



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Louisiana Recovery Office
1500 Main Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE
WILLOW CHUTE BAYOU DRAINAGE PROJECT
WILLOW CHUTE BASIN, BOSSIER PARISH, LOUISIANA
PROJECT NUMBER 1603-0349
FEMA-1603-DR-LA**

BACKGROUND

Hurricane Katrina, a Category 4 hurricane with a storm surge above normal high tide levels, moved across the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama Gulf Coasts on August 29, 2005. Extensive flooding damaged drainage capacity for neighborhoods, and improved drainage is needed in Bossier Parish, with mostly low-lying flat land, Bossier City, Louisiana incurs flooding frequently. The project area is situated north of the City of Bossier City and includes approximately 240 homes in the Willow Chute Basin.

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared. The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with drainage improvements and determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The need for the proposed action is to effectively improve the drainage capacity and eliminate recurrent prolonged flooding experienced in the neighborhoods in the Willow Chute Basin; thereby, protecting the health and well-being of the people of Bossier Parish, protecting existing public and private infrastructure, and reducing the risk of future damage from flooding. If left unprotected, future storm events have the potential to repeatedly damage homes and property in this area. The alternatives considered include: 1) No Action, 2) Construct a Bridge at Three Roadway Crossings, and 3) Drainage Improvements at Three Roadway Crossings (Proposed Action).

The undersized roadway crossings obstruct the flow on the Willow Chute, thereby increasing upstream and downstream water surface elevations. The preferred alternative is to construct new culverts at three existing roadway crossings to alleviate major drainage and flooding problems experienced within residential subdivisions in the Willow Chute Basin. As such, the following improvements are proposed as part of this project which include: 1) Removing the existing system of two (2) -42" reinforce concrete culverts and replacing with two (2) -120" reinforced concrete pipes (RCPs) on Kingston Road at Willow Chute Bayou between LA 3 and Airline Road; 2) Removing the existing system of one (1) -8' iron pipe and replacing with four (4) -96" reinforced concrete pipes (RCPs) on Lafitte Lane between LA 3 and Audubon Drive; and 3)

Removing the existing system of two (2) -108" corrugated metal pipes and replacing with four (4) -120" reinforced concrete pipes (RCPs) on Cross Creek Drive at the entrance to Lakewood Subdivision. According to the Hydrologic and Hydraulic Study, the proposed action will lower the water surface elevation 3.5 feet at Kingston Road, 1.5 feet at Lafitte Lane and 0.4 feet at Wemple Road, alleviating major drainage and flooding problems at these locations. The proposed action will protect more than 200 structures against the 25-year flood.

FINDINGS

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to geology, soils, water resources (surface water, groundwater, and wetlands), floodplains, coastal resources, air quality, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitats), cultural resources, socioeconomics (including minority and low income populations), safety, noise, and hazardous materials. The results of these evaluations as well as consultations and input from other federal and state agencies are presented in the EA.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met as part of the implementation of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize federal funds:

- Implement construction Best Management Practices (BMPs); install silt fences/straw bales to reduce downslope sedimentation. Area soils must be covered and/or wetted during construction.
- If fill is stored on site as part of unit installation or removal, the contractor is required to appropriately cover it.
- Construction contractor is required to obtain applicable Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit, and implement stormwater pollution prevention plan.
- The applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities.
- New construction must be compliant with current codes and standards.
- As per 44 CFR "9.11 (d) (9), mitigation or minimization standards must be applied, where possible. The replacement of building contents, materials and equipment should be, where possible, wet or dry-proofed, elevated, or relocated to or above the DFIRM BFE or local floodplain ordinances, whichever is more stringent."

