

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)
for the Diamondhead Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation Project,
Hancock County, Mississippi
FEMA-1604-DR-MS**

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to assist in the funding of the Diamondhead Wastewater Treatment Plant Relocation Project, Hancock County, Mississippi. On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, causing a storm surge that reached nearly 25 feet in some areas and devastating large portions of the Diamondhead Water & Sewer District's (District) service area and facilities, including the Diamondhead Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The District has proposed relocating the WWTP to higher ground, on a 13-acre site located north of Interstate 10 and west of Park Ten Drive. The construction of the new WWTP would remove the facility from the floodplain and would reduce repair costs associated with recurrent flooding.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences for the proposed action. The Draft EA and its associated Finding of Significant Impact (FONSI) are available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region4.shtm> or viewed and copied at the following locations:

- Diamondhead Sewer & Water District's Office, 4425 Park Ten Drive, Diamondhead, MS; and
- Kiln – Hancock County Library, 17065 Highway 603, Kiln, MS.

The comment period will end 15 days from the notice publication date which is **November 19, 2006**. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated FONSI will become final. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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