



FEMA

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
HANCOCK COUNTY PORT AND HARBOR COMMISSION
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
FEMA-1604-DR-MS**

The Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission (HCPHC) has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding, under FEMA's Public Assistance Program, for the construction of a new Administration Building within the limits of the Stennis Airport Industrial Park, near the unincorporated community of Kiln in Hancock County, Mississippi. On August 29, 2005, the storm surge from Hurricane Katrina inundated virtually all of Hancock County south of Interstate Highway 10 (I-10), including the cities of Waveland and Bay Saint Louis, and several unincorporated communities. The existing HCPHC offices at 706 Highway 90 in Waveland were severely damaged. The proposed project would replace that facility by constructing a new Administration Building on a 3.5-acre site just east of Stennis International Airport that would be less vulnerable to the threat of tidal flooding. The project site is located between Fred and Al Key Road on the west and Fred W. Haise Road on the east, approximately 260 feet south of John C. Robinson Road and 400 feet north of Roscoe Tanner Road. John C. Robinson Road runs east and west a little more than 900 feet south of Texas Flat Road, a major collector connecting to Mississippi Highway 43 (MS 43) .65 mile east of Fred and Al Key Road. Roscoe Tanner Road runs east and west a little more than 1,100 feet north of Stennis Airport Road, the access route connecting the airport to MS 43 1.4 miles north of that highway's interchange with I-10.

The new facility would meet the need for adequate office and meeting space from which to oversee and direct the various holdings and diverse activities of the agency. Construction would be limited to an area encompassing 2.9 acres; the balance (0.6 acre) would be retained as a buffer extending along the northern and eastern edges of the project site. The building itself would include roughly 6,700 square feet of enclosed space. There would be a dozen paved parking spaces in front of the building and 40 in the rear. The proposed construction site is almost uniformly flat at 19.0 feet above mean sea level (NGVD29) and is located entirely within FEMA-designated Flood Zone X, an area considered to be subject to a minimal flood hazard of less than 0.2 percent per annum. While the project site is not within the 100-year floodplain, it does consist almost entirely of forested wetlands, most of which would have to be filled. The Eight-Step Planning Process for Floodplains and Wetlands has been completed.

The proposed project as described in the Environmental Assessment (EA) was evaluated for any potentially significant adverse impacts to existing land use, water resources, air quality, noise, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, State and Federally listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitat) and cultural resources. The proposed project was also evaluated with regard to safety and hazardous materials, as well as for disproportionately high or adverse effects on minority or low-income individuals or groups.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Action Alternative described in the EA would not adversely affect geology, groundwater, socioeconomic conditions related to environmental justice, or biological resources in the vicinity of the

