



**FEMA**

U. S. Department of Homeland Security  
FEMA Region 6  
800 North Loop 288  
Denton, TX 76209

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
BRIAN BENT (SC-02)  
TEMPORARY GROUP HOUSING SITE  
ST. CHARLES PARISH, LOUISIANA  
FEMA-4611-DR-LA**

**BACKGROUND**

The President of the United States issued a Major Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Ida (FEMA-DR-4611-LA) on August 29, 2021, and amended September 7, 2021, and September 13, 2021. This Declaration authorized the Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance under Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), Public Law No. 93-288, as amended) in designated areas of Louisiana impacted by the hurricanes. Under this authority FEMA may provide direct temporary housing when there is a lack of available housing resources for eligible disaster victims whose homes are uninhabitable or destroyed as a result of the declared event.

To provide temporary housing solutions for survivors of Hurricane Ida, the State of Louisiana (Recipient and Applicant) requested assistance from FEMA in the form of Direct Temporary Housing (Direct Housing or Housing Assistance) through the Individuals and Households Program (IHP) for FEMA-DR-4611-LA. FEMA authorized Housing Assistance for a period of up to 18 months for the following parishes for Hurricane Ida: Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa and Terrebonne. FEMA’s Direct Housing involves a variety of temporary housing solutions, including Group Housing, the Multi-Family Lease and Repair Program (MLR), Direct Lease, and Transportable Temporary Housing Units (TTHUs). FEMA is proposing construction of emergency temporary housing sites, known as the Brian Bent Group Site, for residents in St. Charles Parish.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President’s Council on Environmental Quality regulations to implement NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508), and FEMA’s procedures for implementing NEPA (FEMA Instruction 108-1-1). FEMA is required to consider potential environmental impacts before funding or approving actions and projects. The EA analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the proposed temporary group housing, Brian Bent Group Site, as part of an expedited review process. FEMA used the findings in this EA to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The project site is located at 14600 US Highway 90 West, Boutte, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana (Latitude: 29.882132, Longitude: -90.428154). The site is located north of Highway 90, south of a residential neighborhood on Cajun Paradise Road, west of an RV sales center, and east of Xpert Power Equipment. The site is approximately 10.65 acres and zoned entirely as commercial land. Most of the site would be developed for group housing. The site is accessible in three locations,

on the southern boundary by a culverted bridge off Highway 90, in the southwestern corner by a dirt road, and on the eastern boundary through the neighboring RV sales center. The site is currently a fenced-in vacant lot, consisting mostly of flat grass with a southern perimeter drainage ditch. Approximately 47 mobile home units (MHUs) would be placed in the proposed footprint to be used as temporary group site housing and would be located in the 100-year floodplain.

A Public Notice for review and public comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed action was prepared by FEMA. FEMA requested and confirmed the posting of the notice on the websites of the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), St. Charles Parish, and St. Charles Parish Public Library. Due to the emergency nature of the housing mission, the original public comment period was limited to 3 days from 8:00am April 1, 2022, to 5:00pm April 3, 2022. Due to technical difficulties, FEMA re-issued the public notice from 8:00am April 4, 2022, to 5:00pm April 6, 2022.

As a result of FEMA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment public comment period for the Brian Bent Temporary Group Housing site in St. Charles Parish, FEMA received 16 comments from a total 6 public citizens during the open public comment period. A large majority of these comments were non-substantive and expressed concerns that were already addressed in the Environmental Assessment. The concerns raised involved how the local community resources and traffic will be impacted with the influx of 47 additional housing units, the presence of a local ordinance prohibiting new construction of trailer parks, and whether the site would have adequate drainage.

FEMA has verified that the majority of the applicants that will reside within this group site are residents of the immediate area and therefore should not have a significant increase and possible stress on the local police, public transportation, and/or traffic and safety concerns. In addition, it will not add a significant demand to local emergency services. The Parish is in the process of changing their ordinances around emergency temporary housing to allow provisions for MHUs as a "Special Use" condition. Land that is not zoned R1M will not be used for group sites until they can obtain special use permits. Moreover, all construction will be completed in accordance with Federal, State and local laws and ordinances to include any changes to culverts and drainage ditches. FEMA will continue to maintain them in accordance with the applicable laws and ordinances.

## **FINDINGS**

Construction of the Proposed Action was analyzed based on the studies, consultations, and reviews undertaken as reported in this EA. The findings of this EA conclude that no significant adverse impacts on human, natural and cultural resources are anticipated from the Proposed Action. FEMA has determined no practicable alternative to placement of units in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). During project construction, short-term impacts on air quality and noise are anticipated and conditions have been incorporated to mitigate and minimize these effects. Project short-term adverse impacts would be mitigated using Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as proper vehicle and equipment maintenance, and appropriate signage. Furthermore, given the Proposed

Action is temporary (up to 18 months), no long-term adverse impacts are anticipated from the proposed project.

## **CONDITIONS**

The following conditions must be met as part of this project.

1. Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other Laws and Executive Orders.
2. This review does not address all federal, state, and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding requires recipient (i.e., State) 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.
3. Coordination with the local floodplain administrator must occur prior to MHU placement. 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.
4. Compliance with State Regulations: Placement of MHUs or other readily fabricated dwellings must be in accordance and in compliance with Louisiana regulations.
5. Local Permitting and Codes: Any FEMA units will be installed in compliance with applicable local codes, ordinances and permitting requirements. Any contracted logistics installation entities (installers) for TTHU placement will secure all pertinent Federal, state, and local permits and approvals before work.
6. Health and Safety: Before unit occupancy, the responsible program, will provide applicants with a Health and Safety Advisory regarding the flood hazard, local emergency evacuation plans, right-of-entry during an emergency, and possible unit haul off.
7. The responsible program will ensure the local emergency manager has information regarding location of TTHU occupants and potential special needs, to integrate into local emergency plans.
8. Appropriate best management practices will be implemented during site development to minimize sediment migration from the site into nearby water bodies. Surface runoff will be controlled by using siltation controls such as silt fencing around the construction site to minimize erosion of materials into adjacent wetlands and/or waterways. Any disturbed soil will be protected with seed or sod after construction in order to decrease the amount of soil eroded by rainfall and runoff. Any fill stored on site will be appropriately covered to prevent erosion.
9. The Contractor shall comply with all requirements for a point source discharge to waters of the State. A Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit may be required in accordance with the Section 401 and 402 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Louisiana Clean Water Code.

10. The Contractor shall comply with the requirements of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) to observe precautions to control non-point source pollution, reduce erosion, and develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and implement the required conditions.
11. During the decommissioning of the Brian Bent Group Site at the conclusion of the temporary group housing mission, all infrastructure will be removed. This includes all subsurface and above ground installations such as underground piping for water and sewer, electrical installations like poles and wiring, fencing, lighting, and all gravel laid for pads and access roads. A FEMA contractor will complete the deactivation and restoration of the site. The site will be reverted 100 percent back to a field, exactly as it was prior to the temporary housing development.
12. If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered, the Contractor shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The Contractor shall inform their Individual Assistance (IA) contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation (HP) staff. The Contractor will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO, and others as appropriate.
13. Unusable equipment, debris and material will be disposed of prior to occupancy in an approved manner and location.
14. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project, petroleum products, hazardous materials, and toxic waste will be handled, managed, and disposed of in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state, and federal agencies. Construction activities with elevated noise levels will be limited from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M, unless otherwise approved by the Parish. Equipment and machinery used during construction will meet all local, State, and Federal noise regulations. Construction activities with elevated noise levels will be limited from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M, unless otherwise approved by the Parish. Equipment and machinery used during construction will meet all local, State, and federal noise regulations.
15. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD) and Parish will be coordinated with in the planning and construction of this group site, to establish appropriate traffic safety measures and management protocols for the area.
16. The appropriate signage must be posted and fencing installed to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns. Appropriate signage and barriers will be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes.
17. Once the temporary housing need has ended, FEMA expects that all mobile housing units (MHUs) would be hauled from the site in accordance with Section 408(d)(2) of the Stafford Act and returned to a FEMA storage facility. Furthermore, the project site would be either reasonably restored to its previous condition and then seeded or left with the site improvements per the lease terms negotiated between the General Services Administration (GSA) and the landowner.

18. MHUs shall comply with 24 C.F.R. Part 3280 Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards (“Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] code”).
19. Work will comply with all conditions of U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits, if required.
20. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. 9.13(d) (4) (i), MHUs placed in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) must be elevated to the fullest extent practicable up to the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) and adequately anchored.

## 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 will 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

**KEVIN R  
JAYNES**

Digitally signed by KEVIN  
R JAYNES  
Date: 2022.04.28  
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Kevin Jaynes

Regional Environmental Officer

FEMA Region 6

**LORIE M LAFON**

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Lorie LaFon

Individual Assistance Branch Chief

FEMA Region 6

Final Environmental Assessment

# **Brian Bent Group Housing Site (SC-02)**

FEMA-4611-DR-LA

Boutte, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana

March 2022



# **FEMA**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
**Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 6**  
Louisiana Integration and Recovery Office  
1500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

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**ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1 - US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Wetland Delineation Letter**
- Attachment 2 - Floodplain Management/Wetlands – 8-Step Checklist (44 CFR Part 9)**
- Attachment 3 - Office of Coastal Management (OCM) Coastal Zone Consistency Letter**
- Attachment 4 – Public Notice for Brian Bent Group Site**
- Attachment 5 – Media Advisory for Brian Bent Group Site**

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACS	American Community Survey
APE	Area of Potential Effect
BFE	Base Flood Elevation
BMP	Best Management Practices
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CUP	Coastal Use Permit
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
EA	Environmental Assessment
EDMS	Electronic Document Management System
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
GOHSEP	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
GSA	General Services Administration
HMA	Hazard Mitigation Assistance
IA	Individual Assistance
IHP	Individuals and Households Program
LCRP	Louisiana Coastal Resources Program
LDEQ	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
LDNR	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
LDOTD	Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
LPDES	Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
MHU	Manufactured Housing Unit
MLR	Multi-Family Lease and Repair Program
MSA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
NCS	Non-Congregate Sheltering
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFA	No Further Action
NFA-ATT	No Further Action at This Time
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
NPL	National Priorities List
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRCS	National Resources Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory

OCM	Office of Coastal Management
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
P&A	Plugged and Abandoned
PA	Public Assistance
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SEMS	Superfund Enterprise Management System
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Area
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SSA	Sole Source Aquifer
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TDML	Total Daily Maximum Load
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
TTHU	Transportable Temporary Housing Unit
UFAS	Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USCB	United States Census Bureau
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
UST	Underground Storage Tank
USTD	Underground Storage Tank Division

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The President of the United States issued a Major Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Ida (DR-4611-LA) on August 29, 2021 and amended September 7, 2021 and September 13, 2021. This Declaration authorized the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance under Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), Public Law No. 93-288, as amended in designated areas of Louisiana impacted by the hurricanes. Under this authority FEMA may provide direct temporary housing when there is a lack of available housing resources for eligible disaster victims whose homes are uninhabitable or destroyed as a result of the declared event.

