

APPENDIX

P

FEMA ENVIRONMENTAL DESK REFERENCE

S A M P L E E N V I R O N M E N T A L A S S E S S M E N T

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT HOUSING SERVICES INSTITUTE, VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA FEMA DR 1008

I. Introduction

The January 17, 1994, Northridge Earthquake damaged infrastructure and buildings throughout Southern California. To assist localities in rebuilding following the earthquake, a Presidential Disaster (FEMA D.R. 1008) was declared. Sixty structures at the Housing Services Institute (HSI) were damaged. The Institute has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Public Assistance funding under Section 406 of the Stafford Act, as amended, to rebuild key facilities destroyed by the earthquake.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 44 CFR Part 10. This section of the federal code requires that FEMA take into account environmental considerations when authorizing or approving actions and pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

II. Purpose and Need

The Housing Services Institute (HSI) is located in the northwest quadrant of Ventura County, California. HSI is a private, non-profit organization devoted primarily to providing alternative public housing to the disabled population in the region. The HSI property consists of about 3,000 acres.

Four buildings -- the Main House, The Adult and Young Adult Housing Building (called "Cottage IX"), Dining Hall, and Storage Barn all were severely damaged by the earthquake, and were subsequently demolished immediately after the event because they were an imminent threat to public safety (labeled "D" in figure 2). The facilities and critical support services housed in these structures are necessary to the operation of HSI.

The objective for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance program is to provide funding to repair, replace, restore, or reconstruct any eligible public facility owned by State or local governments, or Private Non-Profit organizations. The specific purpose for action to be reviewed in this environmental assessment is to repair, replace, restore, or reconstruct buildings at HSI to replace the functions served by the severely damaged buildings.

III. Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives Considered

The following alternatives are being considered:

2.1. Alternative No 1 - No Action Alternative

Under this alternative, the Institute would not replace the four demolished structures. Programs and support services previously housed in the demolished buildings would either be moved to existing structures or discontinued.

This alternative would not replace the buildings damaged by the earthquake. In lieu of reconstruction, the Housing Services Institute would have to combine functions previously available on campus in smaller facilities. Several functions such as housing, dining facilities and meeting space would probably have to be discontinued or scaled back.

2.2 Alternative No. 2 - Rebuild in Pre-Disaster Location

Alternative 2 involves reconstruction of the four buildings in their pre-disaster locations at approximately their pre-disaster size. Two of the structures damaged by the 1994 Northridge Earthquake --The Main House (administration building) and the Storage Barn were located in the 100-year flood plain of Meier Creek. Reconstruction of these facilities in their pre-disaster location would require flood-proofing or some form of elevation to conform with NFIP requirements and FEMA guidelines. The Dining Hall and Cottage IX (the Adult and Young Adult housing), which are outside the 100-year floodplain of Meier Creek, would be rebuilt in their pre-disaster location.

2.3 Alternative No. 3 - Relocate and Rebuild in New Location (PROPOSED ACTION)

Alternative 3, the proposed action, involves rebuilding four demolished structures in new locations and the construction of a fifth structure to house the separate administrative function. The administrative and program functions were formerly housed together in the Main House. Two of the destroyed buildings, the Main House and the Storage Barn, were located in the 100-year floodplain of Meier Creek. These structures would be rebuilt upland of the floodplain approximately 1000 feet west of their present location. The other three structures would also be constructed in areas outside of the 100 year floodplain.

Under this alternative all buildings would be constructed a minimum of 200 feet and a maximum of 400 feet northeast of their present location and outside of the 100-year floodplain of Meier Creek. The new administration building would occupy the former site of the Dining Hall, on a slope of approximately five percent. The relocated Main House, Cottage and Dining facilities would be relocated adjacent to one another on a hillside above the Meier Creek canyon (Please see Figure 2). This area was previously used for grazing cows and has a slope of approximately 20 percent. Grading and leveling for siting of these structures would require "cuts and fills" totaling approximately 35,000 cubic yards. All fill material would be derived from cuts (soils) excavated on site next to the locations of the structures. The Storage Barn would be relocated to a site 200 feet west of its original location. Please see Figure 2.

Preliminary engineering by the sub-grantee's consultant indicates that the new building sites can be developed with conventional cut and fill procedures. Within

the natural canyon areas and bordering flanks, removal depths in the colluvial and alluvial materials would not exceed five feet.

The proposed size of the relocated and rebuilt structures is the following: Administration Building, 5,600 square feet; the Cottage (Adult & Young Adult Housing), 2,440 square feet; the Main Program Building, 8,700 square feet; the Dining Hall, 9,000 square feet; and the Storage Barn, 3,300 square feet.

As a condition for new construction, the County of Ventura Resource Management Agency is requiring the Housing Services Institute to connect all new and old buildings to the County's wastewater system. The Housing Services property is currently on septic systems that serve each building. Potable water is purchased from the adjacent Culligan Water Company; however water pressure is not sufficient to serve the facility in case of a major fire. The county is thus requiring installation of a new water force main to provide sufficient water pressure in case of a major fire. The force main would be connected to the Storage Barn.

These improvements would require installation of approximately 6,500 linear feet of new pipe within the HSI property and 1,500 linear feet outside the Institute along the main road to connect with city facilities. The proposed sewer line would be eight inches in diameter; the proposed water line would be six inches in diameter. Both lines would require excavation of a trench approximately 24 inches wide and approximately four feet deep. Sewer pipe and force water main installation would occur within existing (disturbed) roadways, except for the stream crossing and the excavation of a trench across approximately 500 feet of undeveloped land to connect with the Storage Barn. The crossing of Meier Creek would involve excavating two pipeline sections (one for the sewer and one for the water) three-to-five feet beneath the stream bed of Meier Creek for a distance of approximately 40 feet (from bank-to-bank). Please see Figure 2.

IV. Environmental Setting and Potential Impacts of the Proposed Action and Alternatives Considered

3.1 GEOLOGY, SEISMICITY, SOILS

The Housing Services Institute is located in the Hills of the east-west trending Transverse Ranges of Southern California. The Hills are geologically complex and consists of folded and fractured sedimentary rock series and folded, stratified marine sandstones of the Miocene Age. The area is within or adjacent to occasional igneous masses, which have been subjected to metamorphism as a consequence of recent tectonic activity in the region. The entire system is also part of the network of faults in the San Andreas Fault Zone system. For this reason, the quake in the adjacent San Fernando Valley was felt strongly in the area near HSI.

3.1.1 Alternative 1 - the No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have no potential effects on geology, seismicity and soils, because no new construction would take place.

3.1.2 Alternative 2 - Rebuild in Pre-Disaster Location

Alternative 2 would involve repair and replacement of the structures in their pre-disaster location. The pre-disaster building sites are generally on level ground or on slopes of less than five percent, and would require very little earthwork. This alternative would have minimal effects on the geology and soils of the area. The pre-disaster building sites are located in proximity to an active earthquake zone and would thus continue to be vulnerable to seismicity. All structures would be constructed according to seismic codes.

3.1.3 Alternative 3 - Relocate and Rebuild in New Location (PROPOSED ACTION)

Under Alternative 3, three of the five new buildings – the Cottage, the Main House, and the Dining Hall – would be constructed on a hillside with a slope of 20 percent. Grading and leveling for siting of these structures would require "cuts and fills" totaling approximately 35,000 cubic yards. All fill material would be derived from cuts (soils) excavated on site.

Preliminary engineering by the sub-grantee's consultant indicates that the new building sites can be developed with conventional cut and fill procedures. Within the natural canyon areas and bordering flanks, removal depths in the colluvial and alluvial materials would not exceed five feet.

It is not anticipated that the proposed grading would have an effect on the geologic stability of the property outside of the building sites. Again, due to the fractured substrate and proximity to earthquake faults, Alternative 3, like Alternative 2, would continue to be vulnerable to seismic activity in the area. The new structures would be constructed according to applicable seismic construction codes.

3.2 HYDROLOGY

Meier Creek, an ephemeral stream, crosses approximately through the middle of the 3,000-acre Housing Services property. The Meier Creek stream bed is approximately 40-feet in width. During summer the creek is dry. During intense winter storms the creek would over-wash its banks; and is capable of affecting HSI buildings near the stream. The 100-year floodplain of Meier Creek ranges in width from 400 to 1,000 feet and runs approximately through the center of the HSI property.

3.2.1 No Action Alternative

Because there would be no new construction under the No Action Alternative, there would be a potential reduction in aggregate impervious surfaces and a subsequent increase in absorption rates on the property, and a potential decrease in the rate and amount of surface runoff. This effect is individually insignificant compared to the overall amount of runoff from the HSI property and the Meier Creek drainage basin as a whole. There would also be no potential effects to drainage patterns in the area or to Meier Creek.

