

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE
FEMA- 4611-DR-LA-IDA
Executive Order 11988 and 11990: Floodplain Management and Protection of
Wetlands

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice to the public of its intent to reimburse eligible applicants for eligible costs to repair and/or replace facilities damaged by Hurricane Ida, (DR-4611). This notice applies to the Public Assistance (PA) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) implemented under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42U.S.C. § 5121-5206), as amended (Stafford Act).

On August 29, 2021, President Biden declared a major disaster for Louisiana (FEMA-4611-DR-LA) due to damages from Hurricane Ida; an initial notice was published on October 01, 2021. The hurricane declared caused extensive damage to structures and infrastructure due to strong winds and flooding. The Presidential disaster declarations authorize FEMA to provide federal assistance through its Public Assistance and Individual Assistance Programs in declared parishes and statewide assistance through HMGP.

Presidential Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, require that federal actions that might have an impact on floodplains or wetlands be evaluated to identify potential relocation strategies, as well as social, economic, historical, environmental, legal or safety needs. Where there is no opportunity to relocate, FEMA is required to undertake a detailed review to determine what measures can be taken to minimize future damages. FEMA must also examine the possible effects of not restoring the facility, minimize floodplain/wetland impacts, and determine both that an overriding public need for the facility clearly outweighs the Executive Order requirements to avoid the floodplain/wetland, and that the site is the only practicable alternative. All practicable alternative actions including elevating structures, flood proofing, demolition, relocations, and buyouts, etc., were considered for this specific disaster. The State of Louisiana and local officials will confirm to FEMA that proposed actions comply with all applicable state and local floodplain management and wetland protection requirements. These actions may include construction of new facilities, modification of existing, undamaged facilities, relocation of facilities out of floodplains, demolition of structures, or other types of projects to mitigate future disaster damages.

Under the PA Program, this final notice applies to the repairing and/or replacing of public buildings - schools, hospitals, fire stations, law enforcement offices, utility offices or structures, libraries, community centers, non-profits (public and private), roads, utilities, drainage canals, parks and similar facilities that could be located in the 100-year floodplain (areas that have been determined to have a one percent (1%) probability of flooding in any given year), and critical actions located within the 500-year floodplain (areas subject to flooding, with a probability of 0.2 percent (.2%) chance of occurring in any given year) in the declared parishes of Louisiana. For HMGP, this final notice covers statewide initiative projects (such as warning sirens); generators; elevation and reconstruction of existing buildings; flood proofing and retrofits of existing facilities; and certain localized flood risk reduction projects including installation or modification of culverts and other storm water management facilities in developed areas; and modification of existing floodwalls, dams, and weirs that would be located within the floodplain and/or wetland. Because portions of the declared area are in the floodplain, relocation or replacement of buildings will be performed in compliance with Base Flood Elevations, and/or other local codes and standards. Repairs and

replacements may also utilize mitigation measures, where feasible, to reduce impacts to the floodplain and wetland.

This constitutes the final notice and FEMA is accepting comments on this determination. Written comments may be sent to Jerame Cramer, Environmental Historic Preservation Advisor (EHAD), Federal Emergency Management Agency, 1500 Main St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 or by emailing fema-liro-ehp-pa@fema.dhs.gov. **The public comment period will be 30 days beginning on November 10, 2021 and concluding on December 10, 2021 at 4PM.** Comments should be sent in writing within 30 days of the date of this notice.