To provide temporary housing solutions for survivors of Hurricane Ida, the State of Louisiana (Recipient and Applicant) requested assistance from FEMA in the form of Direct Temporary Housing (Direct Housing or Housing Assistance) through the Individuals and Households Program (IHP) for DR-4611-LA. FEMA authorized Housing Assistance for a period of up to 18 months for the following parishes for Hurricane Ida: Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa and Terrebonne. FEMA's Direct Housing involves a variety of temporary housing solutions, including Multi-Family Lease and Repair Program (MLR), Direct Lease, and distribution of Transportable Temporary Housing Units (TTHUs) on private residential lots or commercial lots. If existing private residential or commercial lots do not meet the need for TTHU placement, FEMA may construct Group Housing Sites on undeveloped land to include build out of TTHU pads, ingress, egress, and utility connections.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations to implement NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and FEMA's procedures for implementing NEPA (FEMA Instruction 108-1-1). FEMA is required to consider potential environmental impacts before funding or approving actions and projects. This EA will analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed temporary group housing, Brian Bent Group Housing Site, as part of an expedited review process. FEMA will use the findings in this EA to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

## **2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED**

Catastrophic damage from severe storms and flooding resulted in an extraordinary demand for housing assistance in communities within the parishes of Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa and Terrebonne. FEMA's standard housing solutions such as MLR, NCS, Direct Lease, and individual TTHUs placed on the private lot of individual survivors, or grouped onto commercial sites equipped to support them, while critical to the success of the housing mission, cannot meet the entirety of the need within the parishes of Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. Helena,

St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa and Terrebonne. To address the gap in housing assistance, the Stafford Act Section 408 and 44 CFR § 206.117 provides housing assistance to eligible individuals and households who have been devastated by a major disaster or emergency. FEMA intends to pursue the development of TTHU Group Sites on previously undeveloped land or undeveloped lots for DR-4611-LA.

Providing housing resources for survivors of Hurricane Ida is a priority of FEMA's recovery mission. As of March 22, 2022, FEMA estimates that approximately 344 households will require direct temporary housing assistance in St. Charles Parish. While private sites should supply 122 MHU units, there remains a need for 222 additional MHU units.

While the Direct Housing Task Force is also actively soliciting properties for Direct Lease and MLR, FEMA anticipates very few properties will be available. The low number of feasible private and commercial sites, MLR, and Direct Lease properties, is insufficient to meet the need for direct temporary housing in St. Charles Parish. The decision to develop Group Sites is made only after all other housing solutions have been exhausted and the housing needs remain. The development of the Brian Bent Site would alleviate the need for approximately 47 housing units in St. Charles Parish.

### **3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

In order to meet the urgent needs of disaster survivors requiring temporary housing, FEMA has implemented an expedited environmental review process. The purpose of this document is to assist FEMA in fulfilling its environmental review responsibilities under NEPA and to serve as a vehicle to document compliance under other applicable environmental and historic laws and orders. Laws and orders addressed through this EA include: the Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act (CWA); Endangered Species Act; National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management); EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands); EO 12898 (Environmental Justice); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); and Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA). Agency coordination/consultation is being conducted on a site-by-site basis as necessary.

The scope of FEMA's environmental review includes evaluating project alternatives, characterizing the affected environment, identifying potential environmental impacts, and outlining ways to avoid, reduce or minimize adverse effects. This EA examines the site-specific environmental impacts associated with constructing a proposed FEMA group-housing site on private or publicly owned land to be leased by the General Services Administration (GSA) for this purpose. This EA was prepared based on a site evaluation, document research, and resource agency information.

## **4.0 SITE SELECTION PROCESS AND ALTERNATIVES**

NEPA requires investigation and evaluation of reasonable project alternatives as part of the project environmental review process. At a minimum, FEMA's NEPA implementing regulations require that the No Action and Proposed Action be evaluated. In order to expedite the group housing site selection process, FEMA is working closely with local officials and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to identify potential sites, followed by site reconnaissance and research to determine site suitability. Important factors considered in choosing a site include: demand for temporary housing in that area, group acceptance, proximity of group services/amenities (schools, healthcare facilities, public transportation, etc.), engineering and construction feasibility, access to utilities, land use compatibilities, property owner terms, costs to develop and maintain the site, and environmental/cultural resource sensitivities. FEMA will continue to evaluate alternative sites in St. Charles Parish. The Brian Bent Group Site was selected for further detailed analysis because it meets the basic site feasibility and selection criteria.

### ***Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative***

Under the No Action Alternative, FEMA would not develop a temporary group housing site at this location. Displaced residents would continue to stay with relatives/friends, in hotels, or in other temporary locations until they resolve their own long-term housing needs. This alternative may jeopardize public health, safety, and well-being and does not meet the purpose and need, but will continue to be evaluated throughout this EA and serve as a baseline comparison of impacts from other action alternatives. The future environmental condition of the site would be at the discretion of the property owner.

### ***Alternative 2 – Develop the Brian Bent Group Site with MHUs (Proposed Action)***

The Proposed Action would provide temporary housing for eligible disaster survivors displaced by flooding. Disaster survivors would be temporarily relocated to the site with an expected occupancy up to 18 months (which includes a site deactivation period) while they resolve their permanent housing needs. This alternative would assist in fulfilling FEMA's mandate under the Individuals and Households Program (IHP) to expeditiously provide temporary housing for eligible disaster survivors. This alternative would also address the proposed project's purpose and need as it satisfies the housing needs for those survivors for whom other types of direct housing options are not available.

## **4.1 Project Site and Location Description**

The project site is located at 14600 US Highway 90 West, Boutte, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana (Latitude: 29.882132, Longitude: -90.428154). Figure 1 is an aerial photo depicting the boundaries of the project site and adjacent area. The site is located north of Highway 90, south of a residential neighborhood on Cajun Paradise Road, west of an RV sales center, and east of Xpert Power Equipment. The site is approximately 10.65 acres and zoned entirely as commercial land. The majority of the site would be developed for group housing. The site is accessible in three locations, on the southern boundary by a culverted bridge off of Highway 90, in the southwestern corner by a dirt road, and on the eastern boundary through the neighboring RV sales center. The site is

currently a fenced-in vacant lot, consisting mostly of flat grass with a southern perimeter drainage ditch.

Approximately 47 mobile home units (MHUs) would be placed in the proposed footprint to be used as temporary group site housing and would be located in the 100-year floodplain(AE Zone).

#### **4.2 Proposed Action Description**

The Proposed Action would utilize the project site and design to contract for the construction of approximately 47 manufactured housing unit pads, green space, and all necessary support facilities (Figure 2). These pads would be used for the placement of MHUs to house displaced families.

The development of the site would require the installation of utilities on the site; gravel for the roads, trailer pads and resident parking; concrete for disabled and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant parking areas; site lighting; and a perimeter fence around the property. The exact depth of excavation and grading would likely not exceed 3.5 feet for utility trenching and no more than 6 feet for sewage infrastructure.

The following specific site development components would be included with this project:

- Site preparation would include clearing, grading, and removal of woody vegetation and debris.
- Fire hydrants are near the site and power is available.
- Infrastructure for water and electrical services exist off Highway 90 but would have to be extended onto the site.
- Infrastructure for sewer would consist of a packaged sewage treatment plant on site with a forced main for waste water discharge.
- New lines and fire hydrants, as required, would be installed on the property.
- Storm water drainage has been already developed within the site.
- Site features include approximately 15% of the units meeting Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard (UFAS), and 100% of on-site essential services/facilities (such as mailbox kiosk) would be UFAS compatible.
- Erosion control would be established during the construction period and a perimeter fence would be constructed around the project site.



FEMA would operate and maintain the site during the term of occupancy. When the temporary housing need has ended, MHUs would be hauled from the site and returned to a FEMA storage facility. The project site would be reasonably restored to its previous condition and then seeded or left per the lease terms with the landowner.

## **5.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

This section is organized by individual resources. It includes a description of the existing conditions at the project area and provides an analysis of potential environmental impacts for each alternative. Impacts to the following resources as a result of the Proposed Action were found to be discountable and are not evaluated further in this EA: geology, seismicity, air quality, climate change, wildlife and fish, noise, public service and utilities, and public health and safety. Where potential impacts exist, conditions or mitigation measures to offset these impacts are detailed. Table 3 summarizes the results of the environmental review process. No safety issues were identified on the project site.

### **5.1 Soils**

In 1981 Congress passed the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (P.L. 97-98) containing Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) subtitle I of Title XV, Section 1539-1549. The final rules and regulations were published in the Federal Register on June 17, 1994. The FPPA is intended to minimize the impact Federal programs have on the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. It ensures that to the extent possible, Federal programs are administered to be compatible with state and local units of government, as well as private programs and policies to protect farmland. The FPPA does not authorize the federal government to regulate the use of private or non-federal land or in any way affect the property rights of owners. As detailed in the FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements does not have to be currently used for cropland. It can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land, but not water or urban built-up land.

The USDA soil survey map accessed on February 28, 2022, shows that there is only one (1) type of soil present on the site, Schriever clay, which is not considered a prime farmland soil.

