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 ensure compliance with the order(s).

Project shall be reviewed by FEMA at grant closeout to ensure the project was completed in accordance with all relevant and applicable floodplain ordinances, codes and standards and that all project actions were undertaken in accordance with terms and conditions stipulated to mitigate and minimize adverse effects in or to the floodplain and wetlands.

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED FISH LABORATORY AT THE ROCKEFELLER WILDLIFE
REFUGE
CAMERON PARISH, LOUISIANA
FEMA-1607-DR-LA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (DFONSI) for the proposed construction of a Fish Laboratory (Scientific Research Facility) in the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge near the refuge headquarters, at 5476 Grand Chenier Highway, Grand Chenier, Louisiana 70643 (N29.72760/W-92.81859). The applicant proposes to construct a new Fish Laboratory Complex at a nearby new site to replace the facilities that were destroyed by Hurricane Rita.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has submitted an application for FEMA Public Assistance funding being administered in response to FEMA-1607-DR-LA, Hurricane Rita, which was signed as a Presidential Disaster Declaration on September 24, 2005. Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and all relevant environmental and historic preservation statutes, a Draft EA has been prepared to evaluate the action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, alternative site analysis, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action.

The Draft EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are available for review at the Grand Chenier Library from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM on Thursdays, 8:00AM to 4:00 PM on Fridays, and 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturdays. The library is located at 2867 Grand Chenier Highway, Grand Chenier, Louisiana 70643. Additionally, a public notice regarding the proposed action will be published in the Cameron Pilot newspaper: July 5, 2012. The comment period will be fifteen (15) days, beginning on July 5, 2012 and concluding July 19, 2012. Written comments on the Draft EA or related matters can be faxed to FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office at (504) 762-2323, or mailed to FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office, EHP - LDWF Rockefeller Fish Lab EA, 1 Seine Court, New Orleans, Louisiana 70114. Comments can also be emailed to FEMA-NOMA@dhs.gov, and verbal comments will be accepted at 504-762-2973 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. . The Draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm>.

Based on FEMA's findings to date, no significant adverse environmental effects are anticipated. However, if FEMA receives new information that results in a change from no adverse effects then FEMA would revise the findings and issue a second public notice allowing time for additional comments.