

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
THE CITY OF LAURINBURG NORTH FIRE STATION**

BACKGROUND

The City of Laurinburg Fire Department is seeking reimbursement for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the form of Public Assistance (PA) Program Funding for the construction of a new fire station in Laurinburg, North Carolina. The objective of the FEMA PA Grant Program is to provide assistance to State, Tribal, and Local Governments, and certain types of Private Nonprofit (PNP) organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. Through the PA Program, FEMA provides supplemental federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain PNP organizations. The PA Program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

This EA evaluates typical actions undertaken by FEMA and other Federal Agencies (referred to hereafter as ‘The Agencies’) to provide financial support or technical assistance to the City of Laurinburg covered by the scope of this document on the proposed North Fire Station in Laurinburg, Scotland County, North Carolina. This EA also provides the public and decision-makers with the information required to understand and evaluate the potential environmental consequences of these actions and to consider these impacts in decision making.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, FEMA’s regulations for implementing NEPA in FEMA Directive 108-1: *Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Responsibilities and Program Requirements*, the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 FEMA prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts resulting from FEMA’s assistance to the City of Laurinburg regarding the funding of the proposed North Fire Station.

Notice of the availability of the draft EA was available for agency and public review and comment for a period of 30 days. The public information process includes a public notice with information about the Proposed Action. The public notice will be posted on the FEMA website, the City of Laurinburg website between September 29, 2020 and October 29, 2020 at <https://www.laurinburg.org/news/>, the existing North Fire Station and the City of Laurinburg Town Hall. No substantive comments received.

CONDITIONS

Actions under this EA and FONSI must meet the following conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions would make the FONSI determination inapplicable for the project and could jeopardize the receipt of funding.

- Before construction is initiated, an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan will be obtained in accordance with state regulations and the plan will be implemented. Dust suppression techniques will be utilized to control fugitive dust as necessary during construction.
- If human remains or intact archaeological deposits are uncovered, work in the vicinity of the discovery will stop immediately and all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds will be taken. The applicant will ensure that archaeological discoveries are secured in place, that access to the sensitive area is restricted, and that all reasonable measures are taken to avoid further disturbance of the discoveries. The applicant's contractor will provide immediate notice of such discoveries to the applicant. The applicant shall contact the Office of State Archaeology and FEMA within 24 hours of the discovery. Work in the vicinity of the discovery may not resume until FEMA has completed consultation with SHPO, Tribes, and other consulting parties as necessary. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately, and the proper authorities notified in accordance with NC General Statutes Chapter 70, Article 3 and § 70-32.
- Contractor and/or Subcontractors will properly handle, package, transport, and dispose of hazardous materials and/or waste in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations, laws, and ordinances. If hazardous substances are released to the project area during construction, these federal, state, and local requirements must be followed in response and cleanup.
- Construction activities will be performed using qualified personnel and will follow Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines.
- Exterior construction of the facility will be completed in a timely manner per the construction schedule and will limit construction activities to allowable noise hours consistent with local regulations.
- Construction activities will limit construction detours or lane closures as much as practicable. If detours or lane closures are necessary, the appropriate signage and safety measures will be implemented.

FINDINGS

Based upon the information contained in the Final EA, the potential impacts resulting from the two alternatives analyzed in the EA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations for implementing NEPA in FEMA Directive 108-1: *Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Responsibilities and Program Requirements*, and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), FEMA finds that the implementation of the proposed action will not have significant impacts to the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared. This FONSI is based upon proposed actions fitting one of the two project types (alternatives) described in the Final EA and meeting all conditions prescribed for that particular project type.

APPROVAL

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