#### ***Alternative 1- No Action Alternative***

The No Action Alternative would not entail any construction activities; therefore, no adverse impacts to soils would occur as a result of no federal actions.

#### ***Alternative 2 - Develop the Brian Bent Group Site with MHUs (Proposed Action)***

No adverse impacts to farmland would occur as there are no prime farmland soils within the project boundary.

## **5.2 Water Resources**

This section provides an overview of the affected area and potential environmental effects of the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives on water resources, including water quality, streams, wetlands, and floodplains.

### **5.2.1 Water Quality**

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires state certification of all Federal licenses and permits in which there is a “discharge of fill material into navigable waters.” The certification process is used to determine whether an activity, as described in the Federal license or permit, would impact established site-specific water quality standards. A water quality certification from the issuing state, the LDEQ in this case, is required prior to the issuance of the relevant Federal license or permit. The most common Federal license or permit requiring certification is the USACE CWA Section 404 permit.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) was created by Section 402 of the CWA. This program authorizes the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue permits for the point-source discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States (U.S.) Through a 2004 Memorandum of Agreement, the EPA delegated its permit program for the State of Louisiana to LDEQ. The ensuing Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) program authorizes individual permits, general permits, storm water permits, and pretreatment activities that result in discharges to jurisdictional waters of the state.

#### **Impaired Waterbodies**

Impaired waterbodies and streams are on the Louisiana CWA 303(d) list and are required to develop a total maximum daily load (TMDL). TMDLs are maximum amounts of pollutants that can be released in a waterbody or stream without causing the water to become impaired (violate state water quality standards). TMDLs for Non-Native Aquatic Plants and Turbidity have been established for Bayou Gauche, which flows into Bayou Des Allemands. TMDL requirements are established in NPDES permits and through Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs are types of activities that are created to control or minimize pollutants from an area to water bodies of the state.

#### ***Alternative 1- No Action Alternative***

The No Action Alternative would have no impact on water quality as a result of no federal actions.

#### ***Alternative 2 - Develop the Brian Bent Group Site with MHUs (Proposed Action)***

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, impacts to water quality, if any, would be minor. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented during site development to minimize sediment migration from the site into nearby water bodies. Surface runoff will be controlled by using siltation controls such as silt fencing around the construction site to minimize erosion of materials into adjacent wetlands and/or waterways. Any disturbed soil will be protected

with seed or sod after construction in order to decrease the amount of soil eroded by rainfall and runoff. Any fill stored on site will be appropriately covered to prevent erosion.

Discharge of gray water will be made directly into a force main pipe placed by horizontal directional drilling under Highway 90, which is the southeastern boundary of the property, and would flow into a drainage ditch that feeds into Paradis Canal and ultimately into Bayou Gauche.

The facility will be required to obtain all permits required for the discharge of sanitary wastewater. Based on the levels of permitting, the maximum level of discharge would not exceed 25,000 gallons per day.

In accordance with Section 401 and 402 of the CWA and the Louisiana Clean Water Code, coverage under the LPDES Storm Water General Permit for Large Construction Activities (greater than 5 acres) will be obtained for Brian Bent Group Housing Site construction activities. Coverage under the LPDES Storm Water General Permit for Large Construction Activities will implement a SWPPP that will meet the requirements of approved TMDLs for Paradis Canal.

Contractors shall comply with state and federal regulations for the point source pollutants created by packaging plants into surface water to also include existing streams.

The Brian Bent Group Housing Site is located within 5 miles of Bayou Gauche, impaired waters which are waterbodies or streams that are too polluted or otherwise degraded to meet the water quality standards set by states, territories, or authorized tribes. These actions would prevent any degradation of water quality from the construction and operational discharges. The Proposed Action Alternative would have no significant impacts to water quality in the area of the site.

### **5.2.2 Wetlands**

The CWA and EO 11990 define wetlands as “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

#### ***Alternative 1- No Action Alternative***

The No Action Alternative would have no impact on wetlands or other waters of the U.S. and would not require permits under Section 404 of the CWA.

#### ***Alternative 2 - Develop the Brian Bent Group Site with MHUs (Proposed Action)***

The proposed group housing site contains 7.34 acres of permitted and filled wetlands adjacent to a mobile home sales center in St. Charles Parish. According to a google earth search conducted on February 8, 2022 and the Site Visit Record dated November 15, 2021, the proposed group housing site is filled with crushed shell/gravel and topped with opportunistic grasses. The site is mowed and

a culverted entrance road allows access to Highway 90. Wetlands are adjacent to the northern side of the property. Xpert Power Equipment yard borders the western side of the property.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District, confirms that the proposed work is in uplands and not subject to jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act by letter dated February 1, 2022 (see Attachment 1). Contingent on final site plans, a Department of the Army permit will not be required for the proposed work. In addition, based on the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map accessed on February 9, 2022, available online at (<https://fws.gov/wetlands/>), wetlands are identified in the project area but they are legally filled per Permit #MVN2006-3762EMM executed April 11, 2013. Wetlands will not be impacted by the proposed action.

### **5.2.3 Ground Water**

A Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) is an underground water source that has been designated by the EPA as the sole or principal source of drinking water for an area. By definition, SSA is an aquifer that supplies at least 50% of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer.

The SSA Program is authorized by Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) of 1974. Designation of an aquifer as a SSA provides EPA with the authority to review federal financially assisted projects planned for the area to determine their potential for contaminating the aquifer. This provides essential groundwater protection to ensure the storage, handling, or use of fertilizers, pesticides, or hazardous products do not pollute an SSA.

Federally funded projects reviewed by EPA under the SSA Program may include, but are not limited to, highway improvements and new road construction, public water supply wells, transmission lines, wastewater treatment facilities, construction projects involving disposal of storm water, and agricultural projects involving management of animal waste.

#### ***Alternative 1- No Action Alternative***

No impacts to groundwater would occur as a result of no federal actions.

#### ***Alternative 2 - Develop the Brian Bent Group Site with MHUs (Proposed Action)***

A review of the website <https://www.epa.gov/dwssa/map-sole-source-aquifer-locations> with plot coordinates for the Brian Bent Group Site, on February 28, 2022, revealed that there are no identified sole source aquifers on this site.

The primary sources of groundwater in St. Charles Parish include the Mississippi River alluvial aquifer system and underlying Gramercy aquifer. The Mississippi River alluvial aquifer contains saltwater throughout St. Charles Parish. It is composed of fine to medium sand at the top of the aquifer, which grades to coarse sand and gravel in the lower part. Overlying the alluvial aquifer is a clayey surface. The base of the aquifer ranges from 50 to 450 feet. The aquifer discharges into rivers, canals, and lakes, and is also withdrawn by wells. The aquifer receives recharge from the

Mississippi River on a seasonal basis and is also recharged by infiltration of rainfall, as well as vertical leakage from the underlying Gramercy aquifer. Recharge to the Gramercy aquifer is primarily from rainfall, but it also receives leakage from the overlying Mississippi River alluvial aquifer.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, construction activities are not anticipated to directly impact groundwater. The exact depth of excavation and grading at the Brian Bent Group Site is unknown, but would likely not exceed 3.5 feet for utility trenching. Otherwise, excavation will be limited to the least extent necessary to facilitate construction and to comply with building code requirements. This depth for utilities is relatively shallow and unlikely to impact ground water resources. Possible sources of groundwater contamination associated with site construction and Group Site operations would be mitigated by appropriate BMPs. See Section 7 for BMPs.

#### **5.2.4 Floodplains**

EO 11988, Floodplain Management, requires Federal agencies to avoid to the extent possible the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative. FEMA's regulations for complying with EO 11988 are found at 44 CFR Part 9, Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

##### ***Alternative 1- No Action Alternative***

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no short- or long-term impacts to floodplains as a result of no federal actions.

##### ***Alternative 2 - Develop the Brian Bent Group Site with MHUs (Proposed Action)***

Currently, there are 48 group site locations in St. Charles that have undergone a review. It has been determined that 44 of these are not practicable, either being actively used, located in a wetland, not practicable in terms of cost, or the owner(s) is not interested in leasing the property to FEMA. FEMA is continuing with the NEPA review process for the other 4 sites which the majority are located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

FEMA has applied the 8-step process found in 44 CFR Part 9 and determined that there is no practicable alternative to building in the floodplain in St. Charles Parish (see Attachment 2). Sites with shallower Base Flood Elevation (BFE) depths will be pursued for development before moving to sites with progressively deeper BFE depths. BFE is the elevation of surface water resulting from a flood that has a 1% chance of equaling or exceeding that level in any given year.

For the Brian Bent Group Site, the proposed project would satisfy 47 MHUs out of the 222 needed units for St Charles Parish. Based on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel number 22089C0145D (see Figure 3), with an effective date of November 9, 2012, accessed on February 28, 2022, at (<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>), the entire approximate 10.65-acre project site is located in an AE Zone, which is within the special flood hazard area (SFHA). An AE zone is an area having special flood, mudflow or flood-related erosion hazards and shown on a FIRM.

To mitigate environmental, safety, and health risks to the occupants and the floodplain, MHUs will be elevated to the maximum height practicable. Coordination with the local floodplain administrator will occur prior to placement. Occupants will be provided with flood hazard safety protocols and included in local emergency evacuation plans.

BMPs will be implemented during site development to minimize sediment migration from the site into nearby water bodies. Surface runoff will be controlled by using siltation controls such as silt fencing around the construction site to minimize erosion of materials into adjacent wetlands and/or waterways. Any disturbed open soil will be protected with seed or sod after construction in order to decrease the amount of soil eroded by rainfall and runoff. Any fill temporarily stored on site will be appropriately covered to prevent erosion.

FEMA has determined that constructing the Brian Bent Group Site in the AE Zone would result in minimal impacts to and within floodplains provided certain BMPs are followed (see Section 7.0 Mitigation and Attachment 2). In addition, MHUs are temporary housing solutions that are not anticipated to remain in place beyond 18 months.

