



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CHARLES WALKER COMMUNITY CENTER RELOCATION PROJECT GULFPORT, HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI FEMA-1604-DR-MS

The City of Gulfport has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance with a relocation project for the Charles Walker Community Center in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi.

The Charles Walker Community Center, formally located at 4010 West Beach Boulevard in Gulfport, provided community programs and services to Gulfport area residents. The Center had a capacity to serve 180 people, and was comprised of three buildings (community center, pavilion and Boy Scout storage building), as well as a tennis court. The entire facility totaled 19,827 square feet. The Center was located within the 100-year floodplain (Flood Zone AE). As a result of the 25- to 30-foot storm surge from Hurricane Katrina, only the slabs and foundations remained of the buildings comprising CWCC. Damages to the Center meet FEMA's repair/replacement ratio for the demolition and replacement of the facility. FEMA proposes to provide assistance for this project through the Public Assistance Program (PA) under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1604-DR-MS.

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for FEMA, Subpart B, Agency Implementing Procedures, Part 10.9, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of the EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the relocation project, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). In the EA process, FEMA considered two alternatives, the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the City of Gulfport would relocate the Center out of the floodplain and advisory base flood elevation (ABFE) zone, protecting it from future storm damages and interrupted service. The Center would be relocated to a 6.64-acre undeveloped, wooded lot off Dedeaux Road, north of Gulfport (Lat/Long: N30.4497, W-89.08224). The proposed project site is approximately 6.4 miles northeast of the existing Center location. The proposed project site is bound on the north by a wooded area, on the east by a subdivision, on the south by Dedeaux Road, and on the west by a partially cleared and vacant parcel of land. The proposed project site is located outside both the 100- and 500-year floodplain (Flood Zone X) and ABFE.

The proposed project site would be completely cleared for the construction of the new center. The proposed facility will contain a community center, pavilion, storage building, and tennis court to replace the damaged facilities. Access to the proposed project site

would be from the south via Dedeaux Road. The new center would utilize municipal water, electricity, sewerage, and telephone facilities, with tie-ins from existing lines running parallel to Dedeaux Road.

This proposed project as described in the EA was evaluated for any potential significant adverse impacts to existing land use, water resources (surface water, groundwater, waters of the United States, and floodplains), air quality, noise, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, State and Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitat), and cultural resources. It was also evaluated for safety and hazardous materials issues as well as for disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low income populations.

FINDINGS

Based on input and consultations with Federal and State resource agencies, and other identified sources documented in the attached EA and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act FEMA regulations (44 CFR Part 10) for environmental considerations, and executive orders on floodplains (EO 11988), wetlands (EO 11990) and environmental justice (EO 12898), FEMA has found that the proposed project with the prescribed mitigation measures as defined in the EA will have no significant impact on the natural or human environment. As a result of this Finding of No Significant Impact, an EIS will not be prepared and the proposed project with prescribed conditions may proceed. If a change in the scope of work occurs, the State and FEMA must be notified to evaluate if the proposed change would alter the potential impacts on the environment.

Recommended:



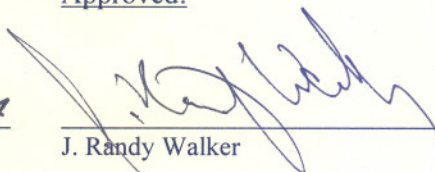
Michael Grisham

8-02-07

Date

FEMA Environmental Liaison Officer

Approved:



J. Randy Walker

Date

FEMA Infrastructure Branch Chief
FEMA-1604-DR-MS