

Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Orange County Office of Emergency Management Interoperable Communications Tower and Omni Directional Antenna Project, Vidor, Orange County, Texas
Port Security Grant Program
Project # 2015-PU-00086 (30459)

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Orange County Office of Emergency Management has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) for funding to construct a communications tower. PSGP directly supports maritime transportation infrastructure security activities. PSGP funds are intended to improve port-wide maritime security risk management; enhance maritime domain awareness; support maritime security training and exercises; and to maintain or reestablish maritime security mitigation protocols that support port recovery and resiliency capabilities.

FEMA proposes to provide funding for the construction of a 450 foot tall self-supported lattice communications tower at 675 East Railroad Street, Vidor, Texas (Latitude: 30.13002; Longitude: -94.00519). The tower would be built in a field adjacent to the City of Vidor Police Department. A reinforced concrete pad would be built at the base of the tower. A precast concrete shelter, 11-feet 8-inches by 26 feet, would be placed atop the reinforced pad. The shelter would have one room for mission critical emergency service radio equipment and another room to house a diesel emergency backup generator. A diesel fuel tank would also be installed to provide fuel for the backup generator. The tower and the communications shelter would be enclosed inside a chain link fence within the compound measuring 70-feet by 80-feet by 6-feet.

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives on the human and natural environment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508), the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA (44 CFR Parts 9 and 10). The draft EA evaluates alternatives that provide for compliance with applicable environmental laws. The alternatives evaluated include (1) no action; (2) the proposed action described above.

The draft EA is available for review and comment at City of Vidor – Vidor Police Department (695 East Railroad, Vidor) and the Orange County Office of Emergency Management (11457 FM 1442, Orange, TX 77630) between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday, from August 01 to September 01, 2016. An electronic version of the draft EA can be requested from Dorothy Cook, FEMA Region 6, at Dorothy.cook@fema.dhs.gov or viewed on FEMA's website at <https://www.fema.gov/library>.

The comment period will end 30 days from the initial notice publication date. Written comments on the draft EA can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Dorothy Cook, Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region 6, 800 N Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209, Fax: 940-297-0152; dorothy.cook@fema.dhs.gov. If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.