### **5.3 Coastal Zone Management**

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) (P.L. 92-583, as amended; 16 U.S.C. Section 1451-1464) encourages the management of coastal zone areas and provides grants to be used in maintaining these areas. It requires that Federal agencies be consistent in enforcing the policies of state coastal zone management programs when conducting or supporting activities that affect a coastal zone. This is intended to ensure that Federal activities are consistent with state programs for the protection and, where possible, enhancement of the nation's coastal zones. The Act's definition of a coastal zone includes coastal waters extending to the outer limit of state submerged land title and ownership, adjacent shorelines, and land extending inward to the extent necessary to control shorelines. A coastal zone includes islands, beaches, transitional and intertidal areas, and salt marshes.

The CZMA requires that coastal states develop a State Coastal Zone Management Plan or program and that any Federal agency conducting or supporting activities affecting the coastal zone conduct or support those activities in a manner consistent with the approved state plan or program. To comply with the CZMA, a Federal agency must identify activities that would affect the coastal zone, including development projects, and must review the State Coastal Zone Management Plan to determine whether a proposed activity would be consistent with the plan.

Pursuant to the CZMA, the State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act of 1978 (LA Revised Statute [R.S.] 49:214:21 et seq. Act 1978, No. 361) is the state of Louisiana's legislation creating the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program (LCRP). The LCRP establishes policy for activities including construction in the coastal zone, defines and updates the coastal zone boundary, and creates regulatory processes. The LCRP is under the authority of the LDNR Office of Coastal Management (OCM). If a proposed action is within the coastal zone boundary, OCM will review the eligibility of the project prior to its review from other Federal agencies (USACE, USFWS, and National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]). The mechanism used to review these projects is the Coastal Use Permit (CUP). Per the CZMA, all proposed Federal projects within the coastal zone

must undergo a “Consistency Determination” by OCM for that project’s consistency with the state’s Coastal Resource Program (i.e., LCRP).

### ***Alternative 1- No Action Alternative***

The No Action Alternative would entail no activity and, therefore, would have no impact on the coastal zone as a result of no federal actions.

### ***Alternative 2 - Develop the Brian Bent Group Site with MHUs (Proposed Action)***

The Proposed Action Alternative would involve construction in a designated coastal zone. The Office of Coastal Management (OCM) determined in a letter dated September 28, 2012, that all Federal financial assistance (emergency or not) is fully consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. FEMA submitted a Consistency Determination letter to the OCM dated September 29, 2021, that indicated project(s) in the following Individual Assistance (IA) designated parishes: Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, and Terrebonne Parish will not affect any coastal uses or resources in accordance with 15 CFR 930.36. In a OCM response letter (See Attachment 3) dated September 29, 2021 (Consistency number C20210142), the OCM concurred with FEMA’s negative determination, as described by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regulations on federal consistency at 15 CFR Part 930.

## **5.4 Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat**

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 directs Federal agencies to utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of the Act by carrying out programs for the conservation of listed species or designated critical habitats. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the U.S. National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are the agencies referred to as the “Services” that regulate compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) governs fisheries management for up to 200 miles offshore (the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone). The NMFS is a part of NOAA and is responsible for implementing the MSA to ensure that U.S. fisheries comply with a wide range of conservation and management requirements.

Migratory birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). Any activity that results in the take of migratory birds or eagles is prohibited unless authorized by the USFWS. There are no provisions for allowing the take of migratory birds that are unintentionally killed or injured. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in the take of migratory birds is responsible in complying with the appropriate regulations and implementing appropriate conservation measures.

**Table 1: Federally Listed Species Known to Occur in St. Charles Parish**

Common Name (Scientific Name)	Federal Status	Parish	Habitat	Potential to Occur within Project Area
West Indian Manatee ( <i>Trichechus manatus</i> )	Threatened	Lafourche Livingston Plaquemines St. Charles St. James St. John the Baptist Tangipahoa Terrebonne	Found in marine, estuarine, and freshwater environments with a strong preference for warm and well-vegetated waters.	No; there is no suitable habitat present within the project area.

***Alternative 1- No Action Alternative***

Under the No Action Alternative, no project would be constructed; therefore, no impacts on species federally listed as threatened or endangered, or federally listed critical habitats would occur as a result of no federal actions.

***Alternative 2 - Develop the Brian Bent Group Site with MHUs (Proposed Action)***

There is one (1) Federally listed threatened species, the West Indian Manatee, with the potential to occur in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana (See Table 1); however, this species does not have the potential to occur within the Brian Bent Group Site project area. Per USFWS Information for Per USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website, there are no critical habitat for thhabitat in the project area.

Inspection of the proposed site did not indicate the presence of any species federally listed as threatened or endangered. The USFWS’s IPaC website (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>), accessed on February 28, 2022, was reviewed for a list of threatened and endangered species in the project area.

A search of the USFWS Critical Habitat online mapper and ArcGIS Map on February 28, 2022 resulted in a finding of no designated critical habitats in the project area. The following webpages were reviewed for critical habitats in the project area:

- <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html>
- <https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

Based on the scope of work and lack of suitable habitat at the project site, FEMA has made the determination that the Proposed Action Alternative would have no effect on federally listed species listed as threatened or endangered and would have no effect on critical habitat.

**5.5 Cultural Resources**

The consideration of impacts to historic and cultural resources is mandated under Section 101(b)(4) of NEPA as implemented by 40 CFR Parts 1501-1508. Consideration of effects to historic properties as a result of Federal Undertakings is also mandated by Section 106 of the



National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as implemented by 36 CFR Part 800. Direct Temporary Housing Assistance in the form of constructing TTHU Group Sites meets the definition of a Federal Undertaking. Accordingly, FEMA is conducting Section 106 review for the Undertaking in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement (PA) among FEMA, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), and Participating Tribes, executed on December 21, 2016, as amended.

### ***Alternative 1- No Action Alternative***

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to historic and cultural resources as a result of no federal actions.

### ***Alternative 2 - Develop the Brian Bent Group Site with MHUs (Proposed Action)***

During the week of February 28, 2022, FEMA Historic Preservation Specialists consulted the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development's Cultural Resources National Register database, the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map and associated site files (Louisiana Division of Archaeology website), the US Department of Agriculture Web Soil Survey maps (USDA Website), various digital archival resources, photos, historic maps, and FEMA's internal files in order to identify the presence of historic properties.

The proposed Undertaking's footprint is not located within any districts that are listed in or that have been previously determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), nor are there any recorded, eligible archaeological sites within the boundaries of the project site. The nearest archaeological site is 2.2 miles north from the project area. The scope of work has been reviewed and meets the criteria in the PA, Appendix B - Programmatic Allowances, Tier II.A.5.a., b and II.D.1.a., b., d. In accordance with this PA, EMA is not required to determine the NRHP eligibility of properties where work performed meets the Appendix B criteria. As such, FEMA has documented this determination in the project files, and considers the Undertaking Section 106 compliant without SHPO or tribal review or notification.

FEMA conditions its approval of the group site on the following:

*If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered, the Contractor shall stop all work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The Contractor shall inform their Individual Assistance (IA) contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation staff. The Contractor will not proceed with work until FEMA completes consultation with the SHPO and others, as appropriate.*

## **5.6 Socioeconomic Resources**

The project site is located in St Charles Parish, Louisiana. According to the United States Census Bureau (USCB), the population as of April 2020, was 52,5497 with a total of 21,000 households.

The median household income was estimated at approximately \$69,019 (in 2019 dollars). According to the 2019 USCB Estimates, approximately 12.2% of population lives below poverty levels.

The population within St Charles Parish, Louisiana, is comprised of about 70.2% Caucasian, 26.5% African American, 1.1% Asian, 6.4% Hispanic, 0.4% American Indian and Alaska Native alone, 0.1% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, and 2.0% Two or More Races. The demographic makeup of the group site residents is expected to be similar to the community as a whole (Table 2).

**Table 2: Project Population Data<sup>4</sup>**

Area	Population <sup>1</sup>	White (Caucasian) Alone	Black or African American Alone	Asian Alone	Hispanic or Latino	American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	Two or More Races	Poverty Rate <sup>2</sup>	Households	Median Household Income <sup>3</sup>
St Charles Parish	52,549	70.2%	26.5%	1.1%	6.4%	0.4%	0.1%	1.7%	11.3%	21,000	\$69,019
Louisiana	4,624,047	62.8%	32.8%	1.8%	5.3%	0.8%	0.1%	1.8%	17.8%	1,739,497	\$49,469

<sup>1</sup> USCB ACS, Vintage 2020 Population Estimates, July 1, 2021

<sup>2</sup> USCB 2019 ACS, 1-year estimates. Estimates are not comparable to other geographic levels of poverty estimates.

<sup>3</sup> USCB ACS, Median Household Income (in 2019 dollars) and Households, 2015-2019

<sup>4</sup> Data Source, USCB 2021 American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year estimates. Estimates are not comparable to other geographic levels due to methodology differences that may exist between different data sources

### **5.6.1 Environmental Justice**

EO 12898, entitled “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations,” was signed on February 11, 1994. The EO directs Federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high adverse human health, environmental, economic, and social effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and/or low-income populations.

#### ***Alternative 1- No Action Alternative***

The No Action Alternative would preclude the federal government from adequately addressing the urgency of providing temporary and transient emergency housing. Consequently, displaced disaster survivors would have to remain in the temporary housing they have acquired through their own resources and possibly far from their original home. The recovery of flood survivors and their communities would be further compounded by fewer housing options. They would continue to suffer social and economic stresses related to the disaster recovery.

#### ***Alternative 2 - Develop the Brian Bent Group Site with MHUs (Proposed Action)***

The availability of federal assistance, including temporary housing for displaced individuals, is consistent with EO 12898. All forms of FEMA disaster housing assistance are available to any affected household that meets the conditions of eligibility. This group-housing site is a temporary housing solution. Therefore, long-term adverse effects to minority and/or low-income populations would not be expected.

