



FEMA

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

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
GRAND CAILLOU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING C
TERREBONNE PARISH, LOUISIANA
FEMA-1786/1792-DR-LA (HURRICANES GUSTAV/IKE)**

Introduction

Hurricane Gustav made landfall on September 1, 2008 near Cocodrie, Louisiana with sustained winds of 105 mph and damaging floodwaters. President George W. Bush declared a major disaster for the State of Louisiana (FEMA-1786-DR-LA) on September 2, 2008, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide Federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana. Hurricane Ike made landfall on September 13, 2008 near Galveston, Texas with sustained winds of 110 mph and damaging floodwaters. President George W. Bush declared a major disaster for the State of Louisiana (FEMA-1792-DR-LA) on September 13, 2008, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide Federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana.

This is pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. Section 406 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance Program (PA) to assist in funding the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of public facilities damaged as a result of the declared disaster.

The Terrebonne Parish School District's (applicant) Grand Caillou Middle School located in Dulac, LA sustained major damage as a result of wind, rain, and flooding brought on by Hurricane's Gustav and Ike. Included amongst the damaged facilities at Terrebonne Parish Middle School was Building C, which served as an elementary school building with classrooms, common areas, a library, and storage.

In order to restore the lost services, facilities, and resources that were lost as a result of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, Terrebonne Parish School District, seeks federal grant funds to replace the 15,572 SF Elementary School Building C located at 6741 Grand Caillou Road, Dulac, LA at a new location serving similar function and increased capacity with additional square footage to meet current codes and standards. Grand Caillou Middle School and the federally funded Elementary School Building C replacement are proposed to include relocation to 2161 Grand Caillou Road, Houma, Louisiana.

Restoration of Terrebonne Parish Schools damaged as a result of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike is necessary to accommodate students and faculty of Terrebonne Parish School District. Building C relocation to Houma, LA is an efficient means of restoring

educational services that were lost as a result of Gustav and Ike. Grand Caillou Middle School has been subject to repetitive flooding, and the parish population continues a northward shift with each tropical system that affects the area. The population of Dulac, LA decreased from 2,458 to 1,402 between the years 2000 to 2010, a 43% reduction in population, while the population of Houma, LA increased from 32,393 to 33,727 during that same time period, a 4% increase.

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 this EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with Grand Caillou Elementary Building C and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Findings

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to water resources (wetlands and floodplains), coastal resources, biological resources, cultural resources, hazardous materials and environmental justice. Based on the information analyzed, FEMA has determined that the implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to the quality of the natural and human environment. The proposed alternative is not anticipated to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in accordance with 44 CFR Part 10.8 (d)(3)(x). As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10) and the proposed action as described in the EA may proceed.

CONDITIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Based upon the studies and consultations undertaken in this EA, several conditions must be met and mitigation measures must be taken by the applicant prior to and during project implementation.

- The applicant must follow all applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations and requirements and obtain and comply with all required permits and approvals prior to initiating work.
- FEMA 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 and the action must be undertaken in compliance with relevant, applicable and required local codes and standards and thereby, 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. The original location is within an “AE” Zone, EL 13, per Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance

Rate Map (DFIRM) Panel #22109C0450 E, dated, 06/30/08. The proposed project site is located within an "AE" Zone, EL 10, per Preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) Panel #22109C0275 E, dated, 06/30/08. As per 44 CFR 9.11 (d)(9), mitigation or minimization standards must be applied, where possible. The replacement of building contents, materials, and equipment (mechanical & electrical) should be, where possible, wet or dry-proofed, elevated, or relocated to or above the Preliminary DFIRM Elevation Maps.

- If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) or human remains 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. In addition, if unmarked graves are present, 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. Failure to comply with these stipulations may jeopardize receipt of FEMA funding.
- Fill or borrow material used must be sourced from sites that do not contain any buried cultural materials (*i.e.*, wells, cisterns, foundations, basements, prehistoric Indian artifacts, human burials, and the like). If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) or human remains are discovered, Terrebonne Parish School District and/or its contractors must immediately stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The Applicant and GOHSEP must inform the FEMA Public Assistance program, who would in turn contact the FEMA Historic Preservation staff. The Applicant must not proceed with work until FEMA completes consultation with the SHPO. In addition, if unmarked graves are present, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act is required. In that situation, the Applicant must notify the local law enforcement agency within 24 hours of the discovery, and notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at (225) 342-8170 within 72 hours of the discovery. Failure to comply with these stipulations may jeopardize FEMA funding of the project.
- Project construction would involve the use of potentially hazardous materials (*e.g.*, petroleum products, cement, caustics, acids, solvents, paint, electronic components, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, treated timber) and may result in the generation of small volumes of hazardous wastes. Appropriate measures to

prevent, minimize, and control spills of hazardous materials must be taken and generated hazardous and non-hazardous wastes are required to be disposed in accordance with applicable federal, state and local regulations.

- 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 at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous conditions.

Public Review and Comment

The Draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/environmental-planning-and-historic-preservation-program/environmental-documents-and-public-notice-6>. The Draft EA will also be available for public review at the Terrebonne Parish Library at 151 Library Drive, Houma, LA. A display ad will be posted in the local newspaper on August 13 through August 17, 2012. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and the Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.

Approvals:

Katherine Zeringue, Environmental Liaison Officer 1 Seine Court, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70114 FEMA-1786/1792-DR-LA	Date
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Joseph Threat, Sr., Executive Director 1 Seine Court, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70114 FEMA-1786/1792-DR-LA	Date
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