



FEMA

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT STABLES & CANINE UNIT
NEW ORLEANS, ORLEANS PARISH, LOUISIANA
*FEMA-1603-DR-LA***

Introduction

As a result of damages from Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized under a Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) to provide Federal assistance to designated disaster areas in Louisiana. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93288) Section 406 authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program to provide financial and other forms of assistance to State and local governments to support response, recovery, and mitigation efforts following Presidentially declared disasters.

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 the reconstruction and reorientation of several structures located at the City of New Orleans (CNO)(Applicant), New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) Stables and Canine Unit facility, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The proposed project aims to restore and consolidate NOPD various Mounted Division and Canine Unit functions and capacity lost on August 29, 2005, as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The damaged stables and canine unit facilities, located in City Park, are integral parts of the NOPD's crime fighting and crowd management activities and provided the NOPD with kennels, stables, training areas, and medical and administrative space essential to Canine Unit and Mounted Division activities. Consolidation at the same location of the seven severely damaged facilities into two new structures with the same functions and capacity is needed for the City of New Orleans to achieve its objective of increasing practicality and functionality and lowering future operating costs. The alternatives considered include: 1) the No Action Alternative; 2) Reconstruction of the seven damaged NOPD Stables and Canine Unit buildings in the same footprint; and 3) Reconstruction and consolidation of the preexisting functions and capacity of the Stables & Canine Unit into two new buildings reoriented at the same location.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is for the demolition and replacement of seven (7) severely damaged NOPD Stables and Canine Unit buildings with two (2) newly constructed buildings of the same function and capacity and at the same location as the existing facilities, north of the intersection of Harrison Avenue and Marconi Drive in City Park, New Orleans, LA, but with

a different orientation. The two new facilities would consist of a new elevated office building and a canine kennel building. This action would include construction of the two new buildings, two new asphalt driveways, site preparation, including reduction of an existing equine arena, installation of necessary new and upgraded utilities, connections and appurtenances, and some landscape slope modifications. A temporary stable building is currently under construction and was considered as a connected action.

Findings

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to water resources (wetlands, floodplains and other waters), coastal resources, biological resources, cultural resources, air quality, noise, hazardous materials and environmental justice. During the construction period, short-term impacts to water quality, air quality, and noise are anticipated. Also during the demolition period, lead based paint and or other hazardous substances may be discovered; however, Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) § 402(c) compliance would be required to limit any potential impacts. All short-term impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

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:

- In accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, the APPLICANT is responsible for acquiring any necessary permits and/or clearances prior to the commencement of any construction related activities.
- A Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit may be required in accordance with the Clean Water Act and the Louisiana Clean Water Code. The applicant is required to have its contractor prepare, certify, and implement an Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) approved construction storm water pollution prevention plan to prevent sediment and construction material transport from the project site. The NOPD shall comply with all conditions of the required permit. All coordination pertaining to these activities should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA as part of the permanent project files.
- This project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Management Zone. LA DNR has determined that receipt of federal assistance is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resource Program. Projects within the coastal zone may still require a coastal use permit or other authorization from DNR. Projects may be coordinated by contacting LA DNR at 1-800-276-4019.
- The applicant is required to coordinate all construction activities with the local floodplain administrator prior to the start of any activities, and remain in compliance with formally adopted local floodplain ordinances. All coordination pertaining to these permit(s) should be documented to the local floodplain administrator and copies

provided to the State and FEMA as part of the permanent project files. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(9), mitigation or minimization standards must be applied, where possible. The replacement of building contents, materials and equipment should be, where possible, wet or dry-proofed, elevated, or relocated to or above the community established base flood elevation. Hazardous materials need to be elevated above the 0.2% annual chance (500-year) flood elevation.

- Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act: If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present with 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 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.
- Inadvertent Discovery Clause: 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 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.
- 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.
- This project involves the demolition or renovation, of a facility constructed prior to 1978 that may contain surfaces coated with Lead-Based Paint (LBP). The applicant is responsible for complying with the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Section 402(c)(3) requirements. 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 any asbestos containing materials, lead based paint and/or other hazardous materials are found during remediation or repair activities, the applicant shall comply with all federal, state and local abatement and disposal requirements under the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) and Louisiana Administrative Code 33:III 5151. Demolition activities related to Possible Asbestos-Containing Materials (PACM) must be inspected for ACM/PACM where it is safe to do so. Should asbestos containing materials (ACM) be present, the applicant is responsible for ensuring proper disposal in accordance with the previously referenced

Administrative Orders. Demolition activity notification must be sent to the LDEQ before work begins. 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 hazardous constituents are unexpectedly encountered in the project area during the proposed construction operations, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation and management of the contamination should be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
- Project construction may 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 amounts 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.

Conclusion

The results of these evaluations, as well as consultations and input from other federal and state agencies, are presented in the EA. 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. In addition, the proposed project does not appear to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (per 44 CFR Part 10) and the proposed project as described in the EA may proceed.

Public Review and Comment

The EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm. The EA will also be available for public review at the Orleans Parish Main Library at 219 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, LA. A legal notice will be posted in the local newspaper, *The Times-Picayune*, on the following dates: December 19, 21, 23, 26 and 28, 2012. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and the initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.

Approval:

Katherine Zeringue, Environmental Liaison Officer Date
Louisiana Recovery Office
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

Joseph Threat, Acting Director Date
Louisiana Recovery Office
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA