

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS DPS 01 WATERSHED DRAINAGE UPGRADES AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT FOR BROADMOOR, CENTRAL CITY, GARDEN DISTRICT, LOWER GARDEN DISTRICT, IRISH CHANNEL, ST. THOMAS DEVELOPMENT, TOURO, EAST RIVERSIDE, AND MILAN**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed Limited Build-Out Alternative to improve stormwater drainage, increase floodplain storage capacity, and mitigate hazards and damages from local flooding of homes and businesses.

The project area covers approximately 1,546 acres within the City of New Orleans. It is generally bounded by South Broad Street and Toledano Street to the northwest, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and South Broad Street to the northeast, Melpomene Street and Tchoupitoulas Street to the southeast, and Toledano Street and Tchoupitoulas Street to the southwest along the Mississippi.

The proposed project is a two-phased implementation approach to reduce flooding, implementing green infrastructure features in the stormwater drainage system to reduce runoff and create and enhance public landscape and park amenities.

The sub-recipient, the City of New Orleans, seeks federal grant funds for this action eligible under a Presidential Disaster Declaration, signed on August 29, 2005 (FEMA-1603-DR-LA). The primary purpose of this project is to improve stormwater drainage, increase floodplain storage capacity, and mitigate hazards and damages from local flooding of homes and businesses.

The project area has been subject to repetitive, significant flood events causing damage to residential and commercial properties. The alternatives considered include:

1. No Action Alternative;
2. Full Build-Out Alternative; and
3. Limited Build-Out Alternative (Proposed Action).

Neighborhoods in the DPS 01 Watershed Study Area include Broadmoor, Central City, Garden District, Lower Garden District, Irish Channel, St. Thomas Development, Touro, East Riverside, and Milan. A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in accordance with FEMA Instruction 108-1-1 and DHS Instruction 023-01-001-01, pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as implemented by Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Parts 1500-1508 (40 CFR 1500-1508), promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

The purpose of the draft EA is to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed action on the physical and human environment. This draft EA summarizes the purpose and need,

affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action.

The draft FONSI is FEMA's finding that the Proposed Action would not have a significant effect on the human and natural environment. The draft EA and FONSI are available for review at the following locations:

- City of New Orleans City Hall, at 1300 Perdido Street Room 6W03, New Orleans, LA
  - Mondays through Fridays 8:00 am to 5:00 pm; and
- Rosa F. Keller Library and Community Center, at 4300 S. Broad Street, New Orleans, LA
  - Mondays through Thursdays 10:00 am to 7:00 pm; and Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

This public notice will run in The Advocate-New Orleans Edition, for three (3) days on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, Tuesday, December 12, 2023, and Saturday, December 16, 2023; and in The Times Picayune for five (5) days on Sunday, December 10, 2023, Thursday, December 14, 2023, Monday, December 18, 2023, Thursday, December 21, 2023, and Wednesday, December 27, 2023.

The document can also be downloaded from FEMA's website at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa/environmental-assessment-city-new-0>.

There will be a 30-day comment period beginning on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, and concluding on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 4:00 pm.

Written comments may be mailed to: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY-FEMA EHP – CNO DPS 01, 1500 MAIN STREET, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, 70802. Comments may be emailed to [fema-liro-ehp-hma@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:fema-liro-ehp-hma@fema.dhs.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 no substantive comments are received, the draft EA and associated draft FONSI will become final and this Notice of Availability will also serve as the final Public Notice. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.