3.2.2 Alternative 2 -- Rebuild in Pre-Disaster Location

The Main House and Storage Building, which are within the 100-year floodplain, would have the potential to affect the hydrology of the area by serving as a minor obstruction to non-floodway flood-flows, but to a lesser degree than existing conditions because of slight differences in construction due to floodproofing measures. The Dining Hall and Cottage would be built in their pre-disaster location outside the 100-year floodplain. The area of impervious ground cover would be approximately the same as the pre-disaster condition; thus, the rate and amount of surface runoff would be the same as existed in the pre-disaster condition.

3.2.3 Relocate and Rebuild in New Location (PROPOSED ACTION)

The Program Main Building, Cottage, and Dining Facility would be built on a slope of 20 percent, and would thus have the potential to increase both the short-term and long-term rate of surface runoff. During construction this potential effect can be reduced by channeling construction runoff through rock screens and installing a silt fence between the construction sites and drainage to Meier Creek. Landscaping and maintenance following construction can reduce potential runoff from the building sites.

As noted in the description of this alternative, the County of Ventura is requiring that HSI be connected to the County water and wastewater treatment system. Wastewater from the HSI property would be transported to the regional Water Pollution Control Plant, and following treatment, discharged into the Pacific Ocean. This plant currently has excess capacity that can handle the additional sewage.

Connection to the regional wastewater facility and the city's water system would require installation of approximately 6,500 linear feet of new pipe within the HSI property, and two crossings of Meier Creek. Pipes crossing the Creek would be reinforced to withstand possible scour or downcutting of the streambed. Pipe installation within the project area would occur within existing (disturbed) roadways and thus would have no effect on the hydrology of the area. Pipe crossings at Meier Creek would be excavated at least five feet beneath stream bed elevation, and construction would occur during "dry months" when there is no flow within the stream. Installation of new pipe beneath the stream bed of Meier Creek would not effect the hydrology of the stream. Alternative alignments were investigated, but this was the only technically feasible alignment. Other infeasible alignments had extremely high costs for pumping of sewage and water due to topographic limitations.

Conditions of the applicant's Clean Water Act Section 404 permit with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers require that all staging, storage, and fueling of equipment occur outside the stream bed; and that the disturbed river bed be brought back to its pre-project contours once the utility lines are installed. Stream diversion or de-watering would be prohibited as would any work during the wet weather period between December and April. Additional conditions placed on the applicant as part of the California Department of Fish and Game's Stream Bed Alternation Agreement, require that no vegetation be removed as part of the construction project, in addition to other conditions (Please See Appendix No. 1 and No. 2).

3.3 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Habitat types on hillsides surrounding the property generally are the chamise chaparral variety typical of inland coastal valleys of Southern California. The campus area adjacent to Meier Creek has been under continuous modification for eight decades, consequently only fragments of native habitat remain. These include small stands of sycamore and oak, and scattered, small mulefat shrubs along the riparian corridor of Meier Creek. Purposeful introduction of non-native species, including eucalyptus and Italian cypress, with no understory of shrubs or grasses, has profoundly modified the original vegetation composition. Above the valley floor, orchards, grazing and other ground-disturbing activities have combined to eradicate the original plant cover.

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see Appendix 9) indicates that two federally listed endangered species -- least Bell's vireo (bird) and California orcutt grass may be present in the area of HSI in Ventura County. Surveys indicate that habitat (riparian wouldow and cottonwood) for the vireo is not present in the project area. Vireo are typically found in riparian areas of wouldow and cottonwood trees. The riparian corridor within the project area is dominated by eucalyptus trees. California orcutt grasses are limited to vernal pools, which also are not present within or near the project area.

The two listed endangered species identified above receive protection under the Endangered Species Act and are not present in the project area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, however, has asked that FEMA also consider proposed and candidate species in the planning of this proposed action. There are two proposed plant species that may occur in or near the HSI property. These are Lyons pentachaeta (proposed endangered) and Braunton's milk vetch (proposed endangered).

The following is a listing of candidate species that may occur in the area near the HSI property.

Mammals: San Diego black-tailed jack rabbit, San Diego Desert wood rat.

Birds: Bell's Sage sparrow, Western Burrowing owl.

Reptiles: San Diego horned lizard, Southwestern pond turtle, Two-striped garter snake, Coastal western whiptail.

Plants: Santa Susanna tarplant, Many-stemmed duleya.

3.3.1 No Action Alternative

Because the No Action alternative would involve no new construction there would be no adverse or beneficial effects to listed, proposed or candidate species as a result of the No Action Alternative.

3.3.2 Alternative 2 -- Rebuild in Pre-Disaster Location

As noted above there would be no potential effects to federally-listed endangered and threatened species as a result of this project. Potential effects on candidate and proposed species under Alternative 2 would be limited to short-term construction impacts. The sites of the existing structures have already been occupied/disturbed and it is unlikely that sensitive species would be affected by this alternative.

3.3.3 Alternative 3 -- Relocate and Rebuild in New Location (PROPOSED ACTION)

Because this alternative involves constructing five buildings on previously undeveloped sites, Alternative 3 would have the greatest potential to affect proposed and candidate species. The proposed new Administration Building would occupy part of the previous site of the Dining Hall. This area has already been disturbed, and it is unlikely that proposed or candidate species would be present.

The three relocated structures under this alternative -- the Cottage, Main Program Building and Dining Hall -- would be located on a hillside above Meier Creek. This area has been used for grazing cows. The predominant plant species are oleander and cypress. California coastal sage scrub and chaparral, both native plants that once provided understory (habitat) on the hillside, no longer predominate in this area. Plants such as the Lyon's pentachaeta, Santa Susanna tarplant and many-stemmed dudleya are found in coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats, as are the San Diego horned lizard, two-striped garter snake and coastal western whiptail. Of the bird species listed, the Bell's sage sparrow also requires the understory of coastal sage scrub. The project area is outside the limits of the San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit and the San Diego desert wood rat.

One proposed species, braunton's milk vetch, and one candidate species, the Western burrowing owl, may be present at the sites proposed for re-locating buildings. The burrowing owl, which nests in short grassland areas, may be present at the sites proposed for the new Cottage, Dining Hall, Main Program and Storage Barn buildings. No mitigation, nor further consultation is required with US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) with respect to this species because it is a candidate species and as such does not have legal protection status. Braunton's milk vetch, which requires disturbed areas within chaparral and coastal scrub environments, may be present at the site of the proposed new Administration Building. No further FWS consultation is required with respect to this proposed species since any impact is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of this species (Appendix 9, Conversation Record). Potential impacts to these species or their habitats would be temporary and would not be considered significant.

Potential effects resulting from the installation of the proposed water and sewer pipelines within the project area would be limited to an approximately 500-foot section of sewer and water pipe between Meier Creek and the Storage Barn. This would involve excavation of a trench approximately 24 inches wide and approximately five feet deep. One candidate species, the Western burrowing owl, may be temporarily affected by this operation; however, the potential impacts would be short-term, because excavation and pipe installation in this area would require approximately two days. No mitigation, nor further consultation is required with FWS with respect to this species because it is a candidate species and as such does not have legal protection status.

Installation of sewer lines within the remainder of the Institute would occur within existing (disturbed) roads, and, so, would not impact any wildlife habitat or species.

3.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Housing Services Institute property, which began as a horse/cattle ranch in 1914, was designated County Landmark No. 68 in Ventura County. The complex was eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic places as a multiple resource property. The cornerstone of the historic property was the Main Building or Meier House. The Main Building was listed both individually and as the main element of the multiple resource property. Without the Main Building, the other elements of the multiple resource property have no historic value.

The earthquake damage to the Main Building was so extensive that it was damaged beyond repair and subsequently demolished. The California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), in a letter dated June 6, 1994, stated that the building was eligible for the National Register (Appendix 4). However, since the Main Building was completely destroyed, the remaining elements of the multiple resource property are no longer eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

In cooperation with FEMA and under guidance from the SHPO, the local applicant compiled historic information including site plans, building plans and specifications, historic and contemporary photographs, clippings, films, videos and other media related to the Main Building and place these documents in a repository. The Housing Services Institute maintains an extensive photographic and written collection on the founding and development of the Institute. This collection would be housed within the library, which would be housed in the new Main Building.

Based upon the results of an intensive archaeological field survey of the Housing Services Institute conducted for Ventura County in 1981 and archived at the University of California, Los Angeles, no pre-historic or historic sites were found to exist in the areas to be affected by construction of new buildings or excavation of new water and sewer pipelines.

