

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA)
For the Emergency/Fire Access Road for Lower Bay Elementary Project,
Hancock County, Mississippi
FEMA-1604-DR-MS**

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to assist the Bay Waveland School District in the construction of a secondary fire/emergency access road in the City of Waveland, Hancock County, Mississippi.

On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina winds and storm surge damaged the campus of Lower Bay Elementary School in Waveland, Hancock County, Mississippi. Lower Bay Elementary School is located at 1101 Saint Joseph Street just south of Old Spanish Trail Road. The school consisted of three main buildings prior to Katrina: the original Center Building, a North Kindergarten Building, and a South Classroom Building. A modular classroom building was also located on the site. The original Center Building had repair costs exceeding 50% of the cost of a new structure. The North and South buildings sustained damage not exceeding 50%. The modular classroom building was destroyed.

The Bay Waveland School District has submitted a separate application for FEMA funding under FEMA's Public Assistance Program in response to FEMA-1604-DR-MS, to construct a new 49,695 SF structure that was designed in accordance with the 2003 International Building Code and was raised approximately two to three feet. The parking lot was not damaged; but, local officials contend that to meet local Fire Code, a second fire access road is necessary.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Bay Waveland School District proposes to construct a 510 foot long, 20 foot wide emergency access road for the Lower Bay Elementary School providing an alternate fire apparatus access road to the building in case one of the access roads becomes impaired by vehicle congestion or other factors.

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 summarized the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environmental, and potential environmental consequences for the proposed action. The Draft EA is 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:

- Bay Waveland School District Office
201 Carroll Avenue
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

- Hancock County Public Library
Bay St. Louis Branch
312 Highway 90
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

The comment period will conclude 15 days after the initial notice publication date of **August ??, 2012**.

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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