

# FMA-PJ-04-MS-2022-008

## Bay St. Louis - Elevations

### I. OVERVIEW

The Bay St. Louis Elevation Project continues to move forward. We received further guidance from MEMA that the recent guidance from FEMA regarding additional manual reviews on all grant payments and obligations will not cause potential delays in funding disbursement. The project is being pushed forward for milestone 1 and kickoff.

In a FEMA advisory dated, April 4, 2025, FEMA stated that they will be ending the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and canceling all BRIC applications from 2020-2023. While this may not directly affect the FMA program today, there is high scrutiny on all grant programs. We are continuing to push the grant forward until we receive notification from MEMA on any directives with the FMA program. See attached FEMA Advisory, *FEMA Ends Wasteful, Politicized Grant Program, Returning Agency to Core Mission of Helping Americans Recovering from Natural Disasters* for more information.

### II. CURRENT STATUS

- 4035 Honshu St:
  - The property owner received three competitive quotes and selected Kane Construction.
  - The homeowner kick off was completed on 2/14/25 with Sanders, Mr. Ladner, Ms. April Byrd, and Kimberly Brooks (Tetra Tech PM). At the kick-off the following was discussed:
    - Milestone reimbursements
    - Timeline for construction
    - Notice to Proceed guidance and timeline for permitting
    - Construction guidelines for VE zone structures
    - Construction standard grade materials and upgrades (not allowed)
    - Milestone inspections and expectations
  - From the kickoff, Sanders Kane began updating engineering plans/drawings and proceeding with an updated elevation certificate. Kimberly Brooks was advised on the timeline of when these were to be completed and advised Sanders to send the updated documents to Mr. Ladner for review before final review from Tetra Tech and notice to proceed.
  - On Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, the homeowner emailed Kimberly Brooks and cc'd Mr. Reso and Mr. Ladner (with incorrect email addresses) that mobilization had begun and that she posted videos of the work being done at her property on her personal Facebook page.
    - Kimberly Brooks immediately notified Mr. Reso as it was documented that work had begun on the property but the notice to proceed and final permit had not been issued by the City or Tetra Tech.
    - We asked that the homeowner take down the videos until the proper protocol and timeline of activities was followed.
    - Kimberly called Sanders to educate him on the proper protocol of permitting and notice to proceed and advised Mr. Sanders to stop all mobilization work immediately.
    - Mr. Ladner also advised the contractor to stop all work at the property.
  - Sanders provided all milestone 1 deliverables, and TT issued the Notice to Proceed (NTP) on March 24, 2025. The contractor will begin construction and will alert TT and Mr. Ladner once the structure is ready for Milestone 2 inspection. Regular weekly check-ins will be conducted with the PM and Sanders to ensure the project is on track for milestone inspections.
- 3100 Roberson Rd:
  - Tetra Tech received two sealed quotes for the property at 3100 Roberson Road. These two quotes

were found to be in compliance with the elevation grant scope of work as written in the application and awarded.

- The homeowner chose Davie Shoring as the contractor for the elevation of their property.
- Kick-off scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am.
- From the kick-off, Davie Shoring will begin preparing the deliverables from milestone 1 to include engineering & design, elevation certificate, building permit, and notice to proceed (NTP). This is scheduled to take 6-8 weeks for completion. Construction will begin once the NTP is processed.
- Homeowner has a cost share of 10%. Tetra Tech is recalculating homeowner's cost share, taking into consideration application development dollars spent by the homeowner. The recalculation will be completed and sent to the homeowner for the final check to be written and sent to BSL for processing.

### III. NEXT STEPS

1. **Weekly Progress Meetings:** Tetra Tech and BSL continues to hold weekly meetings every Friday to monitor project status.
2. **Kickoff Meetings:**
  - **4035 Honshu Street:** Kick-off completed on 2/14/25.
  - **3100 Roberson Rd:** Kick-off completed on 4/3/25.

