



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Louisiana Recovery Office
1 Seine Court, 4th Floor
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
for the
SOUTH CAMERON HIGH SCHOOL
NEW FIELDHOUSE AND STORAGE/UTILITY FACILITY
GRAND CHENIER, LOUISIANA
FEMA-1607-DR-LA

BACKGROUND

The city of Grand Chenier is located in Cameron Parish. Specifically, the proposed project area is located at the new, consolidated South Cameron High School (753 Oak Grove Highway, Grand Chenier, LA). The proposed action for this project consists of constructing a new 3,600 square foot facility to consolidate functions provided by a lost field house and a lost storage/utility building, both of which were destroyed by Hurricane Rita's powerful winds and storm surge. Since Hurricane Rita, the functions previously provided by these facilities have not been replaced. As a result, the Cameron Parish School Board (i.e. the Applicant) has requested federal funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program.

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 the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with construction of the new facility, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The need for the proposed action is defined by the current lack of athletic and storage facilities at the new South Cameron High School. By constructing a new facility compliant with current building codes and local floodplain ordinances, the proposed action would reduce the risk of future damage from flooding. The alternatives considered include: (1) No Action, (2) Construction of new athletic and related storage/support facilities at the site of the former South Cameron Elementary School (eliminated from further consideration) and (3) The proposed action, which consists of the construction of a new consolidated field house and storage/utility facility.

FINDINGS

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to geology, soils, water resources (surface water, groundwater, and wetlands), floodplains, coastal resources, air quality, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitats), cultural resources, socioeconomics (including minority and low income populations), safety, noise, and hazardous materials. The results of these evaluations as well as consultations and input from other federal and state agencies are presented in the EA.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met as part of the implementation of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize federal funds:

- 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.
- The Applicant shall implement construction BMPs for equipment and materials storage and construction activities (including equipment and materials staging) to prevent erosion and sedimentation to surrounding, nearby, or adjacent wetlands. Therefore, area soils would be covered and /or wetted during construction. If fill is stored on site as part of unit installation or removal, the contractor would be required to appropriately cover it.
- The project area must be kept cleared so as not to interfere with floodplain functions. Additionally, all appropriate permits must be obtained from the local floodplain administrator. All coordination pertaining to these permit(s) should be documented to the local floodplain administrator and copies provided to LA GOHSEP and FEMA as part of the permanent project files.
- All construction and demolition activities must adhere to Cameron Parish Ordinance Article III, Sec. 15-32, states that the operating of any equipment used within 165 feet of any residential or noise sensitive area is prohibited between sunset and sunrise on weekdays and Saturdays, and from 9:00 PM to 8:00 AM on Sundays and holidays.
- All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities.
- To minimize worker and public health and safety risks from project construction and closure, all construction and closure work would be done using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of construction equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions
- All activities would be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with the standards specified in OSHA regulations and the USACE safety manual. The contractor would post appropriate signage and fencing to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns. Additionally, the contractor should take precautions not to endanger any students during the hauling of construction materials.
- Appropriate signage and barriers should be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes. The contractor would implement traffic control measures, as necessary.

- Any changes or modifications to the proposed project will require a revised determination by FEMA personnel to ensure compliance with all relevant environmental and historic preservation laws. Off-site locations of activities such as borrow, disposals, haul-and detour-roads and work mobilization site developments may be subject to the Department of the Army (DA) regulatory requirements and may have an impact to a DA project.
- All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.
- If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's SPOC at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.
- If required by LDEQ, the Applicant shall require its contractor to prepare, certify, and implement a construction storm water pollution prevention plan to prevent sediment and construction material transport from the project site (a Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LAPDES) permit will be required in accordance with the Clean Water Act and the Louisiana Administrative Code for Water Quality. All coordination pertaining to these activities should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA as part of the permanent project files.
- If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) 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 PA contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA HP staff. The Applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO.
- If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present within the project area, 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 (24) hours of the discovery. The Applicant shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within seventy-two (72) hours of the discovery.
- The LDNR Office of Conservation should be contacted at 225-342-5540 if any unregistered wells of any type are encountered during construction work. For pipelines and other underground hazards, Louisiana One Call should be contacted at 800-272-3020 prior to commencing operations.

- The Applicant must complete a Coastal Use Permit (CUP) Application. After review of this application is complete, the processing of any required CUPs would begin.

CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the incorporated EA, and in accordance with Presidential Executive Orders 12898 (Environmental Justice), 11988 (Floodplain Management), and 11990 (Wetland Protection), FEMA has determined that the proposed action implemented with the conditions and mitigation measures outlined above and in the EA will not have any significant adverse effects on the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the proposed action alternative as described in the EA may proceed.

APPROVALS

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FEMA 1603-1607-DR-LA

Date

Joseph Threat
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Date