



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

DIAMONDHEAD WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT – LIFT STATION 13 DIAMONDHEAD, HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI FEMA-1604-DR-MS

The Diamondhead Water and Sewer District (DWSD) in Hancock County, Mississippi has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance with replacement of Lift Station 13 (LS 13). The Lift Station is located within the city limits of Diamondhead, Mississippi. The exact location is at the north end of a cul-de-sac on Apua Court. This project is part of an overall plan to improve the District's services.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, causing a storm surge that reached nearly 25 ft and devastated large portions of the District's service area, which includes approximately 4,300 customers. District facilities, including the Diamondhead Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP), were severely damaged by the storm's wind and floodwaters. The WWTP will be relocated to higher elevations, outside of the floodplain, to increase reliability and minimize future damages and service disruptions.

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for FEMA, Subpart B, Agency Implementing Procedures, Part 10.9, this Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of this EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Lift Station and determine if it is necessary to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A final EA and FONSI were prepared for Lift Station 13 Project in April 2013.

In the EA process, FEMA considered three alternatives, the No Action Alternative, a Rejected Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative. Under the Rejected Alternative, the applicant considered repairing the existing LS 13. The existing LS 13 receives flow from four other lift stations making it critical to provide dependable service. LS 13 is at the end of its useful life and requires replacement. The LS 13 pumps and controls are difficult to keep in continuous service and are not reliable. In order to alleviate the problems that the District is experiencing, relocating LS 13 to the end of Apua Court is the most effective remedy.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the existing LS 13 would be demolished, removed and disposed of in a nearby landfill. The existing LS 13 would be replaced by relocating LS 13 at the end of Apua Court. The proposed LS 13 would be placed on two lots owned by DWSD. The proposed LS 13 would be constructed in the center of the lots near an existing cul-de-sac. LS 13 would then connect to existing underground utilities to provide dependable and reliable service to the 4,300 residents of Diamondhead. Preliminary plans have illustrated that construction would occur within upland areas of the lots. A construction pad 30 ft wide by 30 ft wide, an access driveway and an access buffer will be required for LS 13. A trench would be required to connect the lift station to the existing underground utilities. The trench to connect the lift station would be dug approximately 7 ft deep from LS 13 to a location of a manhole cover within the existing road, owned by the City of Diamondhead.

