

Notice of Availability
Draft Environmental Assessment
Rockfall Mitigation Project
FEMA-1859-DR-AS, HMGP 1859-9

Through the American Samoa Territorial Office of Fiscal Reform (TOFR), 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 implementing rockfall mitigation at four sites along Highway 001 by means of 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 Lauli'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 located 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.

FEMA has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, and applicable implementing regulations. The Draft EA evaluates the environmental impacts of ASDPW's proposed project and alternatives. FEMA has made the Draft EA available for public review and comment at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/97066> and the following locations: TOFR'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).

FEMA, TOFR, and ASDPW will consider written comments on the Draft EA before making decisions regarding ASDPW's proposed project. Comments relevant to the Draft EA must be provided in writing to FEMA Region IX EHP, Rockfall Mitigation Draft EA, 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, CA 94607-4052 or fema-rix-ehp-documents@fema.dhs.gov. Questions regarding the Draft EA or its availability may also be asked by telephone at (510) 627-7027 (messages only). To be considered in the decision-making process, comments on the Draft EA must be received by August 8.