

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
REPLACEMENT OF THE CENTRAL  
BOOKING AND DETENTION FACILITY  
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
PA-04-FL-4177-PW-01006**

## **BACKGROUND**

During April 29 to 30, 2014, Escambia County (County) experienced 26 inches of rainfall in less than 24 hours (the 4177-FL flood event), which caused substantial flooding in the basement of the Central Booking and Detention Facility (CBDF). A natural gas leak, potentially caused by the flooding in the CBDF, resulted in a massive explosion that severely damaged the facility and rendered it a total loss. The County applied for Public Assistance funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to replace the damaged CBDF. The proposed new CBDF would eliminate the County's current inmate housing deficiencies and allow the construction of a stormwater detention pond on the existing CBDF site to improve stormwater capacity in the basin.

FEMA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of replacing the damaged CBDF in the County. The EA has been prepared in accordance with the implementing requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and FEMA regulations adopted pursuant thereto (44 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 10).

Based on the alternatives analysis conducted, two sites were determined to be reasonable sites for construction of the CBDF: the McDonald property (Alternative 1 – Preferred Alternative) and the existing CBDF site (Alternative 2). These alternatives, along with the No Action Alternative, were analyzed in detail in the EA.

Under Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative), a new CBDF would be constructed on the McDonald property, located along the southeastern corner of the intersection of North Pace Boulevard and West Fairfield Drive/State Road-295 in the County (Latitude: 30.263643, Longitude: -87.141917). The site is approximately 14 acres and consists primarily of a grassy field, patchy tree cover, and several buildings (operating businesses or vacant). Under Alternative 1, the County also would construct a new stormwater detention pond on the existing CBDF site to improve stormwater capacity and reduce flooding in the basin.

Under Alternative 2, the CBDF would be reconstructed on the existing site, located at 1200 West Leonard Street in the County (Latitude: 30.263130, Longitude: -87.135744). The existing site is approximately 4.5 acres and consists primarily of the damaged CBDF. Reconstruction of

the CBDF on the existing site would not allow the County to construct the proposed stormwater detention pond on the site.

The No Action Alternative is to maintain existing conditions. The No Action Alternative would not involve reconstruction of the existing CBDF, construction of a new CBDF in another location, or construction of a stormwater detention pond at the existing CBDF site.

## **FINDINGS**

Based on the findings of the EA, Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 would each have no effect or impacts that range from negligible to moderate in magnitude on air quality, noise, geology, soils, wetlands, surface water, floodplains, groundwater, vegetation, fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, hazardous materials and wastes, solid waste, utilities, land use, transportation and traffic, occupational health and safety, and socioeconomics. The impacts that each alternative would have on these resources would not be significant. Each alternative would not have disproportionately high or adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low-income populations, and would not result in disproportionate environmental health or safety risks to children. No significantly adverse cumulative impacts would occur when each alternative is combined with past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions.

## **MITIGATION, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES, AND REQUIRED PERMITS**

Compensatory mitigation is not required for any activity within the scope of the Proposed Action. The environmental protection measures that would be implemented and the required permits that would be obtained for the Proposed Action are summarized below; further detail is included in the EA.

- Generated fugitive dust would be controlled using standard construction best management practices (BMPs), including watering of exposed surfaces and enclosing/covering stockpiled material.
- All construction and demolition activities would comply with local noise ordinances.
- Appropriate BMPs and engineering controls would be implemented during construction to prevent and minimize soil erosion and sedimentation, per the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that would be prepared and implemented.
- An Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) from the Northwest Florida Water Management District would be obtained.
- A stormwater construction permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection would be obtained and an associated SWPPP would be prepared and implemented.
- The County would pay an in-lieu fee in accordance with the tree replacement requirements of the County's Land Development Code to compensate for the removal of protected trees on the McDonald property.

- Specified measures to protect human remains or intact archaeological deposits that are unexpectedly discovered during ground disturbing activities would be implemented.
- Handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes during construction activities, including measures to prevent releases, would be conducted in accordance with all applicable environmental compliance regulations.
- Asbestos and lead-based paint (LBP) surveys would be conducted prior to potential demolition of any existing structures on the McDonald property. Any necessary asbestos or LBP abatement would be conducted prior to demolition in accordance with all applicable plans and regulations.

## **PUBLIC REVIEW AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION**

A 15-day public review and comment period for the draft EA and this draft FONSI is being announced in a Notice of Availability placed in the *Pensacola News Journal*. The draft EA and this draft FONSI will be available for public review on the FEMA and Escambia County Web sites, and at the Pensacola Public Library and Escambia County Ernie Lee Magaha Governmental Complex (at the Clerk's Official Records office on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and in Suite 400). FEMA consulted with the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Florida State Clearinghouse, and applicable Native American Tribes on the Proposed Action. The SHPO and Jena Band of Choctaw Indians concurred with FEMA's determination that the Proposed Action would have no effect on historic properties; the other Native American Tribes consulted had no comments on the Proposed Action. The Florida State Clearinghouse concluded that allocation of federal funds for the Proposed Action is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program. The final EA will include a summary of public, agency, and Native American Tribe consultation, and will address all received comments.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis in the EA, I conclude that Alternative 1 or 2 would not have a significant impact on the natural or human environment either by itself or considering cumulative impacts. The NEPA requirements for the Proposed Action have been fulfilled, and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and will not be prepared. If there is a change in the scope of the Proposed Action, FEMA must be notified to determine whether the change in scope warrants further NEPA analysis.

## **APPROVAL**

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 Stephanie Madson, Ph.D.  
 Regional Environmental Officer  
 FEMA, Region IV

Date \_\_\_\_\_