

Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment
for the Gruene Road Wastewater Treatment Plant Flood Protection Project
New Braunfels, Texas
FEMA-DR-1425-TX.

New Braunfels Utilities, a publicly-owned utility, has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance with the construction of a flood barrier wall to protect the Gruene Road Wastewater Treatment Plant from periodic flooding. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the CEQ regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the National Historic Preservation Act, and the implementing regulations of FEMA (44 CFR Part 9 and 10), an Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human and natural environment.

The proposed action is located in the FEMA-designated 100-year floodplain. Because of the project's location in the floodplain and in accordance with Executive Order 11988, an evaluation was performed to identify other practicable alternatives outside the floodplain. No other practicable alternatives to construction of the project in the floodplain were identified.

The EA evaluates alternatives that provide for compliance with applicable environmental laws. The alternatives to be evaluated include (1) No Action; (2) The Proposed Action, the construction of a flood protection wall around the wastewater treatment plant site.

The draft Environmental Assessment is available for review between October 15th and November 13, 2003, at the New Braunfels Public Library located at 700 East Common Street and at the offices of New Braunfels Utilities located at 263 East Main Plaza, New Braunfels, Texas, during normal business hours. The draft Environmental Assessment is also available for review online at the FEMA website <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs>.

Written comments regarding this proposed project should be mailed to Carlos Swonke, Turner Collie & Braden Inc., 400 West 15th Street, Suite 500, Austin, TX 78701. Comments should be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 13, 2003.