

FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT

THE SOCIETY OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE DIOCESE OF LAKE
CHARLES ST. LOUIS HIGH SCHOOL CHANGE OF LOCATION

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the relocation and construction of facilities located at the St. Louis High School within Calcasieu Parish. The original site is located at 1620 Bank St. in Lake Charles, LA (30.21808, -93.20770). The proposed location is east of the intersection of Corbina Road and James Court in Lake Charles (30.1817, -93.1586) located approximately 4.0 miles southeast of the current location. The parcel is approximately 47 acres. The Applicant, The Society of the Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of Lake Charles seeks federal grant funds for this action eligible under a Presidential Disaster Declaration, signed on August 28, 2020 (FEMA-4559-DR-LA).

The need for this action is to relocate and newly construct storm-damaged school facilities and make the facilities more resilient against future storm events. Under the proposed preferred alternative, FEMA would provide funding for the Diocese of Lake Charles to conduct a series of projects that would construct a new school campus which would replace the school facilities that were damaged and utilizing temporary modular buildings following Hurricane Laura. This alternative includes demolition of the damaged facilities, development of new school buildings, a gymnasium, a courtyard, a central plant, a pavilion, detention ponds, and six sports fields/courts, such as a football field, baseball field, softball field, soccer field, practice field, and tennis courts.

Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a Draft EA, has been prepared to evaluate the action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. This Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action.

In accordance with NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500–1508), FEMA's Instruction 108-1-1 for implementing NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and 44 CFR Part 9, a Draft EA was written to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives on the human and natural environment. The draft EA evaluates Alternative 1, the No Action Alternative; Alternative 2, Relocate and construct new campus on Alternate site (west of Corbina Blvd); Alternative 3, Relocate and construct new campus on Alternate site (East of Corbina Blvd) (Proposed Preferred Action).

This public notice will run in the journal of record for the State of Louisiana, *The Advocate*, for four (4) days on Thursday, November 21, 2024, Friday, November 22, 2024, Saturday, November 23, 2024, and Sunday, November 24, 2024; and in the journal of record for Calcasieu Parish, *American Press* for four (4) days on Thursday, November 21, 2024, Friday, November 22, 2024, Saturday, November 23, 2024, and Tuesday, November 26, 2024. The draft EA and draft FONSI are available for review at the following locations during business hours:

- Chancery of the Diocese of Lake Charles, Administration Building 1201 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601;
- Champeaux, Evans, Hotard Architects, 702 Dr. Michael DeBakey Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601

The draft EA and draft FONSI can also be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/resource-document-library>.

A 30-day comment period will begin on November 21, 2024, and conclude on December 21, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Written comments may be mailed to: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY-FEMA EHP - "The Society of the Roman Catholic Church of the Diocese of Lake Charles, 1500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. Comments may also be emailed to fema-liro-ehp-pa@fema.dhs.gov. If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA and associated draft FONSI will become final.

All other questions regarding disaster assistance should be directed to FEMA's Helpline at 1-800-621-3362 or visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov

Based on FEMA's findings to date, no significant adverse environmental effects are anticipated. However, if FEMA receives new information that results in a change from no adverse effects then FEMA would revise the findings and issue a second public notice allowing time for additional comments. However, if there are no changes, this Draft EA will become the Final EA.

If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final, and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.