- Per 44 CFR “9.11(d) (4), Until a regulatory floodway is designated, no new construction, substantial improvements, or other development (including fill) shall be permitted within the base floodplain unless it is demonstrated that the cumulative effect of the proposed development, when combined with all other existing and anticipated development, will not increase the water surface elevation of the base flood more than one (1) foot at any point within the community.”
- Per 44 CFR “9.11(d)(4), There shall be no encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements of structures or facilities, or other development within a designated regulatory floodway that would result in any increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge.”
- 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.
- Any changes or modifications to the proposed project will require a revised determination. Off-site locations of activities such as borrow, disposals, haul- and detour roads, and work mobilization site developments may be subject to USACE regulatory requirements.
- Applicant must coordinate with USACE prior to the start of construction to acquire any necessary permits.
- Applicant must coordinate with USACE at the Vicksburg District Office to verify if jurisdictional waters of the U.S. do occur on site and which permits, if any, are required.
- The project results in a discharge to waters of the State; submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System LPDES application is necessary.
- All precautions must be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one (1) acre. The applicant must contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-9371 to determine if the proposed project requires a permit.
- Erosion Control Devices (ECD's) must be used and maintained extensively to prevent any potential direct or indirect adverse impacts to nearby wetland areas per the CWA and EO 11990. Any adverse impacts to adjacent wetlands resulting from the construction of this project will jeopardize receipt of federal funding.

- If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions must be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.
 - The contractor must observe all precautions to protect the groundwater of the region.
 - All debris should be disposed of in an approved landfill.
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- The applicant is responsible for coordinating with and obtaining any required permit(s) from the LDNR Coastal Management Division prior to initiating work. The applicant shall comply with all conditions of the required permit. 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.
 - The LDNR coastal zone determination is valid for two (2) years beginning 06/18/2015. If the proposed activity is not initiated within this 2-year period, this determination will expire and the applicant will be required to submit a new application.
 - Vehicle operation times would be kept to a minimum. Area soils must be covered and/or wetted during construction to minimize dust.
 - Any changes to the scope or location of the proposed project or if the project has not been initiated one (1) year from the date of the solicitation of views (June 8, 2016), the applicant is responsible for coordinating with United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered, the applicant shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The applicant shall inform their, GOSHEP State Applicant Liaison and Hazard Mitigation Assistance contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation (HP) staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO, and others as appropriate (Inadvertent Discovery Clause).
 - If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present within the project area, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) is required. The applicant shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within twenty-four hours of the discovery. The applicant shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana

Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within seventy-two hours of the discovery. (Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act)


- Unusable equipment, debris and material shall be disposed of in an approved manner and location. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project applicant shall handle, manage, and dispose of petroleum products, hazardous materials and/or toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies. Applicant is responsible for acquiring LDEQ permits for the temporary debris staging and reduction sites (TDSRS) associated with this project prior to project closeout. Failure to provide FEMA with LDEQ approval may jeopardize project funding eligibility.
- Bossier Parish limits noise levels by receiving land use in residential, public, commercial, and industrial areas to decibel levels of 60 during the “daytime” hours of 6 AM to 10 PM, Monday through Saturday, and 6 AM to 6 PM on Sunday. Construction activities should be limited to this schedule on weekdays. Mitigation and abatement measures will be required to reduce the noise levels to a range that would be considered acceptable.
- To minimize worker and public health and safety risks from project construction and closure, all construction and closure work must be done using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of construction equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, all activities must be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with the standards specified in OSHA regulations and the USACE safety manual.
- The contractor must post appropriate signage and fencing to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns, and to protect nearby residents from vehicular traffic.
- Appropriate signage and barriers should be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes.
- The contractor should implement traffic control measures, as necessary.
- If hazardous materials are unexpectedly encountered in the project area during the proposed construction operations, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contamination would be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. The contractor would be required to take appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control the spill of hazardous materials in the construction area.

- The LDNR Office of Conservation should be contacted at (225) 342-5540 if any unregistered wells of any type are encountered during construction work.
- For pipelines and other underground hazards, Louisiana One Call should be contacted at 800-272-3020 prior to commencing operations.

CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the incorporated EA, and in accordance with Presidential Executive Orders 12898 (Environmental Justice), 11988 (Floodplain Management), and 11990 (Wetland Protection), FEMA has determined that the proposed action implemented with the conditions and mitigation measures outlined above and in the EA will not have any significant adverse effects on the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the proposed action alternative as described in the EA may proceed.

APPROVALS



Kevin Jaynes
Regional Environmental Officer
Region VI
FEMA 1603-1607-DR-LA

8/26/15

Date



Thomas M. (Mike) Womack

Digitally signed by THOMAS M WOMACK
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Thomas M. (Mike) Womack
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Date