

ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
9th WARD STADIUM PROJECT
NEW ORLEANS, ORLEANS PARISH, LOUISIANA

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain
To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that 9th Ward Stadium Inc. and the City of New Orleans have conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is intended to be funded through the American Rescue Plan and Community Project Funding as administered by HUD. The Orleans Parish School Board in conjunction with the 9th Ward Stadium Project, intends to carry out actions which may affect or be affected by the 100-year floodplain. This project proposes to develop a currently vacant property into a community sports complex located at 3059 Higgins Boulevard in New Orleans, LA (coordinates 29.998900°, -90.037646°). The development project activities include:

- The construction of a new multipurpose artificial turf football stadium and track facility for Orleans Public Schools.
- A 4,000-seat grandstand, press box and score boards.
- Changing rooms, restrooms, concessions facilities and concourse pathways.
- A minimum 8 lane track with additional field facilities adjacent to the site.

Site improvements will also include improvements to civil systems for stormwater management and perimeter site fencing around the stadium and other ancillary improvements. The City of New Orleans has determined that approximately 6 acres of the development are within the 100-year floodplain. The City of New Orleans has also determined that the project will have no impact to wetlands.

In accordance with Executive Order 11988, 11990 and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management, the 9th Ward Stadium Inc. and

The City of New Orleans and 9th Ward Stadium Inc. have considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values. For each of the following alternatives, various factors were considered including feasibility, technology, hazard reduction and related mitigation costs, and environmental impacts.

Alternative 1 – Multiple alternative locations for the Stadium Project were considered; however, there are limited locations that offer the appropriate amount of undeveloped space needed for the project, in addition to providing a centralized location for community use. Therefore, the proposed location was determined to be the most practicable alternative for location.

Alternative 2 – The City of New Orleans and 9th Ward Stadium Inc. considered alternative methods and approaches to achieve the project objective, which included conducting the

project activities outside of the 100-year floodplain. However, for this approach to be feasible, the Stadium Project would have to be significantly reduced in scope and scale in order to be wholly constructed outside of the 100-year floodplain within this region, due to the extent of the floodplain covers within New Orleans; this approach would also limit the usable space for community assembly and participation. Therefore, the alternative method was rejected.

Alternative 3 – The City of New Orleans and 9th Ward Stadium Inc. considered a “No Action” alternative. This alternative would result in the currently vacant property to remain in disuse without providing any benefit to the local community; the property would remain in disrepair without proper use. Because the need for sporting infrastructure and public space has been identified for this area of the City of New Orleans, the conversion of this property to a local sporting complex and centralized community use / assembly area was determined the most appropriate approach. Therefore, the “No Action” scenario was rejected.

The City of New Orleans and 9th Ward Stadium Inc. have reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of New Orleans at the following address for a period of seven days after publication of this notice. Further details and a full description of the project may also be reviewed for this project at the Office of Community Development, Environmental Division located at 1340 Poydras Street Suite 920 in New Orleans Louisiana 70112 and may be examined during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you need to provide comments or make contact by phone, please call Craig Foundas at (504) 658-4395. Comments will be received until the close of the business day on August 22, 2024. Accommodations will be made for handicapped and non-English speaking persons provided those persons request said accommodations 3 days prior to the requested date of examination.

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