

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
RELOCATION AND NEW CONSTRUCTION OF  
SOUTH TERREBONNE MIDDLE SCHOOL  
TERREBONNE PARISH, LOUISIANA  
FEMA-DR-4611-LA**

**BACKGROUND**

Hurricane Ida made landfall on August 29, 2021, at Port Fourchon, Louisiana, as a Category 4 hurricane with sustained winds of more than 150 miles per hour and a minimum central pressure of 930 millibars. President Joseph Biden, Jr. declared a major disaster for the State of Louisiana (FEMA-DR-4611-LA) on August 29, 2021, authorizing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana. This assistance is under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), Public Law (P.L.) 93-288, as amended.

Terrebonne Parish School District (TPSD) has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funding under FEMA's Public Assistance Program being administered in response to FEMA-DR-4611-LA. Lacache Middle School in Chauvin, Louisiana, sustained severe damage to all of its main and ancillary structures. The school community was displaced at the start of the new school year. In response, temporary repairs and mold remediation were conducted to safely bring students back to the school by October 2021. Students continued enrollment at Lacache Middle School until two temporary modular buildings, offering 12 classrooms each, were placed at the South Terrebonne High School (STHS) campus' east parking lot (29.563808, -90.639507) in August of 2023. The original Lacache Middle School facility is located at 5266 Highway 56, Chauvin, LA 70344 (29.457848, -90.590067). The proposed South Terrebonne Middle School (STMS) is located immediately adjacent and northwest of the existing STHS at 3879 Highway 24, Bourg, LA 70343 (29.56427, -90.64006) approximately 10 miles north of the original location. The parcel is approximately 13.5 acres. This alternative includes demolition of the damaged facilities and construction of a two-story, two-winged, single-campus building with two adjoining parking areas with a gross area of 81,564 square feet. The proposed facility would have 32 standard classrooms, 2 physical education classrooms and supporting rooms for IT, band, resources, janitorial, and faculty, and a cafeteria and gymnasium.

In accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500–1508) and FEMA's Instruction 108-1-1 for implementing NEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared. The purpose of this EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the change of location proposal and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Three project alternatives were considered in this EA: Alternative 1, the No Action Alternative; Alternative 2, Rebuild Lacache Middle School at Original Site; Alternative 3, Rebuild Lacache Middle School at Alternate Location (Proposed Preferred Action).

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The Proposed Action would not result in any significant adverse impacts related to wildlife, state and federally listed threatened and endangered species, and hazardous materials. The Proposed Action as described in the EA may have short-term, temporary, negligible to minor impacts to geology, topography, soils, wetlands and waters of the U.S., floodplains and hydrology, water

quality and resources, land use and planning, air quality, cultural resources, low income and minority populations, noise, and traffic. The Proposed Action may have long-term, permanent, negligible to minor impacts to socioeconomics, water resources and quality through a temporary increase in suspended solids through stormwater runoff during and after construction. Based on the information analyzed, FEMA has determined that the implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to the quality of the natural and human environment. The proposed action is not anticipated to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared and the proposed action as described in the EA may proceed. All adverse impacts require conditions to minimize or mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

### CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met as part of this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

- To manage fugitive dust resulting from earth-moving activities, storage piles, disturbed surface areas, unpaved sections, and other construction-related operations, the project will employ one or more of the following measures: watering, coverings, wind fencing, haul bed coverings, wheel washers, vegetation, restricted site access, and street sweeping.
- To the greatest extent feasible, the project will minimize the disturbed area and preserve the existing vegetation, while also maintaining topsoil whenever possible.
- Existing trees and other vegetation within the construction area that might be affected by the public right-of-way will be safeguarded on a case-by-case basis. Protective measures will involve the installation of fencing and appropriate signage. Any necessary trimming, root pruning, or demolition of trees or stumps within the public right-of-way due to construction will be minimized and conducted under the supervision of a licensed arborist. If feasible, any trees removed from the construction site within the public right-of-way will be relocated to an area near the project site. Any disturbed existing vegetation or ground cover resulting from construction activities will be restored through seeding and fertilization.
- The Subrecipient is required to plant two trees for every tree removed, should tree removal be necessary.
- The contractor will avoid the western tree line and associated wetland extending to Bayou Terrebonne. If necessary, any encroachment into waters of the United States will first require an aquatic resources delineation (wetland delineation) and an appropriate Clean Water Act permit issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- The contractor will be responsible for developing and maintaining a comprehensive Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that outlines the Contractor's strategies to prevent stormwater collection system contamination during the project. Each project's SWPPP will align with the requirements of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit for the area. Contractors must take all necessary precautions to prevent the entry of fuels, oils, asphalt, concrete, chemicals, and other hazardous materials into the drainage system and groundwater table as per relevant specifications. Implementation of Storm Water Control Measures (SCMs) will encompass safeguarding the storm drain system, spill prevention and cleanup, employee training, site cleanliness, and temporary erosion controls. Residues from dust collectors, concrete mixers, vehicle wash racks, and entrance/exit debris will be appropriately disposed of at an approved disposal facility.

