



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CITY OF YOUNGSVILLE HIGHLAND RIDGE SUBDIVISION & COULEE LASALLE REGIONAL DETENTION POND PROJECT LAFAYETTE PARISH, LOUISIANA HMGP-4277-0036-LA

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Instruction 108-1-1, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of the proposed project is to improve inundation in the Coulee LaSalle watershed and to provide flooding relief to the Highland Ridge Subdivision in Youngsville, Lafayette Parish, Louisiana. This EA informed FEMA's decision on whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The City of Youngsville has applied for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding, through the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) under HMGP-4277-0036-LA. Through HMGP, FEMA provides grants to state, local, tribal and territorial governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures, including wildfire mitigation. The purpose of HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act).

Two project alternatives were considered in this EA: 1) No Action; and 2) Alternative #2: Construct two detention ponds consisting of a total of approximately 16 acres on a 22-acre parcel of land located adjacent to both Coulee LaSalle and Lateral 1 of Coulee LaSalle (Proposed Action). Two additional action alternatives, construction of a 22-acre pond on the parcel of land owned by the Lafayette Parish School Board north of the Southside High School and construction of a 25-acre detention pond at the site of an existing borrow pit, were considered but dismissed from further analysis in the EA because they did not provide the necessary hydraulic benefit.

Under the No Action alternative, no additional work would be conducted by the City of Youngsville to reduce the water surface elevation the Coulee La Salle watershed.

Under the Proposed Action, the City of Youngsville proposes to construct two detention ponds (Pond 1 (30.09661, -91.97266) and Pond 2 (30.096470, -91.9708729)) and to serve as a reservoir for Coulee LaSalle during high intensity storms to reduce the risk of flooding in the surrounding areas. The project would require the excavation of approximately 16 acres to an average depth of 13 feet. The detention ponds would require two inlet control structures, two outlet control structures, pond lining, two dry hydrants, and a dewatering pump for added water level control. The Proposed Action also includes the construction of a 900 square foot building that would be used to store the pump and other materials for pond maintenance; service road and driveway, and a flap gate on the pipe located under South Larriviere Road.

A public notice was posted in the local newspaper of record, The Daily Advertiser, and on FEMA's website. The draft EA was made available for public comment at the City Hall of Youngsville, 305 Iberia Street, Youngsville, LA and on FEMA's website. No comments were received from the public during the comment period.

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The Proposed Action as described in the EA would not significantly adversely impact wetlands, floodplains, threatened or endangered species, historic properties, minority and low-income populations, hazardous materials, or farmlands. During construction, short-term, minor impacts to surface water quality are anticipated. Long-term beneficial impacts to are expected to floodplains. No long-term adverse impacts are anticipated. All adverse 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 this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

1. This review does not address all federal, state, and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding requires recipient to comply with all federal, state and local laws. Failure to obtain all appropriate federal, state and local environmental permits and clearances may jeopardize federal funding.
2. Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other Laws and Executive Orders.
3. The City of Youngsville must monitor ground disturbance and if any potential archaeological resources are discovered, must immediately cease construction in that area and notify the State and FEMA.

4. The City of Youngsville is responsible for coordinating with and obtaining any required Section 404 Permit(s) from USACE and/or any Section 401/402 Permit(s) from the state prior to initiating work. The City must comply with all conditions of any required permit(s). All coordination pertaining to these activities should be retained as part of the project file in accordance with the respective grant program instructions.
5. The City of Youngsville must follow the requirements of the Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control Plan included on the construction plans. The construction must include best management practices (BMPs) for storm water management.
6. The City of Youngsville must coordinate with the local floodplain administrator and obtain required permits prior to initiating work, including any necessary certifications that encroachments within the adopted regulatory floodway would not result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge. The City of Youngsville must comply with any conditions of permit and all coordination pertaining to these activities should be retained as part of the project file in accordance with the respective grant program instructions.
7. Unusable equipment, debris and material shall be disposed of in an approved manner and location. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project, the applicant shall handle, manage, and dispose of petroleum products, hazardous materials and toxic waste in accordance with the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the EA, coordination with the appropriate agencies, comments from the public, and adherence to the project conditions set forth in this FONSI, FEMA has determined that the proposed project qualifies as a major federal action that would not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment, nor does it have the potential for significant cumulative effects. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (FEMA Instruction 108-1-1) and the proposed project as described in the attached EA may proceed.

APPROVAL AND ENDORSEMENT

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Kevin Jaynes
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 6

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Brianne Schmidtke
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