

**Notice of Availability**  
**Draft Environmental Assessment**  
**Taputapu Elementary School Replacement**  
**FEMA-1859-DR-AS, PW 197**

The American Samoa Department of Education's Taputapu Elementary School in Poloa Village was destroyed 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 the destroyed school, 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 construct a replacement Taputapu Elementary School campus on a site approximately 0.6 mile to the north of the pre-disaster school location, in the village of Fagali'i. The proposed site is approximately 1.56 acres in area and located at an average elevation of approximately 285 feet AMSL, outside the 500-year floodplain. The proposed site is adjacent to a new road that was opened in October 2012. All buildings on the proposed site of the campus would be constructed to current codes and standards.

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=7623> 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 / Taputapu ES DEA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, CA 94607-4052 or [fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov](mailto: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 July 3, 2013.