### IV. UPDATE FROM TETRA TECH

- **Next Round of Grant Funding Opportunities:**
  - The current FMA FY 24 funding has been paused. Once the period has opened again, Tetra Tech will work with MEMA to establish an internal deadline for BSL to submit a new application for this funding opportunity.
  - Tetra Tech and BSL have communicated with MEMA, and MEMA has confirmed that they will participate in the FMA FY 24 opportunity.
- **City's Next Steps for New Funding Round:**
  - Once funding is open, the city will send letters to specific homeowners identified by FEMA as potentially qualifying for funding. This will help create a preliminary list in preparation for when the city selects a grant administrator.
  - Kim will prepare the draft letter and list of addresses.
  - The letter will clarify that the recipients were identified by FEMA, not by the city.
  - Homeowners will be asked to respond by emailing their name, phone number, and address to facilitate list creation for the grant administrator.
  - Alternatively, they can complete a form and return it to City Hall.
  - The letter will also emphasize that property owners must have a FEMA flood insurance policy effective as of January 6, 2025, to qualify for funding.

### V. ENCLOSURE

- FEMA MEMO, *Message to Grant Recipients on Manual Review Process*, dated February 28, 2025.
- FEMA Advisory, *FEMA Ends Wasteful, Politicized Grant Program, Returning Agency to Core Mission of Helping Americans Recovering from Natural Disasters*, dated April 4, 2025.



**Date:** 04/07/2025



**Time:** 4:00 PM

# FEMA Grants News



FEMA



## Message to Grant Recipients on Manual Review Process

Dear Recipient,

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is taking swift action to ensure the alignment of its grant programs with Secretary Noem's direction. In accordance with this direction, FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are instituting additional reviews on all grant payments and obligations to ensure allowability, as permitted by 2 C.F.R Part 200.

Effective immediately, FEMA and DHS are conducting additional reviews of allocations before releasing funds for all grants. These actions will ensure that funding is obligated and disbursed in line with the Secretary's direction so that we can continue to support and prioritize communities and disaster survivors who rely on FEMA for assistance. Upon completion of reviews, approved funding will be processed through the respective grant systems. Per 2 C.F.R. Part 200, payment requests may take up to 30 days to process depending on the size and scope of the submission. If additional information is needed, a request for information will be issued, and the timeline may be extended.

As part of the manual review of your payment request, FEMA strongly encourages recipients to include the following information when submitting new payment requests:

- Will this disbursement go to any subrecipients, and if so, which ones?
- What is the total amount of funds going to each subrecipient?
- What activities will be funded by this disbursement?
- What is the time period covered by this payment request?

For existing payment requests currently in the system, FEMA will reach out if additional information is needed. Please note that if FEMA does not receive this information, payment requests will not be processed.

Should guidance be updated or changed, we will notify recipients that this information is no longer requested.

For questions, please reach out to your designated FEMA point of contact for the specific grant award.

Thank you,

FEMA Grant Programs Directorate

# FEMA Ends Wasteful, Politicized Grant Program, Returning Agency to Core Mission of Helping Americans Recovering from Natural Disasters

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FEMA is ending the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program and canceling all BRIC applications from Fiscal Years 2020-2023. If grant funds have not been distributed to states, tribes, territories, and local communities, funds will be immediately returned either to the Disaster Relief Fund or the U.S. Treasury.

Under Secretary Noem, DHS is eliminating waste, fraud and abuse.

The BRIC program was yet another example of a wasteful and ineffective FEMA program. It was more concerned with political agendas than helping Americans affected by natural disasters. Under Secretary Noem's leadership, we are committed to ensuring that Americans in crisis can get the help and resources they need.

Approximately \$882 million of funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will be returned to the U.S. Treasury or reappropriated by Congress in the next fiscal year. The 2021 law made \$1 billion available for BRIC over five years, \$133 million to date has been provided for about 450 applications. FEMA estimates more than \$3.6 billion will remain in the Disaster Relief Fund to assist with disaster response and recovery for communities and survivors.

Ending this program will help ensure that grant funding aligns with the President's Executive Orders and Secretary Noem's direction and best support states and local communities in disaster planning, response and recovery.

## Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact FEMA Office of External Affairs:

- Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at [FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov)
- Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at [FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov)
- Tribal Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at [FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov)
- Private Sector Engagement at (202) 646-3444 or at [FEMA-private-sector@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-private-sector@fema.dhs.gov)



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## FEMA Mission

Helping people before, during, and after disasters.