- Create stabilized construction entrances and exits utilizing methods such as employing large, crushed rocks, stone pads, steel wash racks, hose-down systems, and pads to effectively manage construction-related traffic and minimize environmental impact.
- To ensure the site is free of hazardous materials, contamination, toxic chemicals, gases and radioactive substances where the hazard could affect the health and safety of occupants or conflict with the intended utilization of the property a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment is required before initiating work.
- Terrebonne Parish Code of Ordinances (Section 14-200) and defined as in Section 14-26, has made “excessive noises” pertaining to residences, commercial structures, and domestic animals unlawful. Excessive noises pertaining to any commercial structures, means sound produced by radio, television, loudspeakers, musical equipment or devices, within the interior or on the exterior of commercial buildings, which is audible at a distance of seven and one-half (7.5) meters (twenty-five (25) feet) or exceeds seventy (70) decibels in volume. Excessive noises pertaining to motor vehicles, means sound produced by radio, television, loudspeakers, musical equipment or devices, within the interior or on the exterior of motor vehicles, which is audible at a distance of seven and one-half meters (7.5) (twenty-five (25) feet) or exceeds seventy (70) decibels in volume.
- Guarantee the proper maintenance of equipment, which includes regular engine upkeep, ensuring adequate tire inflation, and the proper maintenance of pollution control devices.
- Implement thorough monitoring and control of construction traffic as necessary. Ensure that all construction operations adhere to the safety regulations outlined in the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA). Provide a minimum of 48 hours’ notice to residents and emergency response agencies before any street closures and expected areas of reduced water pressure.
- The project construction may entail the handling of potentially hazardous materials, such as petroleum products, cement, caustics, acids, solvents, paint, electronic components, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and treated timber, which could lead to the generation of limited quantities of hazardous wastes. It is imperative to implement suitable measures to prevent, minimize, and manage the occurrence of spills involving hazardous materials. Moreover, any hazardous and non-hazardous wastes generated during the construction process must be disposed of in strict accordance with the pertinent regulations at the Federal, state, and local levels.
- To mitigate indirect effects such as erosion, sedimentation, dust, and other disturbances associated with the construction, the contractor needs to adhere to all relevant local, state, and federal regulations about sediment control, solid waste disposal, spill management, and the release of surface runoff and stormwater into nearby waters of the U.S. and surrounding drainage areas.
- Subrecipient is required to design and construct project to V-zone standards in accordance with American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) standard 24-14, Flood Resistant Design and Construction, or latest edition, must coordinate with the local floodplain administrator to obtain required permits prior to initiating work, and comply with any conditions of the permit to ensure harm to the floodplain is minimized. By 44 C.F.R. § 9.11(d)(6), projects must not be constructed in a floodplain management standard that offers less protection than what the community has adopted through its participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. It is the responsibility of the subrecipient to coordinate all construction activities with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) before commencing any activities and to maintain compliance with officially adopted local

floodplain ordinances. Documentation of all coordination related to these permit(s) should be provided to the local floodplain administrator, the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (LA GOHSEP), and FEMA as part of the permanent project file. Under 44 CFR 9.11 (d) (9), whenever feasible, mitigation or minimization standards should be implemented.

- If human bones or unmarked grave(s) are discovered within the project area, adherence to the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) is mandatory. The applicant is responsible for promptly informing the law enforcement agency of the relevant jurisdiction within twenty-four hours of the discovery. Additionally, FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology can be notified at 225-342-8170 within seventy-two hours of the discovery.
- If archaeological artifacts, whether prehistoric or historic, are discovered during the project's execution, the applicant must halt work in the proximity of the finding and implement all necessary measures to mitigate potential damage. It is imperative that the applicant promptly notifies their designated Public Assistance (PA) contacts at FEMA, who will subsequently engage FEMA's Historic Preservation (HP) staff. Work should not resume until FEMA HP concludes consultation with the Stat. Preservation Officer (SHPO) and any other relevant parties.
- Bald Eagles were removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species on August 8, 2007. Despite this change in status, it is crucial to note that Bald Eagles remain safeguarded under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) (16 U.S.C. 668 et seq.). To aid in their preservation, the USFWS has formulated the National Bald Eagle Management (NBEM) Guidelines, designed to equip landowners, land managers, and others with comprehensive information and recommendations to mitigate potential project impacts on Bald Eagles. Particularly, these guidelines focus on preventing any form of "disturbance," which is strictly prohibited under the BGEPA. Outlined in the NBEM Guidelines are the following recommendations: (1) maintaining a designated distance between the project's activity and the nest (buffer area); (2) preserving natural areas, preferably forested, between the project's activities and nest trees (landscape buffers); and (3) avoiding specific activities during the breeding season. All personnel on-site must be made aware of the potential presence of nesting Bald Eagles within the project area. In the event of the discovery of such nests within or adjacent to the proposed project area, it is essential to conduct an assessment to ascertain whether the project is likely to disturb the nesting Bald Eagles. Any discovery of a Bald Eagle nest should be immediately reported to the relevant authorities.
- For actions located in the floodplain and/or wetlands, the applicant must issue a final public notice per 44 CFR Part 9.12(e) at least 15 days prior to the start of work. The final notice shall include the following: (1) A statement of why the proposed action must be located in an area affecting or affected by a floodplain or a wetland; (2) A description of all significant facts considered in making this determination; (3) A list of the alternatives considered; (4) A statement indicating whether the action conforms to applicable state and local floodplain protection standards; (5) A statement indicating how the action affects or is affected by the floodplain and/or wetland, and how mitigation is to be achieved; (6) Identification of the responsible official or organization for implementation and monitoring of the proposed action, and from whom further information can be obtained; and (7) A map of the area or a statement that such map is available for public inspection, including the location at which such map may be inspected and a telephone number to call for information.

## PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The Final EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at [www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm). The Public Notice for the Draft EA's availability for public review and comment was published in the journal of record for the State of Louisiana, *The Advocate*, and in a local newspaper, *The Courier*, for five (5) days on Mondays, January 6; January 13; January 20; January 27; and for three (3) days beginning February 3, 2025. The 30-day comment period began on Monday, January 6, 2025, and concluded on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, at 4 p.m. No substantive public comments were received; therefore, the Draft EA is final, and the initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.

## APPROVAL AND ENDORSEMENT

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