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FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
CEDAR RAPIDS NORTHWEST RECREATION CENTER
LINN COUNTY, IOWA
FEMA-1763-DR-IA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is working with local, state and other federal agencies to coordinate the response to the Midwest storms of 2008, a federally declared disaster in Iowa. The Time Check Recreation Center located in the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa is a public facility eligible for FEMA Public Assistance funding to repair flood damage resulting from FEMA disaster 1763-DR-IA. The Subgrantee requests that the eligible funding for the reconstruction of the original Time Check Recreation Center to be applied toward an improved project. Pursuant to FEMA Policy 9525.13 Improved Projects, July 31, 2001, IV, are allowable “when restoration of the original damaged facility is not in the best interest of the public.”

As a result of damages from severe storms and flooding in 2008 during the incident period beginning May 25, 2008 and ending August 13, 2008, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized under Presidential disaster declaration 1763-DR-IA (Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121-5207, as amended; Stafford Act, Public Law 93-288). This declaration authorized the use of Public Assistance funds to assist eligible applicants in their recovery from the disaster by providing funds for eligible projects.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 requires that FEMA evaluate the potential environmental effects of the agency’s proposed and alternative actions prior to obligating disaster assistance funds. The President’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has developed a series of regulations for implementing the NEPA. These regulations are included in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 1500–1508.

The CFR requires that a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) include an evaluation of alternative means of addressing damages caused in declared disasters, and a discussion of the potential environmental effects of the proposed Federal Action. In accordance with both CEQ and FEMA regulations implementing NEPA in 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts

resulting from the alternatives presented in the EA and to determine whether the potential effects of the Proposed Action will require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Alternatives evaluated in the EA include: 1) No Action Alternative as defined as maintaining the status quo with no additional FEMA funding provided for the construction of the new Northwest Recreation Center facility, 2) The Proposed Action is for a FEMA-funded improved project to construct a new recreational facility intended to increase affected recreational capacity. The proposed location for the Northwest Recreation Center is adjacent to Harrison Elementary School at 1310 11th Street NW. Other alternatives were considered including two alternate locations for the proposed Cedar Rapids Northwest Recreation Center. These alternatives were eliminated early in the planning process as not feasible. The Draft EA was made available for public review and comment on the FEMA Environmental Documents and Public Notices website, The City of Cedar Rapids website, The City of Cedar Rapids City Hall and Main Cedar Rapids Public Library from March 31 to April 30, 2014. FEMA received no comments from the public during the comment period.

FINDING

Based upon the project scope of work, site design, and EA; and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 for environmental consideration, including Executive Orders (EO) addressing floodplains (EO 11988), wetlands (EO 11990), and environmental justice (EO 12898), FEMA determined the Proposed Action will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment and does not have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in accordance with 44 CFR Part 10.8 (d)(3)(x). The following best management practices (BMP), coordination, and permitting are required as project conditions;

- Construction activities must minimize fugitive dust emissions through watering, controlling entrainment of dust by vehicles, and/or other measures to reduce the disturbance of particulate matter as appropriate to the site conditions and type of work performed.
- During site preparation and construction, the contractor would:
 - Minimize land disturbance;
 - Suppress dust on traveled paths that are not paved through wetting, use of watering trucks, chemical dust suppressants, or other reasonable precautions to prevent dust from entering ambient air;
 - Cover trucks when hauling soil;
 - Minimize soil track-out by washing or cleaning truck wheels before leaving the construction site;
 - Stabilize the surface of soil piles
- Use site and project appropriate sediment and erosion control best management practices:
 - Non-structural sediment control BMP may utilize the minimization of disturbance, preservation of natural vegetation and re-vegetation of exposed slopes and soils to minimize erosion and to stabilize slopes;

- Structural erosion controls BMP include the placement of mulch or grass, the covering of stockpiles, silt fencing, and sediment traps.
- Coordinate with the IDNR in the event that unanticipated hazardous substances are encountered during the project; work cannot continue until the IDNR indicates that no further assessment is needed of the discovery. Removal and disposal of asbestos containing materials, and other debris must be done in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws.
- In the event that archaeological deposits are encountered, work must stop and FEMA must be notified; work cannot continue until the sensitive area is evaluated and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office has been completed.
- Use noise reduction best management practices to reduce potential impact to the two identified sensitive noise receptors in the vicinity of planned work including;
 - Early and frequent coordination with Harrison School administration is required to minimize disturbance during school hours.
 - Planning noisier activities and equipment usage for early-morning and late-afternoon outside of regularly schedule school hours;
 - Planning site access and staging to minimize or eliminate “back-up alarm” noise;
 - Limiting equipment on site to only what is necessary;
 - Imposing seasonal limitation on construction noise as spring and fall are critical times when windows are left open in residential areas;
 - Using newer, “low-noise” models of equipment

As a result of the information and analysis contained in the environmental assessment, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared. An Environmental Impact Statement will not, therefore, be prepared based on the fact that there will be no long-term adverse impacts to the natural or human environment as a result of this project and therefore, based upon the findings above, the project may proceed.

APPROVAL



Kenneth Sessa
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 Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VII

5/1/2014

Date