

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the St Bernard Parish Water Treatment Clear Well Pump Station And Raw Water Intake Structure Improvements
St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana
HMGP-DR-1603-LA PROJECT #414

Interested persons are hereby notified that St. Bernard Parish has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding under Section 404 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures that reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster.

FEMA proposes to provide funding to St Bernard Parish for the design and construction of a new Clear Well Pump Station-Holding Tank and the Raw Water Intake at the Water Treatment Plant at 1111 E. St. Bernard Highway, Chalmette, Louisiana (Latitude: 29.932292, Longitude: -89.956977). This project will augment a Water Treatment Plant project that is currently under construction. The proposed Clear Well Pump Station-Holding Tank will transfer clean water from the new water treatment plant's filters to the existing 3 million gallon and 10 million gallon ground storage tanks on the west side of the water plant property. It will also supply clean water to backwash the new filters when required. The proposed 48-inch Raw Water Intake Pipe will be installed through the existing river batture area (the land between the Mississippi River and the levees). The total length of pipe installed will be approximately 920 linear feet. It will replace two existing raw water intake pipes that will be abandoned in place. The entire proposed project will help maintain and protect the potable drinking water production for the entire parish.

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives on the human and natural environment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508), the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA (44 CFR Parts 9 and 10). The draft EA evaluates alternatives that provide for compliance with applicable environmental laws. The alternatives evaluated include (1) no action; (2) the proposed action described above.

The draft EA is available for comment and can be viewed at the St. Bernard Parish Library at 2600 Palmisano Blvd, Chalmette, Louisiana, 70043, from Monday-Thursday 9am-7pm, Friday-Saturday 9am-5pm, closed Sundays and Holidays, between May 24 and June 23, 2013. An electronic version of the draft EA can be requested from Alan Hermely, FEMA Region 6, at alan.hermely@fema.dhs.gov or viewed at FEMA's website at <https://edit.fema.gov/environmental-planning-and-historic-preservation-program/environmental-documents-public-notice-2>.

The comment period will end 30 days from the initial notice publication date. Written comments on the draft EA can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Alan Hermely, Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region 6, 800 N Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209, Fax: 940-383-7299; alan.hermely@fema.dhs.gov. If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.