

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
American Samoa Department of Education
Taputapu Elementary School Buildings Replacement
FEMA-1859-DR-AS, PW 197

The American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) has applied, through the Territorial Office of Fiscal Reform (TOFR), to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for financial assistance to restore the function of ASDOE's Taputapu Elementary School. All buildings and supporting features on the campus of Taputapu Elementary School in Poloa Village, Tutuila Island, American Samoa, were destroyed by the earthquake, tsunami, and flooding that occurred on September 29, 2009, and declared by the President of the United States to be a major disaster (FEMA-1859-DR-AS). ASDOE is requesting financial assistance to restore the function of these facilities through FEMA's Public Assistance Program by constructing a new Taputapu Elementary School.

ASDOE proposes to construct a replacement Taputapu Elementary School campus in the village of Fagali'i on a site approximately 0.6 mile to the north of the disaster-destroyed campus. The proposed site is approximately 1.56 acres in area and is located approximately 700 feet from the shoreline at an average elevation of approximately 285 feet above mean sea level, outside the 500-year floodplain. The new campus is expected to consist of a two-story classroom and administrative building, a two-story cafeteria and classroom building, an Early Childhood Education building, a restroom building, a playground, a parking lot, a driveway, and walkways. The proposed site is adjacent to a paved road that was constructed in 2012 with conduit for utilities running along the right-of-way. Electricity, telephone, domestic water, and wastewater would be connected from conduits along the road to school buildings.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, FEMA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Taputapu Elementary School Buildings Replacement to evaluate the impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives on the quality of the human environment. The EA includes measures that will be implemented to mitigate, minimize, and avoid impacts to the human environment. FEMA prepared a Final EA after making a Draft EA available for public review and comment. FEMA received one piece of correspondence during the Draft EA public review/comment period. The Final EA, which was specifically prepared to address comments received on the Draft EA, is available at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=7623>, TOFR's office in Ili'ili, and ASDOE's office in Utulei.

Based on the information contained in the Final EA, a review of applicable environmental laws and orders, and in compliance with FEMA's regulations at 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations), the following is concluded:

A Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. For more information, contact the undersigned at (510) 627-7027 or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov. In accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 (Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands), no action will be allowed to occur until 15 days after the publication of this Finding of No Significant Impact.


Alessandro Amaglio
FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer


Date