The availability of temporary housing would result in a positive impact to displaced individuals, regardless of whether they are minority and/or low income. Therefore, the Proposed Action would not pose disproportionately high and adverse public health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

The Proposed Action would utilize the project site and design to contract for the construction of approximately 47 manufactured housing unit pads and all necessary support facilities. The potential site residents would be from areas within the parish which have been impacted by the flooding. The local community is aware of this action and may experience a slight localized increase in the need for public services, such as schools, fire and police services, childcare, and medical services. However, the overall demand for public and commercial services is not expected to be greater than the pre-disaster demand and potential impacts are expected to be minimal.

### **5.7 Hazardous Materials**

The management of hazardous materials is regulated under various Federal and state environmental and transportation laws and regulations, including but not limited to RCRA; CERCLA; the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know provisions of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (EPCRA); the

Hazardous Materials Transportation Act (HMTA); and the Louisiana Voluntary Investigation and Remedial Action statute.

The purpose of the regulatory requirements set forth under these laws is to ensure the protection of human health and the environment through proper management (identification, use, storage, treatment, transport, and disposal) of these materials. Some of the laws provide for the investigation and cleanup of sites already contaminated by releases of hazardous materials, wastes, or substances.

#### ***Alternative 1- No Action Alternative***

No impacts from hazardous materials are expected as a result of no federal actions.

#### ***Alternative 2 - Develop the Brian Bent Group Site with MHUs (Proposed Action)***

Based on the final review of the Environmental Data Resources (EDR) Reports on February 2, 2022, there are no anticipated impacts from existing hazardous materials and hazardous substances. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project, petroleum products, hazardous materials, and toxic waste will be handled, managed, and disposed of in accordance with the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state, and federal agencies.

The management of hazardous materials is regulated under various Federal and state environmental and transportation laws and regulations, including but not limited to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); CERCLA; the Toxic Substances Control Act; the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know provisions of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act; the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act; and the Louisiana Voluntary Investigation and Remedial Action statute. The purpose of the regulatory requirements set forth under these laws is to ensure the protection of human health and the environment through proper management (identification, use, storage, treatment, transport, and disposal) of these materials. Some of the laws provide for the investigation and cleanup of sites already contaminated by releases of hazardous materials, wastes, or substances.

Upon review of the EDR Report dated February, 2, 2022, it has revealed there is one RCRA-Very Small Quantity Generator site within approximately 0.25 miles of the target property. Based on the review of records including the EDR Radius Report, there is no evidence of past or existing releases or any material threat of release of hazardous substances or petroleum products on the target property.

## **5.8 Traffic and Transportation**

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD) is responsible for maintaining public transportation, state highways, interstate highways under State jurisdiction, and bridges located within the State of Louisiana. These duties include the planning, design, and building of new highways in addition to the maintenance and upgrading of current highways.

Roads not part of any highway system usually fall under the jurisdiction of and are maintained by applicable local government entities; however, the LDOTD is responsible for ensuring all local agency Federal-aid projects comply with all applicable Federal and state requirements.

The project area is adjacent to Highway 90, a high traffic road, and south of Old Spanish Trail. Highway 90 connects to Highway 310 to the north and continues to the south.

### ***Alternative 1- No Action Alternative***

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would not adversely affect the site traffic patterns, as no construction or other activities that would impact traffic would occur as a result of no federal actions.

### ***Alternative 2 - Develop the Brian Bent Group Site with MHUs (Proposed Action)***

Under the Proposed Action, a temporary increase in construction-related traffic during the group site construction would occur. Impacts related to these construction activities would be minor and temporary. This site has been approved by the Parish for this temporary housing use.

All reasonable precautions to control site access will be taken during construction. All activities would be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) work zone traffic safety requirements. The appropriate signage will be posted and fencing installed to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns. Appropriate signage and barriers will be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes. Traffic impacts from construction activities would be considered minor. The LDOTD and Parish will be coordinated with in the planning and construction of this group site, to establish appropriate traffic safety measures and management protocols for the area.

## **6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

Public involvement is being performed in compliance with the NEPA, FEMA's Instruction 108-1-1 for implementing NEPA, and EOs 12898, 11988, and 11990. FEMA prepared a public notice for public comment and public review for the Draft EA. FEMA requested and confirmed the posting of the notice on the websites of GOHSEP, St. Charles Parish, and St. Charles Parish Public Library. This Draft EA is available here: [Brian Bent \(SC-02\) Draft Environmental Assessment](#).

The original public comment period was limited to three (3) days from April 1, 2022 through April 3, 2022 at 5pm CST (Central Standard Time). FEMA re-issued the public notice to April 6<sup>th</sup> at 5pm CST due to technical difficulties. The comment period was limited due to the emergency

nature of this action and the need to provide temporary housing solutions for survivors of Hurricane Ida.

As a result of FEMA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment public comment period for the Brian Bent Temporary Group Housing site in St. Charles Parish, FEMA received 16 comments from a total 6 public citizens during the open public comment period. A large majority of these comments were non-substantive and expressed concerns that were already addressed in the Environmental Assessment. The concerns raised involved how the local community resources and traffic will be impacted with the influx of 47 additional housing units, the presence of a local ordinance prohibiting new construction of trailer parks, and whether the site would have adequate drainage.

FEMA has verified that the majority of the applicants that will reside within this group site are residents of the immediate area and therefore should not have a significant increase and possible stress on the local police, public transportation, and/or traffic and safety concerns. In addition, it will not add a significant demand to local emergency services. The Parish is in the process of changing their ordinances around emergency temporary housing to allow provisions for MHUs as a "Special Use" condition. Land that is not zoned R1M will not be used for group sites until they can obtain special use permits. Moreover, all construction will be completed in accordance with Federal, State and local laws and ordinances to include any changes to culverts and drainage ditches. FEMA will continue to maintain them in accordance with the applicable laws and ordinances.

## **7.0 MITIGATION**

Construction of the Proposed Action was analyzed based on the studies, consultations, and reviews undertaken as reported in this EA. The findings of this EA conclude that no significant adverse impacts on human, natural and cultural resources are anticipated from the Proposed Action. FEMA has determined no practicable alternative to placement of units in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). During project construction, short-term impacts on air quality and noise are anticipated and conditions have been incorporated to mitigate and minimize these effects. Project short-term adverse impacts would be mitigated using Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as proper vehicle and equipment maintenance, and appropriate signage. Furthermore, given the Proposed Action is temporary (up to 18 months), no long-term adverse impacts are anticipated from the proposed project.

The following conditions must be met as part of this project:

1. Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other Laws and Executive Orders.
2. This review does not address all federal, state, and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding the requires recipient (i.e., State) 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.

3. Coordination with the local floodplain administrator must occur prior to MHU placement. 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.
4. Compliance with State Regulations: Placement of MHUs or other readily fabricated dwellings must be in accordance and in compliance with Louisiana regulations.
5. Local Permitting and Codes: Any FEMA units will be installed in compliance with applicable local codes, ordinances and permitting requirements. Any contracted logistics installation entities (installers) for TTHU placement will secure all pertinent Federal, state, and local permits and approvals before work.
6. Health and Safety: Before unit occupancy, the responsible program, will provide applicants with a Health and Safety Advisory regarding the flood hazard, local emergency evacuation plans, right-of-entry during an emergency, and possible unit haul off.
7. The responsible program will ensure the local emergency manager has information regarding location of TTHU occupants and potential special needs, to integrate into local emergency plans.
8. Appropriate best management practices will be implemented during site development to minimize sediment migration from the site into nearby water bodies. Surface runoff will be controlled by using siltation controls such as silt fencing around the construction site to minimize erosion of materials into adjacent wetlands and/or waterways. Any disturbed soil will be protected with seed or sod after construction in order to decrease the amount of soil eroded by rainfall and runoff. Any fill stored on site will be appropriately covered to prevent erosion.
9. The Contractor shall comply with all requirements for a point source discharge to waters of the State. A Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit may be required in accordance with the Section 401 and 402 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Louisiana Clean Water Code.
10. The Contractor shall comply with the requirements of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) to observe precautions to control non-point source pollution, reduce erosion, and develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and implement the required conditions.
11. During the decommissioning of the Brian Bent Group Site at the conclusion of the temporary group housing mission, all infrastructure will be removed. This includes all subsurface and above ground installations such as underground piping for water and sewer, electrical installations like poles and wiring, fencing, lighting, and all gravel laid for pads and access roads. A FEMA contractor will complete the deactivation and restoration of the site. The site will be reverted 100 percent back to a field, exactly as it was prior to the temporary housing development.
12. If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered, the Contractor shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The Contractor shall inform their Individual Assistance (IA) contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation (HP) staff. The

Contractor will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO, and others as appropriate.

13. Unusable equipment, debris and material will be disposed of prior to occupancy in an approved manner and location.
14. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project, petroleum products, hazardous materials, and toxic waste will be handled, managed, and disposed of in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state, and federal agencies. Construction activities with elevated noise levels will be limited from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M, unless otherwise approved by the Parish. Equipment and machinery used during construction will meet all local, State, and Federal noise regulations. Construction activities with elevated noise levels will be limited from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M, unless otherwise approved by the Parish. Equipment and machinery used during construction will meet all local, State, and federal noise regulations.
15. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LDOTD) and Parish will be coordinated with in the planning and construction of this group site, to establish appropriate traffic safety measures and management protocols for the area.
16. The appropriate signage must be posted and fencing installed to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns. Appropriate signage and barriers will be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes.
17. Once the temporary housing need has ended, FEMA expects that all mobile housing units (MHUs) would be hauled from the site in accordance with Section 408(d)(2) of the Stafford Act and returned to a FEMA storage facility. Furthermore, the project site would be either reasonably restored to its previous condition and then seeded or left with the site improvements per the lease terms negotiated between the General Services Administration (GSA) and the landowner.
18. MHUs shall comply with 24 C.F.R. Part 3280 Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards (“Department of Housing and Urban Development [HUD] code”).
19. Work will comply with all conditions of U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits, if required.
20. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. 9.13(d) (4) (i), MHUs placed in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) must be elevated to the fullest extent practicable up to the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) and adequately anchored.