3.4.1 No Action Alternative

3.4.2 Alternative 2 -- Rebuild in Pre-Disaster Location

3.4.3 Alternative 3 -- Relocate and Rebuild in New Location (PROPOSED ACTION)

Both the evaluation by the California State Historic Preservation Office concerning historic structures and the archaeological field surveys conducted for Ventura County and the specific areas affected, as referenced above, indicate that none of the alternatives considered would affect National Register eligible historic or pre-historic structures or archeological properties.

3.5 WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY

Pumping of groundwater for potable water supplies for the Institute ceased in 1968 with the discovery of chemical contaminants within the area's aquifer. These contaminants

were subsequently traced to a manufacturing facility upland of the HSI property. The Institute subsequently built a pipeline connection to the Culligan Water Company and has since purchased its drinking water supplies from this company. This water supply system does not provide sufficient pressure for fire fighting capabilities.

3.5.1 Alternative 1 - No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would have no potential effect on groundwater quality or quantity or surface water quality or quantity. The water supply and sewer service to the Institute would not be upgraded. The Institute would continue to rely on septic systems, that would have the continued potential to adversely affect groundwater. Water supply would continue to be supplied by the Culligan Company. This water currently meets State and Federal Drinking water standards

3.5.2 Alternative 2 -- Rebuild in Pre-Disaster Location

The pre-disaster locations of the Main House and Storage Barn are 50 feet and 75 feet respectively from the channel of Meier Creek. Both structures are within the 100-year flood plain of the creek. In order to prevent transport of sediments from the construction site to Meier Creek, FEMA would require the applicant to include Standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) for construction, including on-site media-filter screening of construction water runoff and the installation siltation fencing between the construction sites and the creek.

3.5.3 Alternative 3 -- Relocate and Rebuild in New Location (PROPOSED ACTION)

Alternative 3 calls for re-locating all structures a minimum of 200 and a maximum of 300 feet upland of Meier Creek. Construction of this alternative would be subject to the same conditions as outlined for Alternative No. 2. Due to the fact that there would be a larger buffer zone under this alternative between construction sites and Meier Creek, it is likely that the potential for sediment loadings to Meier Creek is less likely under this alternative.

New water and sewer lines would be installed perpendicular to Meier Creek to minimize the area of potential effect to the creek system. Both the Stream Bed Alteration Agreement issued by the California Department of Fish and Game and the Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, require that all work occur during the time of year when the creek is dry, that no vegetation be removed, and that storage and fueling of equipment occur outside the stream bed. These permits prohibit short-term or long-term effects to surface waters as a result of this project. The listing of conditions for working in the stream bed of Meier Creek are contained in Appendix No. 1 and No. 2 of this document.

Based upon the conditions required by the California Department and Fish and Game and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it is not expected that this alternative would have potential impacts to the quality or quantity of surface waters in Meier Creek.

The water supply pipeline mandated by the County of Ventura Resource Management Agency is to provide a water force main to the Housing Services Institute with sufficient

pressure to adequately respond to fires on the property. During construction water would be supplied by an on-site water tank and local wells.

Sewer and water lines would be installed above groundwater tables and thus would have no potential effect on the quality or quantity of groundwater. The proposed build alternatives would not therefore have an effect on the quality or quantity of groundwater. Potential effects to surface waters are addressed below.

3.6 AIR QUALITY

The proposed project is located in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), a non-attainment area. The Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is responsible for developing plans and programs to attain state and federal air quality standards. The district also enforces federal Clean Air Act rules and regulations.

3.6.1 Alternative 1 -- No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would result in no effects to air quality. No new construction would occur.

3.6.2 Alternative No. 2 -- Rebuild in Pre-Disaster Location

Alternative 2 proposes to replace the damaged structures in their pre-disaster location and, therefore would have very minimal potential to affect air quality.

To reduce potential short-term effects to air quality from construction-related activities, all excavated areas would be periodically sprayed with water; all construction vehicles would be limited to 15 mph (within construction access roads); and all construction activities would be terminated when wind speeds exceed 30 mph.

3.6.3 Alternative No. 3 -- Relocate and Rebuild in New Location (PROPOSED ACTION)

Alternative 3 proposes construction of an additional structure, the Administration Building, which would comprise an additional 5,600 square feet. The Storage Barn would be replaced at its pre-disaster size. The Dining Hall, Main Program Building and Cottage all would double in size from their pre-disaster "footprint."

Similar preventative measures for short-term minor impacts would be taken as discussed in alternative 2.

