



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

HARPER MCCAUGHAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RELOCATION PROJECT LONG BEACH, HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI FEMA-1604-DR-MS

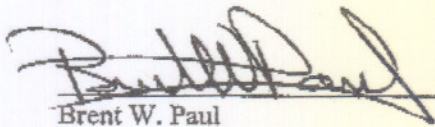
The Long Beach School District (District) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance with a flood mitigation project for the Harper McCaughan Elementary School (HMES) in Harrison County, Mississippi. The HMES was devastated by storm surges associated with Hurricane Katrina in 2005. FEMA proposes to provide assistance for this project through the Public Assistance Program (PA) under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1604-DR-MS.

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508) to implement NEPA, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations (44 CFR § 10.9) to implement NEPA. 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.

The Proposed Action Alternative would relocate and construct a new HMES on higher ground outside of the Category 3 storm surge inundation area and FEMA flood hazard zone. The location of the proposed school is an undeveloped 80-acre site north of Pineville Road and south of Commission Road, approximately 1.3 miles north of the former HMES site. The required work at the site would consist of clearing approximately 13 acres at the southwestern corner of the site for construction of the new HMES. 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:
Brent W. Paul
4/30/07
Date**FEMA Environmental Officer****Approved:**
J. Randy Walker
4/30/07
Date**FEMA Infrastructure Branch Chief**

FEMA-1604-DR-MS