## **8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS**

EA Preparer(s):

- Kristen Briseno, Environmental Floodplain Specialist, FEMA
- Nicholas Moore, Historic Preservation Specialist
- John Hatch, Historic Preservation Specialist, FEMA
- Michael Bell, Environmental Protection Specialist, USACE
- Ronald Love, Environmental Protection Specialist, USACE

Field Team:

- Christopher Klein, USACE

Reviewers:

- Charles Barrowclough, Environmental Protection Specialist, FEMA
- Byron Flournoy, Environmental Protection Specialist, FEMA

Deputy Housing EHP Advisor (EHAD):

- Adam Borden, IM-CORE EHP Advisor, Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation

**Table 3: Summary Table—Affected Environment, Impacts, and Mitigation**

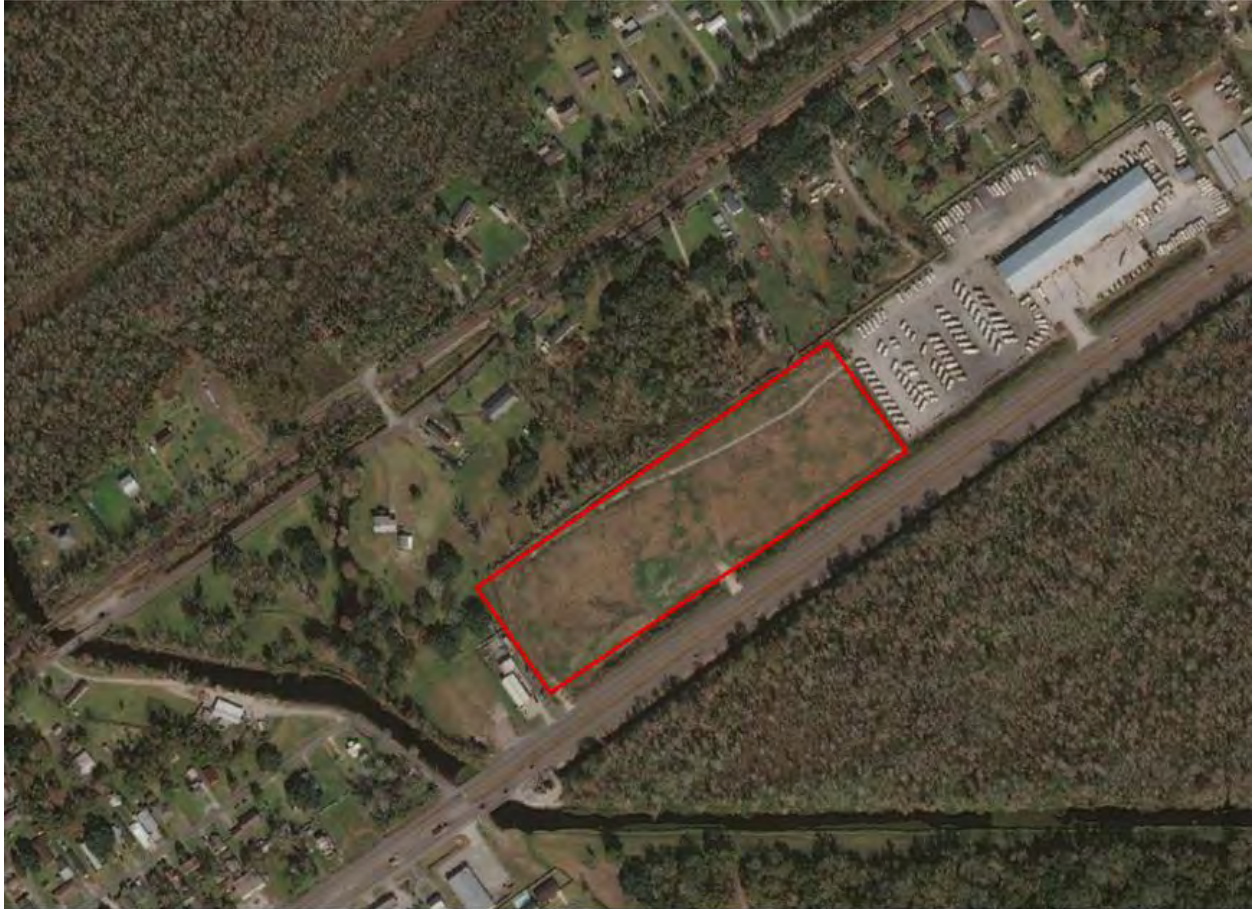
<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>Alternative 1- No Action Alternative</b>	<b>Alternative 2 - Proposed Action: Develop the Group Site with MHUs</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Agency Coordination/ Permits</b>
Soils	No change from current conditions.	None (0) of the soils at the Brian Bent site are considered prime farmland and is therefore exempt from the Farmland Protection Policy Act.	No mitigation required	No agency coordination
Water Quality	No change from current conditions.	There is potential for localized increase in sedimentation as a result of site preparation activities. Potential impact to water quality in downstream swales, ditches, and streams (e.g., turbidity, siltation, biological oxygen demand).	Appropriate BMPs will be implemented during site development to minimize sediment migration from the site into nearby water bodies. Surface runoff will be controlled by using siltation controls such as silt fencing around the construction site to minimize erosion of materials into adjacent wetlands and/or waterways. Any disturbed soil will be protected with seed or sod after construction in order to decrease the amount of soil eroded by rainfall and runoff. Any fill stored on site will be appropriately covered to prevent erosion. If the project results in a discharge to waters of the State, a Louisiana Pollution Elimination System (LPDES) permit may be required in accordance with the Section 401 of the CWA and the Louisiana Clean Water Code.	LDEQ may require a LPDES permit in accordance with the Sections 401 and 402 of the CWA and the Louisiana Clean Water Code.

Wetlands	No change from current conditions.	Wetlands will not be impacted by the proposed action. Wetlands are identified in the project area but they are legally filled.	No MHUs will be installed on the Project site where wetlands occur.	USACE
Floodplains	No change from current conditions.	MHUs would be installed within the 100-year floodplain.	MHUs will be elevated to the maximum height practicable. Coordination with the local floodplain administrator will occur prior to placement. Occupants will be provided with flood hazard safety protocols and included in local emergency evacuation plans.	Local Floodplain Administrator
Coastal Zone Management	No change from current conditions.	MHUs would be installed in a designated coastal zone.	No mitigation required	In a OCM response letter dated September 29, 2021 (Consistency number C20210142), the OCM concurred with FEMA's negative determination, as described by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regulations on federal consistency at 15 CFR §930.
Ground Water	No change from current conditions.	Under the Proposed Action, there are no anticipated direct impacts to groundwater.	No mitigation required	Department of Health, and LDEQ
Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat	No change from current conditions.	No effects to Threatened and Endangered Species and no Critical Habitat on the Project Site.	No mitigation required	No agency coordination
Cultural Resources	No change from current conditions.	The scope of work has been reviewed and meets the criteria in Appendix B -	If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered,	Per the Programmatic Agreement, project is

		Programmatic Allowances, Tier II.A.5.a., b. and II.D.1.a., b., d. In accordance with this PA, FEMA is not required to determine the National Register eligibility of properties where work performed meets the Appendix B criteria. As such, FEMA has documented this determination in the project files, and considers the Undertaking Section 106 compliant without SHPO or tribal review or notification.	the Contractor shall stop all work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The Contractor shall inform their Individual Assistance (IA) contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation (HP) staff. The Contractor will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO and others, as appropriate.	covered under the following Allowances: II.A.5.a., b and II.D.1.a., b., d.
Environmental Justice	No change from current conditions.	The Proposed Action would not pose disproportionately high and adverse public health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.	No mitigation required	No agency coordination
Hazardous Materials	No change from current conditions.	Under the Proposed Action, there are no anticipated impacts from hazardous materials and hazardous substances.	Unusable equipment, debris and material will be disposed of prior to occupancy in an approved manner and location. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project, petroleum products, hazardous materials, and toxic waste will be handled, managed, and disposed of in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state, and federal agencies.	None
Traffic and Transportation	No change from current conditions.	Under the Proposed Action, a temporary increase in construction-related traffic during the group site construction. Once the Proposed Action has been completed, traffic would be	The appropriate signage must be posted, and fencing installed to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns. The LDOTD and Parish will be coordinated with in the planning and construction	LDOTD

		expected to return to normal.	of this group site, to establish appropriate traffic safety measures and management protocols for the area.	
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# Figures



**Figure 1: Aerial Photo and Vicinity of Proposed Brian Bent Group Site**



**Figure 2: Brian Bent Group Site Proposed Layout**





**Figure 3: Flood Insurance Rate Map for Proposed Brian Bent Group Site**



**Figure 4: Photograph of Existing Site Conditions at the Proposed Brian Bent Group Site Facing Northeast.**



**Figure 5: Photograph of Existing Site Conditions at the Proposed Brian Bent Group Site Facing North**

# Attachments



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT  
7400 LEAKE AVE  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118-3651

February 1, 2022

Regulatory Division  
Jurisdiction and Enforcement Branch

Adam Borden  
FEMA  
IM-CORE EHP Advisor  
Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation

Dear Mr. Borden:

Reference is made to the request regarding a determination of wetlands on a potential Hurricane Ida Emergency Temporary Housing site, known as the Bent site. Specifically, this site is located in Section 20, Township 14 South, Range 20 East, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana.

An approved jurisdictional determination was issued for this site in 2005 which determined that the site contained 7.34 acres of wetlands. Subsequently, a Department of the Army permit was issued originally in 2007 then modified and extended in 2013 to clear, grade, excavate, and fill all wetlands on-site for a recreational vehicle sales display area, office building, and parking area. That work has been completed, and therefore, no wetlands remain on site. Compensatory mitigation for the impacts to the jurisdictional wetlands was required and completed accordingly with Assumption Land Company, LLC. However, this site is bound by the terms and conditions of that associated permit. For this reason, no additional authorization would be required to place emergency temporary housing provided that all associated appurtenances are removed following the cessation of the emergency temporary housing need, or a permit modification, consisting of as-built drawings, will be required for those appurtenances to remain in place.

