



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 60267  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Planning, Programs, and  
Project Management Division  
Environmental Planning  
and Compliance Branch

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
(DFONSI)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS ROAD, SECTION 14,  
STREAMBANK PROTECTION PROJECT**

**EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LOUISIANA**

**EA #431**

Description of the Action. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (MVN), proposes a Section 14 stream bank erosion protection project in order to maintain the integrity of a main road (F Street, also known as Jesse N. Stone Avenue) on the Southern University Campus in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. F Street becomes Helen M. Barron Avenue to the north, and is the only vehicular access to the student dormitories. This road is located adjacent to a ravine that meanders through the campus and transports floodwaters from the campus and surrounding areas to the Mississippi River. The ravine generally holds less than three feet of water during most of the year, excluding high water events. The severe erosion of the south slope of the ravine is due to several factors, including: increased volumes of floodwaters that drain through the existing culvert during storm events, increased flow velocities during storm events, and the current alignment of the ravine. MVN proposes to excavate to align approximately 150 feet of the meandering ravine immediately south of the existing culvert, install a new 150-foot section of matching-sized culvert to extend the existing culvert, place earthen fill around the culvert, compact and grade the fill for proper drainage, and install rip-rap (rocks) for erosion protection near the end of the new culvert.

Factors Considered in Determination. This office has assessed the impacts of the proposed action on important resources, including cultural resources, the Lower Mississippi River, fisheries and wildlife, upland hardwood forests, threatened or endangered species, recreational resources, aesthetic resources, air quality, and noise. No significant adverse impacts were identified for any of these important resources. The risk of encountering hazardous, toxic, and radioactive wastes on this project is considered low. No adverse impacts have been identified that would require mitigation.

By letters dated August 1, 2006, and April 17, 2009, respectively, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service confirmed that the proposed action will have no effect on any endangered or threatened species. In a letter dated November 16, 2006, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with a recommendation of no effect on historic properties. This office has concurred with, or resolved, all Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act recommendations contained in a letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, dated September 21, 2006 and updated June 4, 2009. This office has concurred with, or resolved, all comments on the air quality impact analysis documented in the EA, which were contained in a letter from Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

Environmental Design Commitments. The following commitments are an integral part of the proposed action:

- 1.) No additional work may be performed without further coordination through Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch.
- 2.) If any unrecorded cultural resources are determined to exist within the project area boundaries, a CEMVN-PM-RN archeologist will be notified and final coordination with the SHPO and THPO will be completed. [CEMVN-PM-RN/SHPO Standard Operating Procedure]
- 3.) If the proposed action is changed significantly or is not implemented within one year, CEMVN will reinitiate coordination with the USFWS to ensure that the proposed action would not adversely affect any Federally-listed threatened or endangered species, or their habitat, as per their letters dated September 21, 2006 and June 4, 2009.

Public Involvement. The proposed action has been coordinated with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies and businesses, organizations, and individuals through distribution of EA #431 for their review and comment. EA #431 is attached hereto and made a part of this FONSI.

Conclusion. This office has assessed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action. Based on this assessment, a review of the comments made on EA #431, and the implementation of the environmental design commitments listed above, a determination has been made that the proposed action would have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

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Date

**DRAFT**

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Alvin B. Lee  
Commander  
New Orleans District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers