

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
American Samoa Department of Public Works
Rockfall Mitigation Project
FEMA-1859-DR-AS, HMGP 1859-9

Through the American Samoa Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM, formerly the Territorial Office of Fiscal Reform), the American Samoa Department of Public Works (ASDPW) has applied to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to implement rockfall mitigation at four locations on Tutuila where steep and rocky slopes abut Highway 001. FEMA is proposing to obligate these funds under Presidential Disaster declaration FEMA-1859-DR-AS, issued for the September 2009 earthquake, tsunami, and flood event.

The proposed project entails manually scaling loose rock from the slopes and installing wire mesh over the slopes to prevent additional rock from falling down to the adjacent road. The four sites are referred to as Site A (Lafiga Point, located in the villages of Lau'i and Aumi), Site B (Tifa Point, located in the villages of Alega and Avaio), Site C (Anape'ape'a Point, located in the village of Amaua), and Site D (Matalesolo Point, located in the village of Amouli). The approximate acreages of the project areas include 0.50 acre at Site A, 0.45 acre at Site B, 0.60 acre at Site C, and 1.32 acres at Site D. All rock removed from the four sites would be hauled to the ASDPW yard in Tafuna and stored for future use by ASDPW. The haul route would follow Highway 001. Staging would occur on previously disturbed areas adjacent to and above (i.e., upslope of) the Highway 001 right-of-way and as close to the sites as possible.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, FEMA prepared an Environmental Assessment for the Rockfall Mitigation Project (EA) to evaluate the impacts of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative on the quality of the human environment. The EA includes measures that would be implemented to mitigate, minimize, and avoid impacts to the human environment. FEMA prepared a Final EA after making a Draft EA available for public review and comment. FEMA received two pieces of correspondence during the Draft EA public review/comment period. The Final EA, which was specifically prepared to address comments received on the Draft EA, is available at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/97066> and the following locations: ODAPM's office on Ili'ili Road (call 699-1330 for location information) and ASDPW's office in Nu'uuli (call 699-9921 for location information).

Based on the information contained in the Final EA, a review of applicable environmental laws and orders, and in compliance with FEMA's regulations at 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations), the following is concluded for the Proposed Action:

A Finding of No Significant Impact. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. For more information, contact the undersigned at (510) 627-7027 or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov.

 12/5/14

Alessandro Amaglio Date
FEMA Region IX Environmental Officer