

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Assessment for the
Bayou Din Detention Project
HMGP-DR-1780-TX, Project #20
Jefferson County, Texas

Jefferson County Drainage District No. 6 has applied to FEMA for assistance with the construction of a detention basin totaling approximately 41 acres to relieve flooding conditions in the upper Bayou Din watershed. The improvements aim to reduce future flood risk to 47 existing structures in the community along Lawhon Road near Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas.

FEMA previously prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this project which was made available to the public and which resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), dated July 2012. A Supplemental EA (SEA) has been prepared to document revisions made to the final placement of the spoil disposal site. The proposed alternative spoil disposal site would be approximately 86.9 acres located east of the Bayou Din Detention Basin, east of Boyt Road. The proposed site is currently used as cropland for hay. The spoil area is intended to remain as permanent material that would be spread evenly and shaped to drain away from the detention basin.

The purpose of the SEA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action (new spoil disposal site) 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). This project is located within the 100-year flood plain and an assessment has been made on the effects of the proposed action on the flood plain.

The draft SEA evaluates alternatives that provide for compliance with applicable environmental laws. The alternatives evaluated include (1) no action; (2) relocating the spoils site from its original location.

The draft SEA is available for review and comment between September 22 and October 7, 2013, at the Beaumont Public Library located at 801 Pearl Street; at the Jefferson County Drainage District No. 6 Offices located at 6550 Walden Road in Beaumont, Texas; and at the offices of Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., located at 1507 South IH 35, Austin, Texas. Electronic copies can be accessed on the FEMA website at <https://edit.fema.gov/environmental-planning-and-historic-preservation-program/environmental-documents-public-notice-2> or by request from Dorothy Weir, Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region 6 at dorothy.weir@fema.dhs.gov.

Written comments regarding this proposed project can be mailed to Dorothy Weir, Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region 6, 909 N. Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209. Electronic comments can also be submitted to dorothy.weir@fema.dhs.gov. Comments should be received no later than 5 p.m. on October 7, 2013. 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.

Betty Holman, Asst. Gen. Manager – Adm.
Jefferson County Drainage District No. Six
6550 Walden Rd.
Beaumont, TX 77707
(409) 842-1818