

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
FEMA-DR-4277 LA
1500 Main Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802



FEMA

May 28, 2019

Camille Crain
HMA Branch Chief-Mitigation
FEMA-4277-DR-LA
Denton, Texas

RE: EHP Phase I Approval, Categorical Exclusion A7: The commitment of resources, personnel, and funding to conduct audits, surveys, and data collection of a minimally intrusive nature. Ascension Parish Government Conway Bayou Pump Station Project in Ascension Parish, Louisiana, DR-4277-LA, FIPS#: 005-99005-00, NEMIS#: 4277-0062

Dear Ms. Crain:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Louisiana Integration and Recovery Office (LIRO) has reviewed the Hazard Mitigation Grant Project (HMGP) Phase I proposal for Ascension Parish Government's, the Sub-recipient, Conway Bayou Pump Station Upgrade Project located in Sorrento in Ascension Parish, Louisiana. This proposal provides funding to the Sub-recipient for data gathering and technical analysis only and does not include commitment of federal resources other than manpower and funding.

The goal of this project, as proposed, is to provide relief to the watershed area by removing water from the basin and pumping it into Bayou Conway. The proposed project is to upgrade the existing Sorrento Pumping Station (Lat/Long: Start, 30.175152, -90.857624; End, 30.175177, -90.857503), add an additional pump, and expand the existing reservoir in Sorrento, LA. A detention pond (Lat/Long: 30.175608, -90.857307) would be expanded on the east to match the location of the new pump, which will be placed in a location where discharge is more in line with the natural flow of Bayou Conway. This is proposed to prevent scouring of the bank on the opposite side of the bayou. The existing pump station would be upgraded to meet the need to retain adequate freeboard within the reservoir. Additionally, the pump station capacity would be increased by adding one (1) 72", 500 hp, diesel, submersible motor pump to mitigate the risk of flooding to structures. The new pump would add 150,000 GPM of flow capacity and would be in a new housing unit installed on a new platform positioned outside of the fuel tank to the east of the existing pump station. The proposed project is designed to handle some runoff flow in the watershed area and allows for excess flow to bypass the pump station and continue downstream to the ultimate outfall at the Blind River. Additionally, the Parish anticipates a reduction of repetitive flooding in the watershed during heavy rainfall.

The Phase I funding request has been determined to be Categorically Excluded from the need to prepare either an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with FEMA Instruction 108-1 and DHS Instruction 023-01-001-01; CATEX A7: "The

commitment of resources, personnel, and funding to conduct audits, surveys, and data collection of a minimally intrusive nature. If any of these commitments result in proposals for further action, those proposals must be covered by an appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) determination. Examples include but are not limited to: (a) Activities designed to support the improvement or upgrade management of natural resources, such as surveys for threatened and endangered species, wildlife and wildlife habitat, historic properties, and archeological sites; wetland delineations; timber stand examination; minimal water, air, waste, material and soil sampling; audits, photography, and interpretation. (b) Minimally-intrusive geological, geophysical, and geo-technical activities, including mapping and engineering surveys. (c) Conducting Facility Audits, Environmental Site Assessments and Environmental Baseline Surveys, and (d) Vulnerability, risk, and structural integrity assessments of infrastructure."

No extraordinary circumstances in accordance with DHS Instruction 023-01-001-01 have been identified regarding this action. This Categorical Exclusion only covers the Phase I portion of this project. The Sub-recipient must re-submit the Phase II construction portion of the project to FEMA prior to the start of construction for evaluation under the NEPA and other relevant laws, regulations, and executive orders.

The following project requirements must be satisfied, documented, and submitted prior to Phase II funding approval:

- The Sub-recipient must provide a clear, detailed narrative scope of work including but not limited to: dimensions of project components, description of ground disturbing activities, four (4) corner coordinates for each project area (decimal degree format), staging areas/access roads, color photos and maps, and items listed in the attached FEMA Region 6 Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Guidelines for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Applications in Louisiana "Drainage and Channelization" and "Facility Improvements and Retrofits."
- In compliance with Floodplain Management requirements, a Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) study must be conducted. The study should include a narrative of upstream and downstream effects along with an analysis on how/if the project will directly or indirectly affect any environmental resources i.e. nearby wetlands, floodplain, communities.
- In compliance with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Executive Order 11990 Protection of Wetlands, the Sub-recipient must coordinate with United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and obtain any required Section 404 Permit(s) from the USACE and/or any Section 401/402 Permit(s) from the State.
- A Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation may be required to identify potential historic properties. This is necessary to inform consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 requires federal agencies or their applicants to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. Guidance regarding the area of potential effect, standards for field work, and reporting will be provided following the development of schematic or 30% design. For reference guidance on Cultural Resource Investigations and consulting with the SHPO may be found at the following link <https://www.crt.state.la.us/cultural->

development/archaeology/CRM/section-106/submit-a-project-for-section-106-review/index.

Please note that this transmittal is a notification that Phase I funding of this project has been cleared under NEPA only. It also documents EHP's requirements for Phase II. Additional requirements will be identified upon submission of Phase I deliverables. **This is not a notice of final EHP approval.** Any change beyond the approved scope of work for this project will require additional environmental review by FEMA EHP.

Sincerely,

AMBER S
MARTINEZ

Digitally signed by
AMBER S MARTINEZ
Date: 2019.05.28
14:24:28 -05'00'

for

Tiffany Spann-Winfield
Deputy EHP Program Lead
Louisiana Integration and Recovery Office (LIRO)
FEMA-4277-DR-LA

Enclosures:

1. EHP Guidance by Project Type HMA Louisiana