To reiterate, the site now consists of uplands and previously authorized fill material, as all wetlands have been permitted and appropriately mitigated. Should there be any questions concerning these matters, please contact Mr. Brad Guarisco at (504) 862-2274 and reference our Account No. MVN-2006-03762-1-SB.

Sincerely,

Brad Guarisco

Digitally signed by Brad  
Guarisco  
Date: 2022.02.01 14:23:42  
-06'00'

for Martin S. Mayer  
Chief, Regulatory Division



**EXECUTIVE ORDER 11988/11990  
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT/WETLANDS – CHECKLIST (44 CFR Part 9)**

<b>APPLICANT:</b>	Brian Bent Group Site
<b>PARISH/STATE:</b>	St. Charles Parish, LA
<b>COORDINATES:</b>	Latitude: 29.882132, Longitude: -90.428154
<b>PROPOSED ACTION:</b>	Provide MHU Housing at Brian Bent Group Site The Proposed Action would utilize the project site and design to contract for the construction of approximately 47 manufactured housing unit (MHU) pads, green space, and all necessary support facilities. These pads would be used for the placement of MHUs to house displaced families. Development of the site would require the installation of utilities on the site; gravel for site leveling, MHU pads, resident parking, and roads; and concrete for UFAS parking areas.

**APPLICABILITY:** Actions which have the potential to affect floodplains/wetlands or their occupants, or which are subject to potential harm by location in floodplains/wetlands.

**YES**  **NO**      The proposed action could potentially adversely affect the floodplain/wetlands.

Remarks:

**YES**  **NO**      The proposed action could potentially be adversely affected by the floodplain/wetlands.

Remarks:

**ACTION:**

- Review against 500 Year floodplain (for Critical Action)
- Review against 100 Year floodplain
- Not Applicable (for actions located in wetland only)

**STEP NO. 1**      Determine whether the proposed action is located in the 100-year floodplain (500-year floodplain for critical actions) and/or wetland; (44 CFR § 9.7).

The project is located within an "AE" zone, area of 100-yr flooding, per Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 220089C145D, dated 11/9/2012.

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**STEP NO. 2**      **Notify the public at the earliest possible time of the intent to carry out an action in a floodplain/wetland, and involve the affected and interested public in the decision-making process; (44 CFR § 9.8)**

- Notice was provided as part of a disaster cumulative notice:  
Posted Online: Fema\_DR-4611-IDA-LA-initial-public-notice\_102021.pdf  
Date: 10/01/2021
- Project Specific Notice (e.g., EA, newspaper, public meeting, etc.):  
Type of Public Notice: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**STEP NO. 3**      **Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating the proposed action in a floodplain/wetland (including alternatives sites, actions and the "no action" option). (44 CFR § 9.9)**

**Alternative Options**

- YES  NO      Is there a practicable alternative site location outside of the floodplain/wetland?  
If yes, provide the site location:
- YES  NO      Is there a practicable alternative action outside of the floodplain/wetland that will not affect the floodplain/wetland?  
If yes, describe the alternative action:
- YES  NO      Is the NO Action alternative the most practicable alternative?

**If a practicable alternative exists outside /the floodplain/wetland, FEMA must locate the action at the alternative site.**

**REMARKS:** The Direct Housing Assessment Team (DHAT), comprised of FEMA and State representatives, has monitored, and will continue to monitor FEMA housing needs to identify eligible households that are likely to have a need for temporary housing assistance. Specific information being collected includes the number of eligible households, location of eligible households, special needs, and quantity of bedrooms required by each household. Needs

assessments are based on household composition and the number of occupied bedrooms recorded when the inspection is conducted.

FEMA's National Processing Services Center has utilized internet searches, reviewed public listings, made inquiries to state social service organizations and reviewed local advertisements to determine available rental resources. After reviewing available mapping data and rental resource databases and making onsite observations of disaster-related damage(s) and present living conditions of local residents, DHAT has determined that alternate housing resources in the affected area cannot meet the demand for housing.

Returning disaster survivors to their pre-disaster communities is the preferred alternative due to the direct positive impacts the returning citizens have on stimulating the local economy and rebuilding the overall sense of community, thereby reducing the amount of time it takes a community to recover from a disaster. This solution provides survivors with reasonable commuting time to workplaces, schools, childcare, and places of worship, as well as familiar food, shopping services, laundry facilities, playgrounds, and pet areas. When survivors are placed outside their neighborhoods, additional infrastructure, and other services such as access to education, public transportation, emergency services, and healthcare facilities are often required, and the resources of host communities can become strained.

The policy of returning disaster survivors to their pre-disaster communities is consistent with the guidance outlined under the FEMA DHAT Standard Operating Procedures which states, "an effort should be made to keep applicants within a Reasonable Commuting Distance: A distance that does not place undue hardship on an applicant." (Individual Assistance Program and Policy Guide, March 2019). In addition, the solution to return survivors to their pre-disaster communities aligns with the unique factors used to analyze practicable alternatives under 44 CFR,9.13(d)(3).

To fulfill the housing needs, DHAT has compiled a site feasibility list of potential private residences, commercial park sites, MLRs, Direct Lease properties, and potential group site locations for placing Manufactured Housing Units (MHUs) or Travel Trailers (TTs). First priority has been given, and will continue to be given, to the placement of MHUs/TTs on private/owner sites and commercial parks, these being the most expedient and most cost-effective options. When these options are not sufficient to accommodate the housing needs of a parish, then site locations for Group Housing within the commuting area are being utilized. Priority is then given to group sites that can be expediently prepared for MHUs/TTS, have existing utility connections and ingress/egress to the site, require minimal ground disturbance, and are located outside the Wetlands and 100-year Floodplain.

The availability of potential private residences and commercial park sites for placing MHUs/TTs in St. Charles Parish is becoming depleted and the availability of group sites outside the floodplain is exhausted.

Based on the analysis by the Direct Housing Team, FEMA has determined that the practicable alternatives are exhausted under CFR Part 9 and will allow for development and placement of direct housing resources, Manufactured Housing Units and Recreational Vehicles/Travel Trailers in FEMA developed, leased and managed group site locations, within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

The Direct Housing team has completed a review and analysis of potential group sites and the depth of base flood elevations (BFEs) to support FEMA built and managed group site housing operations. FEMA has and continues to analyze alternatives outside of the floodplain against the available resources and are documenting this decision process by way of data analytics and GIS mapping. FEMA continues to prioritize the placement of manufactured housing units (MHUs) over Recreational Vehicles (RVs) or Travel Trailers (TTs) in any SFHA.

Group sites in the SFHA are triaged in a process whereby those sites with shallower Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) are prioritized for development before moving to sites with progressively deeper BFEs in the effort to secure enough housing pads to satisfy the geographical need. Priority of these sites will also satisfy the geographic population density need with the most benefit of pad site development and timeliness.

As of March 22, 2022, based on applicant call outs, it is estimated that approximately 344 households will require direct temporary housing assistance in St. Charles. While approximately 122 of this need has been met with private and commercial sites, there remains a balance of 222 units needed which could be filled through group site locations.

Currently, there are 48 group site locations in St. Charles Parish that have undergone a review. It has been determined that 44 of these are not practicable, either being actively used, located in a wetland, not practicable in terms of cost, or the owner(s) is not interested in leasing the property to FEMA. FEMA is continuing with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process for the other 4 sites which the majority are located in the SFHA. FEMA will continue to prioritize alternative sites that are located outside of the SFHA while recognizing that agreement for lease execution following environmental review is uncertain and may limit alternatives to group site placement in the SFHA

The proposed Brian Bent Group Site would satisfy 47 MHUs of the 222 needed units. It has been determined that there is no practicable alternative to the development of the Brain Bent Group Housing site.

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**STEP NO. 4 Identify the potential direct and indirect impacts associated with the occupancy or modification of floodplains/wetlands and the potential direct and indirect support of floodplain/wetlands development that could result from the proposed action; (44 CFR § 9.10)**

**YES**  **NO** Is the proposed action in compliance with the NFIP (see 44 CFR Part 59 seq.)?

**N/A** Remarks:

**YES**  **NO** Does the proposed action increase the risk of flood loss?

**YES**  **NO** Will the proposed action result in an increased base discharge or increase the flood hazard potential to other properties or structures?

**YES**  **NO** Does the proposed action minimize the impact of floods on human health, safety and welfare?



- YES  NO Will the proposed action induce future growth and development, which will potentially adversely affect the floodplain/wetland?
- YES  NO Does the proposed action involve dredging and/or filling of a floodplain/wetlands? Comment: See Step 5 for more details.
- YES  NO Will the proposed action result in the discharge of pollutants into the floodplain/wetlands?
- YES  NO Does the proposed action avoid long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains/wetlands?  
 N/A Remarks:
- YES  NO Will the proposed action result in any indirect impacts that will affect the natural values and functions of floodplains/wetlands?
- YES  NO Will the proposed action forego an opportunity to restore the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains/wetlands?  
 N/A Remarks:
- YES  NO Does the proposed action restore and/or preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains/wetlands?  
 N/A Remarks:
- YES  NO Will the proposed action result in an increase to the useful life of a structure or facility?

**REMARKS:**

The conversion of land into a site for MHUs will require clearance of vegetation and the addition of hard surfaces. This would temporarily eliminate approximately 10.65 acres of vacant land and would result in water run-off into the floodplain area, reducing the ability of the floodplain to store water and absorb run-off, thereby increasing the flood hazard potential to other nearby properties and the duration of that flooding.

These impacts would occur for up to 18 months, when the occupants return to their repaired/reconstructed homes.

Wetlands would not be impacted by the proposed project.

Step 5 provides more details regarding dredging or filling of a floodplain/wetland.

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**STEP NO. 5      Minimize the potential adverse impacts and support to or within floodplains/wetlands to be identified under Step 4, restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains/wetlands; (44 CFR § 9.11)**

YES  NO

Were flood hazard reduction techniques applied to the proposed action to minimize the flood impacts if site location is in the 100- or 500-Year floodplain/wetlands?