Although the size of the replacement buildings and the additional structure proposed under this alternative would be larger than the pre-disaster buildings, it is not anticipated that the additional size would result in increased stationary generators of air emissions, or long-term increases from additional vehicular traffic. It is not, therefore, anticipated that the project would result in long-term effects to air quality within the region.

3.7 NOISE

3.7.1 Alternative 1 -- No Action

There would be no impact to noise levels under the No Action Alternative because there would be no new construction.

3.7.2 Alternative 2 -- Rebuild in Pre-Disaster Location and

3.7.3 Alternative 3 -- Relocate and Rebuild in New Location (PROPOSED ACTION)

Short-term noise impacts from construction work are expected to reach between 70-80 dBA. Sixty-seven decibels or dBA is the federal threshold for mitigating noise adjacent to sensitive receptors such as churches and schools. Construction activities would be restricted to the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. and all construction equipment would have proper mufflers. There are no sensitive noise receptors that would be affected by construction activities. It is not expected therefore that there would be short-term or long-term noise impacts as a result of this project.

3.8 TRAFFIC

It is expected that there would be short-term increases to local traffic associated with construction vehicles.

3.8.1 Alternative 1 -- No Action

The No Action Alternative would result in no new construction; therefore there would be no potential for increased traffic.

3.8.2 Alternative 2 -- Rebuild in Pre-Disaster Location

Reconstruction of buildings in their pre-disaster location would restore the Institute to its pre-disaster condition, and therefore should not result in automobile traffic over what existed prior to the Northridge Earthquake.

3.8.3 Alternative 3 -- Relocate and Rebuild in New Location (PROPOSED ACTION)

This alternative doubles the size of all pre-disaster buildings that housed institutional activities, and adds an additional 5,600 square foot structure. Project plans call for construction of 20 additional parking places. The County of Ventura, however, is not, as a condition for building permits, requiring HSI to provide new parking spaces. This is due to the fact that the activities and the number of persons served by HSI are not expected to increase as a result of this project.

V. Conclusions

Based upon the studies and consultations undertaken in this environmental assessment, and given the precautionary and mitigating measures recommended by consultir agencies, there does not appear to be any significant environmental impact assoc the construction of either one of the action alternatives.

VI. Consultations

This project has been coordinated with the following local state and federal agencies:

County of Ventura
California Water Quality Control Board
California Department of Fish and Game
California State Historic Preservation Office
Southern California Air Quality Management District
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Agency
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

An exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was granted by Ventura County for the pipeline installation and connections to the water and wastewater system. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, on January 12, 1995, issued a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit for the sewer and water pipeline crossing at Meier Creek. The latter element of the project also received a Stream Bed Alteration Agreement (permit) (# 5-369-94) on September 19, 1994, from the California Department of Fish and Game.

The County of Ventura, Resource Management Agency, issued a Categorical Exemption from CEQA for construction of new buildings on October 3, 1994. The County's Department of Environmental Services, Planning Division, completed an Initial Study and issued a Negative Declaration under CEQA on July 25, 1994, for the section of water and sewer pipeline installation connecting the Housing Services Institute with the County's system.

VII. List of Preparers

Ms. A, Regional Environmental Officer
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region XX

Ms. L, Senior Public Assistance Officer
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region XX

Mr. C, Chief, Environmental Planning Section
Corps of Engineers
L District

Mr. L
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
L District

List of Attachments

Figure 1 - Regional Context

Figure 2 - HSI site map

Figure 3 - General Location of Sewer Extension in Regional Context

Appendix 1 - Copy of Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Regulatory Branch, (404) Permit #94-50918-TAW, January 12, 1995.

Appendix 2 - Copy of California, Department of Fish and Game, Streambed Alteration Agreement, No. 5-369-94, September 19, 1994.

Appendix 3 - Copy of: California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, (401) Water Quality Certification Waiver, November 7, 1994.

Appendix 4- State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) Letter, June 6, 1994.

Appendix 5 - Proposed Sewer Connection Fee (Based on Annual Activities)

Appendix 6 - Ventura County, Resource Management Agency, Categorical Exemption

Appendix 7 - Dept. of Env. Services, Planning Div., Initial Study Cover Sheet; Project Impacts Summary

Appendix 8 - County Sanitation District, Negative Declaration.

Appendix 9 - FEMA memo to file regarding USFWS consultation; USFWS letter of March 15, 1995, USFWS letter of April 11, 1995.

****NOTE - Some Appendices not included for Sample EA