



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Louisiana Recovery Office
1 Seine Court
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
DESIRE STREET MINISTRIES MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING
NEW ORLEANS, ORLEANS PARISH, LOUISIANA
*FEMA-1603-DR-LA***

Introduction

As a result of damages from Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized under a Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) to provide Federal assistance to designated disaster areas in Louisiana. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93288), Section 406, authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program to provide financial and other forms of assistance to State and local governments to support response, recovery, and mitigation efforts following Presidentially declared disasters.

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA's regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared. The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the reconstruction and reconfiguration of the Desire Street Ministries' multi-purpose facility and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Proposed Action

The proposed action is for the reconstruction of the severely damaged multi-purpose facility, at its pre-storm location, but with a different configuration, as a community wellness center that would provide planned community medical and dental services. The new community wellness center would consist of an approximately 30,800sf building and be divided into three (3) departments: wellness and educational facilities, dental operator & hygiene, and a clinic. Support offices would include a pharmacy, conference room, bathrooms, lobby area, waiting rooms, administration support, storage, and a laboratory. Ground disturbing activities would be limited to those areas needed to construct the foundation, stage construction materials, install utilities, and construct associated driveways and parking.

Findings

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to geology and soils, water resources (wetlands, floodplains and other waters), coastal resources, biological resources, cultural resources, air quality, noise, hazardous materials and environmental justice. During the construction period, short-term impacts to water quality, air quality, and noise are anticipated. All short-term impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

Conditions

The following conditions must be met as part of the implementation of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize federal funds:

- New construction must be compliant with current codes and standards. In accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, the applicant is responsible for acquiring any necessary permits and/or clearances prior to the commencement of any construction related activities.
- A Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit may be required in accordance with the Clean Water Act and the Louisiana Clean Water Code. If required to do so by LDEQ, the Applicant shall require its contractor to prepare, certify, and implement a construction storm water pollution prevention plan approved by LDEQ to prevent sediment and construction material transport from the project site. The Applicant shall comply with all conditions of the required permit. All coordination pertaining to these activities should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA as part of the permanent project files.
- The Applicant should ensure that best management practices that meet the LDEQ permitting specifications for storm water discharge regulated under §§ 401 and 402 of the CWA are implemented in order to minimize indirect impacts (erosion, sedimentation, dust and other construction-related disturbances) to the nearby waters of the United States and well defined drainage areas surrounding the site, and include the following into the daily operations of the construction activities: silt screens, barriers (*e.g.*, hay bales), berms/dikes, and or fences to be placed where and as needed. Fencing should be placed for marking staging areas to store construction equipment and supplies as well as conduct maintenance/repair operations.
- New construction must be compliant with current codes and standards. Per C.F.R. § 9.11(d)(6), no project should be built to a floodplain management standard that is less protective than what the community has adopted in local ordinances through their participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. The applicant is required to coordinate all construction activities with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities, and remain in compliance with formally adopted local floodplain ordinances. All coordination pertaining to these permit(s) should be documented to the local floodplain administrator and copies provided to the State and FEMA as part of the permanent project files. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(9), mitigation or minimization standards must be applied, where possible.
- The project has been found by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) to be inside the Louisiana Coastal Zone. LDNR, therefore, requires that a complete Coastal Use Permit Application package (Joint Application Form, locality maps, project illustration plats with plan and cross section views, etc.), along with the appropriate application fee, be submitted to their office prior to construction. The applicant is responsible for coordinating with and obtaining any required Coastal Use Permit(s) (CUP) or other authorizations from the LDNR Office of Coastal Management's Permits

and Mitigation Division prior to initiating work. The applicant must comply with all conditions of the required permits. All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.

- To reduce potential short term effects to air quality from construction related activities, the contractor should use BMPs to reduce fugitive dust generation and diesel emissions. The contractor should water down construction areas when necessary to minimize particulate matter and dust. To reduce emission criteria pollutants, fuel-burning equipment running times should be kept at a minimum and engines should be properly maintained.
- Construction traffic should be closely monitored and controlled as appropriate. All construction activities should be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) requirements.
- Project construction may involve the use of potentially hazardous materials (*e.g.*, petroleum products, cement, caustics, acids, solvents, paint, electronic components, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, treated timber), and may result in the generation of small amounts of hazardous wastes. Appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control spills of hazardous materials must be taken and generated hazardous and non-hazardous wastes are required to be disposed in accordance with applicable Federal, state and local regulations.
- Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act: If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present with the project area, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) is required. The applicant shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within twenty-four hours of the discovery. The applicant shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within seventy-two hours of the discovery.
- Inadvertent Discovery Clause: If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered, the applicant shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The applicant shall inform their Public Assistance (PA) contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation (HP) staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO, and others as appropriate.
- If hazardous constituents are unexpectedly encountered in the project area during the proposed construction operations, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation and management of the contamination should be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