N/A Remarks:

YES  NO

Were avoidance and minimization measures applied to the proposed action to minimize the short- and long-term impacts on the 100-Year floodplain/wetlands?

If no, identify measures required as a condition of the grant:

N/A Remarks:

YES  NO

Were measures implemented to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values of the floodplain/wetlands.

If no, identify measures required as a condition of the grant:

N/A Remarks:

YES  NO

Is new construction or substantial improvement in a floodway, and new construction in a coastal high hazard area proposed?

**If YES:** Is the activity considered as functionally dependent use or a structure or facility which facilitates an open space use?

YES  NO

**REMARKS:** Only clean fill materials from a commercial source would be utilized in construction of the group site. All excavated materials would be relocated into a non-floodplain area either on site or at an approved location off site. Silt fencing will be used during construction to prevent materials from migrating off site.

Health, safety, and welfare of the occupants and floodplain is promoted by installing an above-ground self-contained sewage packing plant. Discharge of gray water will be made directly into a force main pipe placed by horizontal directional drilling under Highway 90, which is the southeastern boundary of the property, and would flow into a drainage ditch that feeds into Paradis Canal and ultimately into Bayou Gauche. The facility will comply with state and federal regulations for the point source pollutants created by packaging plants into surface water to also include existing streams. Drinking water for the MHUs will be supplied by the public water supply. Electricity will be sourced from nearby power poles and electric lines will be run in safety-approved conduits to each MHU.

All units will be constructed in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and FEMA standards, which enhance frame requirements, thermal protection, plumbing and fire safety. All units will have smoke detectors, weather radios and fire extinguishers.

Occupants of MHUs placed in the floodplain will be advised of flood threats to health and safety per DAP9453.3, Disaster Assistance Directorate Guidance Memorandum, dated 10/17/2008, and will be required to sign an acknowledgement that they have received and understand the risk involved. The responsible program, before unit occupancy, will provide

applicants with a Health and Safety Advisory regarding the flood hazard, local emergency evacuation plans, etc. (See Condition #4 below)

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**STEP NO. 6**

**Reevaluate the proposed action to determine first, if it is still practicable in light of its exposure to flood hazards, the extent to which it will aggravate the hazards to others, and its potential to disrupt floodplain/wetlands values and second, if alternatives preliminarily rejected at Step 3 are practicable in light of the information gained in Steps 4 and 5. (44 CFR § 9.9)**

**YES**  **NO**

The action is still practicable at a floodplain/wetland site in light of the exposure to flood risk and ensuing disruption of natural values.

**YES**  **NO**

The floodplain/wetlands site is the only practicable alternative.

**YES**  **NO**

There is no potential for limiting the action to increase the practicability of previously rejected non-floodplain/wetlands sites and alternative actions.

**YES**  **NO**

Minimization of harm to or within the floodplain/wetlands can be achieved using all practicable means.

**YES**  **NO**

The action in a floodplain/wetland clearly outweighs the requirement of E.O. 11988/11990.

**FEMA shall not act in a floodplain/wetland unless it is the only practicable location.**

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**STEP NO. 7**

**Prepare and provide the public with a finding and public explanation of any final decision that the floodplain/wetland is the only practicable alternative; and (44 CFR § 9.12)**

Check if the Initial Public Notice serves as the Final Public Notice or a Cumulative Final Public Notice was published. No condition required.

Final public notice will be issued on the websites of St. Charles parish, St. Charles Parish Public Library, GOHSEP, and FEMA.gov.

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**STEP NO. 8**

**Review the implementation and post - implementation phases of the proposed action to ensure that the requirements stated in Section 9.11 are fully implemented. Oversight responsibility shall be integrated into existing processes. (44 CFR § 9.11)**

**YES**  **NO**

Was Grant conditioned on review of implementation and post-implementation phases to ensure compliance of EO 11988?

## Conditions

1. **Coordination with the local floodplain administrator** must occur prior to placement. 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.
2. **Compliance with State Regulations:** Placement of MHUs or other readily fabricated dwellings must be in accordance and in compliance with Louisiana regulations.
3. **Local Permitting and Codes:** Any FEMA units will be installed in compliance with applicable local codes, ordinances and permitting requirements. Any contracted logistics installation entities (installers) for TTHU placement will secure all pertinent Federal, state, and local permits and approvals before work.
4. **Health and Safety:** Before unit occupancy, the responsible program, will provide applicants with a Health and Safety Advisory regarding the flood hazard, local emergency evacuation plans, right-of-entry during an emergency, and possible unit haul off.  
  
The responsible program will ensure the local emergency manager has information regarding location of TTHU occupants and potential special needs, to integrate into local emergency plans.

Monitoring Requirements: None.



**State of Louisiana**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**OFFICE OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT**

September 29, 2021

Jerame J Cramer  
EHP Advisor  
FEMA-State Joint Field Office Region 6  
[REDACTED]

RE: **C20210142**, Coastal Zone Consistency  
**FEMA – State Joint Field Office**  
Direct Federal Action – Negative Determination  
Temporary housing assistance through the Individuals and Households Program (IHP).  
**Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James,  
St. John the Baptist, Tangipahoa, and Terrebonne Parish**

Dear Jerame J Cramer:

This office has received the above referenced negative consistency determination, in accordance with Section 307(c) of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended. After careful review we have determined that the project does not demonstrate any reasonably foreseeable effects on coastal uses or resources. Therefore we concur with your negative determination, as described by NOAA regulations on federal consistency at 15 CFR §930.35.

Please refer to the above Consistency number when corresponding on this matter. If you have any questions please call Mark Hogan of the Consistency Section at ([REDACTED]) or [REDACTED]

/S/ **Charles Reulet**  
Administrator  
Interagency Affairs/Field Services Division

CR/SK/MH

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR TRANSPORTABLE TEMPORARY HOUSING UNIT GROUP SITE  
KNOWN AS THE BRIAN BENT GROUP HOUSING SITE (SC-02)  
BOUTTE, ST. CHARLES PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed Transportable Temporary Housing Unit (TTHU) group site. This Public Notice will be published on the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), St. Charles Parish Public Library, and the St. Charles Parish website. The group site may provide suitable temporary housing opportunities for individuals and families displaced under the major disaster declaration for Hurricane Ida (FEMA-4611-DR-LA) (for the incident beginning August 26, 2021) signed by the President on August 29, 2021.

The proposed action includes developing an approximately 10.65-acre site for up to approximately 47 MHUs to be located in St. Charles Parish, Louisiana in the City of Boutte. Activities may include, where necessary, site clearing, grading, road construction, the placement of concrete pads, utilities (electricity, telephones, water, and sewer), and the transport and installation of manufactured homes to the site. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500–1508), FEMA's Instruction 108-1-1 for implementing NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and 44 CFR Part 9, a Draft EA was written to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human and natural environment. FEMA has determined that constructing the Brian Bent Group Site in a floodplain as identified on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) would result in impacts to and from the floodplain. Per 44 CFR Part 9, FEMA concluded that there is no practicable alternative to constructing a group site in the floodplain in St. Charles Parish.

In order to meet the urgent need of Hurricane Ida survivors to find temporary housing, FEMA has conducted an expedited environmental review process to identify and address environmental issues. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action.

The Draft EA is available for public review through FEMA's website: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/region/6>. Written comments on the Draft EA can be sent via email to [dr-4611-fema-ehp-ia@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:dr-4611-fema-ehp-ia@fema.dhs.gov). When responding by email, please reference the project name, "Temporary Housing - Brian Bent Group Housing Site (SC-02)" in the subject field.

The original public comment period was limited to three (3) days from April 1, 2022 through April 3, 2022 at 5pm (Central Standard Time). FEMA is re-issuing the public notice due to technical difficulties. The public comment period will now expire April 6th at 5pm CST. All comments received prior to 5 pm April 6th will be considered in FEMA's findings. The comment period must remain limited due to the emergency nature of this action and need to provide temporary housing solutions for survivors of Hurricane Ida. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and no further public noticing will be conducted.

**All other questions regarding disaster assistance or the availability of emergency housing should be directed to FEMA's Helpline at 1-800-621-3362 or visit [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov).**



# FEMA

April 1, 2022

DR-4611-LA MA-071

FEMA News Desk: (225) 389-2408

[FEMA-NewsDesk-Louisiana-Disasters@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-NewsDesk-Louisiana-Disasters@fema.dhs.gov)

## Media Advisory

### Public Notice: Draft Environmental Assessment for FEMA Group Housing Site in St. Charles Parish – Brian Bent Group Housing Site

**BATON ROUGE, La.** – FEMA has posted a Public Notice regarding the availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for a proposed group housing site for survivors in need of housing as a result of Hurricane Ida.

FEMA has prepared a Draft EA for a proposed group site in St. Charles Parish known as Brian Bent Group Housing Site (SC-2). The proposed action includes developing an approximately 10.65-acre site for up to 47 manufactured housing units to be located in Boutte. Activities may include, where necessary, site clearing, grading, road construction, the placement of concrete pads, utilities (electricity, water and sewer), and the transport and installation of transportable temporary housing units to the site.

FEMA is required to provide a Public Notice for the Brian Bent Group Housing Site Draft EA. This notice provides instructions regarding how to access the Draft EA and how to provide comments. The Public Notice for the Draft EA can be viewed here: [Region 6 - Environmental Documents and Public Notices | FEMA.gov](#).

The public comment period will be limited to three days due to the emergency nature of this action and need to provide temporary housing solutions for survivors of Hurricane Ida.

The public comment period begins April 1 at 8.a.m and ends at 5 p.m. April 3. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact will become final and no further public noticing will be conducted.

For the latest information visit [fema.gov/disaster/4611](https://fema.gov/disaster/4611). Follow the FEMA Region 6 Twitter account at [twitter.com/FEMARegion6](https://twitter.com/FEMARegion6) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/FEMARegion6/](https://facebook.com/FEMARegion6/).

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*Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-*

*free at 833-285-7448. If you use a relay service, such as video relay service (VRS), captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA the number for that service. Multilingual operators are available (press 2 for Spanish).*