

Notice of Availability
Draft Environmental Assessment
Le'Atele Elementary School Buildings Replacement
FEMA-1859-DR-AS, PW 193

The American Samoa Department of Education's Le'Atele Elementary School in Fagasa Village was severely damaged by the earthquake, tsunami, and flooding that occurred on September 29, 2009, and was declared a Presidential disaster (FEMA-1859-DR-AS). To restore the function of three destroyed buildings (the administration building, the Early Childhood Education building, and the kitchen/cafeteria building), the American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) has requested financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA). If approved, FEMA would provide financial assistance to ASDOE, through the Territorial Office of Fiscal Reform (TOFR), under FEMA's Public Assistance Program.

ASDOE proposes to replace the three buildings damaged by the disaster by constructing a new, two-story, 4000-square-foot building southwest of the existing, two-story, school building. The new building would be constructed to current codes and standards, including floodplain management requirements, which would result in the lowest floor being elevated above the height of the modeled 100-year flood.

FEMA has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, and applicable implementing regulations. The DEA evaluates the environmental impacts of ASDOE's proposed project and alternatives. FEMA has made the DEA available for public review and comment at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=7560> and the following locations: TOFR's office on Ili'ili Road (call 699-1330 for location information) and ASDOE's main office in Utulei (call 633-5237 for location information).

FEMA, TOFR, and ASDOE will consider all comments on the DEA before making decisions regarding ASDOE's proposed project. Comments relevant to the DEA should be provided in writing to FEMA Region IX, EHP / Le'Atele ES DEA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, CA 94607-4052 or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov. Questions regarding the DEA or its availability can also be made by telephone at (510) 627-7027 (messages only). To be considered in the decision-making process, comments on the DEA must be received by midnight June 21, 2013.