

Agency Name: EDA
 CDBG-DR Program: NCR
 Application ID Number: NCR39811

DETERMINATION OF LEVEL OF REVIEW

Applicant Name: Cape May City Program Year: 2015

Project Location: 801 Lafayette Street, Cape May, New Jersey

Project Description (*Attach additional descriptive information, as appropriate to the activity, including narrative, maps, photographs, site plans, budgets and other information.*):

See attached Project Description

The subject project has been reviewed pursuant to HUD regulations 24 CFR Part 58, "Environmental Review Procedures for Entities Assuming HUD Environmental Responsibilities," and the following determination with respect to the project is made:

- Exempt** from NEPA review requirements per 24 CFR 58.34(a)(____)
- Categorically Excluded NOT Subject** to §58.5 authorities per 24 CFR 58.35(b)(____)
- Categorically Excluded SUBJECT** to §58.5 authorities per 24 CFR 58.35(a)(3)(ii)
(A Statutory Checklist for the §58.5 authorities is attached.)
- An **Environmental Assessment** (EA) is required to be performed. (An Environmental Assessment performed in accordance with subpart E of 24 CFR Part 58 is attached.)
- An **Environmental Impact Statement** (EIS) is required to be performed.

The ERR (see §58.38) must contain all the environmental review documents, public notices and written determinations or environmental findings required by Part 58 as evidence of review, decision making and actions pertaining to a particular project. Include additional information including checklists, studies, analyses and documentation as appropriate.

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| <u>Thomas Flis</u> Preparer Name |  Signature |
| <u>Environmental Engineer III</u> Title | <u>February 9, 2015</u> Completion Date For DLR |

Project Description:

The proposed project consists of renovations and enhancements to Lafayette Street Park in the City of Cape May, New Jersey. Lafayette Street Park appears to have acquired its present configuration between 1963 and 1970. Proposed improvements have been broadly identified in a conceptual plan prepared by a Temple University architectural design studio class, dated 2010. For this review, the undertaking is regarding as the full range of potential alterations, though at present only a portion of these improvements would be funded.

The Lafayette Street Park Development is an NCR Recreation, Cultural and Park Land Amenities Project located in the heart of Cape May City, Cape May County. Conceptual design for the park has been completed for the 38-acre, full-purpose park and includes active and passive recreation, while planned project activities will take place within an approximately 7.5-acre footprint along Lafayette Street (this "Phase 1" area is the subject of the current application for funding). The park design will incorporate green concepts and construction materials. The trails and facilities will be constructed with sustainable construction techniques and materials in mind.

Improvements under Phase 1 are planned for the northern portion of the park adjacent to Cape May City Elementary School. Proposed work comprises renovation of the practice baseball field and the multi-purpose field; development of a picnic area and a bocce court; and improvements to irrigation, site lighting, and landscaping.

The proposed project will contribute beneficially to the quality of life of local and regional residents, as well as visiting tourists. Future planned improvements include renovations to Dellas Field (the principal baseball field) and multiuse areas; construction of vehicle entrances, ring road and parking area; drainage and irrigation improvements, including detention basin; and development, replacement, or improvement of various park facilities, such as restroom, concession, administration, and storage structures and dog park. The Dellas Little League Baseball/Softball Field will be redesigned to accommodate both youth and adult baseball/softball activities with the provision of updated dugouts, refreshment stand, bleacher seating, lighting system, water fountain, and a grassy incline beyond the outfield which will accommodate relaxing fans and disguise the entire park's storage areas underneath the incline. The picnic grove area will be situated between the rejuvenated and expanded Dellas Field and the new multi-purpose athletic field and practice baseball field. The picnic area will be conveniently located for players and fans as well as relaxing families and tourists who will be attracted by the environmentally pristine natural areas bordering the Cape Island Creek as well as the excitement on the playing fields. The addition of a multi-purpose athletic field, which will be designed and built to regulations for soccer play, will have the potential to host lacrosse and field hockey games/camps/clinics as well as general outdoor community events. The practice baseball field will be beneficial for youth and adult teams in the regional community. The provision of lighting and irrigation systems will heighten the availability, use, and flexibility of these fields throughout the calendar year. These future improvements are contingent upon receipt of additional funding, likely from non-NCR Program sources, and the completion of additional brownfield remediation by Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L) at the former Cape May Manufactured Gas Plant Facility, which is located at the southern end of the park.

The proposed project addressed through environmental and historical review of the Lafayette Street

Park improvements is the entire range of upgrades identified in the conceptual plan, not just those improvements to be undertaken as Phase 1. Considering the full range of improvements will ensure that appropriate “aggregation” of the activity occurs pursuant to US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations, even if no additional HUD funds are secured for future phases of work at the park. Brownfield remediation conducted by JCP&L pursuant to a pre-existing agreement with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) at the southern end of the park is not considered part of this project.