

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

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Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects 24 CFR Part 58

Project Information

Project Name:

Yemassee Demolition Project

Responsible Entity:

Town of Yemassee

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):

State/Local Identifier:

CDBG # 4-CE-19-014

Preparer:

Rhonda Davis

Certifying Officer Name and Title: Colin Moore, Mayor

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity):

Consultant (if applicable): Lowcountry Council of Governments

Direct Comments to:

Rhonda Davis

Lowcountry Council of Governments

PO Box 98

Yemassee, SC 29945

Project Location:

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Address and Tax Map number of homes to be demolished are as follows:

1. 170 Cochran St. 198-00-00-098
2. 526 Cochran St. 198-00-00-45
3. 748 Riley St. 198-00-00-112
4. 180 John St. 198-00-00-216
5. Green St. Persall – no address 198-09-03-013
6. 1 Green St. 198-10-01-009
7. 79 Church St. S. (Ellis) 198-10-01-001
8. Church St. at Frazier 198-09-02-018
9. 61 Railroad Ave. N. 204-02-09-046
10. 196 Salkehatchie Rd. 204-01-01-001
11. 1085 Salkehatchie Rd. 197-00-00-094
12. 92 Trask Pkwy - TMS: R700 011 000 0006 0000
13. 64 Jasmine St - TMS: 198-00-00-199 & 198-00-00-200 (Trailer sits across property lines, owned by the same family, Brewer Family)
14. 241 Cochran St - TMS: 198-00-00-201
15. 331 Willis St S - TMS: 198-09-01-005
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Yemassee, Hampton County, SC

Description of the Proposed Project (include all contemplated actions, regardless of funding source) [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

Town of Yemassee proposes to use CDBG funds for the demolition of eighteen (18) dilapidated structures within the town using an estimated \$135,000 of CDBG funding and \$15,000 in non-Federal funding. This may involve asbestos testing, air monitoring, demolition, and clearing. These buildings have been inspected and have been deemed dilapidated by the Town Ordinance. This demolition project is located in the town of Yemassee, Hampton County, SC. The streets included are as follows: Church, Cochran, John, Green, Jasmine, Railroad, Riley, Salkahatchie, Trask Pkwy. and Willis Streets. CDBG funds will be used for demolition of vacant, dilapidated structures and clearance of debris. Clearance/Demolition actions will include: determination of environmental hazards on the property and proper removal; testing and disposal of hazardous materials; utility disconnections; and demolition permits. Once demolition is complete, the sites will be leveled and seeded as appropriate, and any damages to sidewalks, curbs, drives, etc. will be repaired. The structure located at 180 John Street is located in Flood Zone A but there are no wetlands present at the site. The contractor will comply with all environmental regulations and permits pertaining to minimizing impacts on floodplains.

Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal (explain why the project is needed and the expected results) [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:

Yemassee Town Council and Town staff are working to reinvigorate the Town with initiatives to get more public involvement in Town government and programs to update and upgrade the public facilities as well as parks and other amenities. In fact, residents of unincorporated Hampton County have recently asked to be annexed into the town due in part to these advances put forth by the Town's government. The Town is currently marketing local business locations that are vacant - evidence of the economic downturn in recent years ¬- and modernizing Town Hall with added security features to protect staff and the public. The Town Council and the staff are updating policies and procedures to be more transparent and to encourage public input. With new development at Exit 38, the Town has launched a beautification project to welcome visitors to the county in hopes that more businesses will choose to locate there.

As a part of these efforts, the Town's building inspector has been identifying structures that need to be removed or repaired. As a part of this process, the 18 homes in this project have been flagged

as abandoned and uninhabitable. Owners have been notified of this assessment and are willing to grant permission for the Town to demolish the properties, with the understanding that they will continue to own the family property.

The Town's police force patrols the area regularly and has been alerted to possible criminal activity in some of the abandoned properties. One such property was the site of an apparent shooting in recent weeks. All these properties are in a state that invites criminal behavior. With no residents, the sites are available to those who want to remain unseen, and the partially demolished sites in particular invite vermin and other pests. Recent strong storms have contributed to the dilapidated conditions and neighbors have asked the Town to enforce their nuisance ordinance. The Citizens Improvement Alliance asked Town Council at a recent meeting to implement five priority changes, with the dilapidated buildings in town ranking at #3.

Existing Conditions and Trends (describe the existing conditions of the project area and its surroundings, as well as trends likely to continue in the absence of the project) [24 CFR 58.40(a)]:

Yemassee is a small town and most of its residents are members of established local families living on land that their families have owned for generations. With life changes, sometimes family homes sit vacant for a period of time. In some cases, the family members are unable to afford to repair the damage and unwilling or unable to sell the property. In the case of these 18 homes, they have all been vacant for quite a while, some damaged by fire, all damaged by the elements and time.

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
4-CE-19-014	CDBG	\$193,636

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$193,636

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$213,000

Compliance with 24 CFR 50.4, 58.5, and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

Record below the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation. Provide credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority. Where applicable, complete the necessary reviews or consultations and obtain or note applicable permits of approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate.

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations	
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE OI & 58.6	RDERS, AND R	EGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4	
Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No □ ⊠	Project is not located within 2,500 feet of a civil airport, or 15,000 feet of a military airfield. See attached ArcGIS Web Map The determination remains valid for additional structures http://www.scaeronautics.com/mapping.asp	
Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes No	Hampton County is not a coastal county and is not a part of the Coastal Barrier Resource System. The determination remains valid for additional structures CBRS map attached. https://www.fws.gov/cbra/maps/Mapper.htm l	
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	Yes No	Flood Insurance is not required for state formula funded grants. The determination remains valid for additional structures	
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5			
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes No	An asbestos survey and project license may be required prior to any demolition activities such as deconstruction of a building or removal of structures in the right of way of a road project. See attached letter – SCDHEC Bureau of Air Quality date 12/03/19	

			The determination remains valid for additional structures
Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes	No 🔀	Project is located in Hampton County and out of the South Carolina Coastal Management and Coastal Zone Consistency staff does not anticipate any spillover effects on coastal resources. See attached letter – SCDHEC Coastal Zone Consistency Section Regulatory Division dated 9-26-17 The determination remains valid for additional structures
Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)	Yes	No 🖂	There are no known environmental conditions, either on-site or off-site that will adversely affect using this site for the proposed use. The determination remains valid for additional structures https://nepassisttool.epa.gov/nepassist/nepa
			map.aspx see attached map SCDHEC-Bureau of Land and Waste Management letter/map
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes	No	There are no known of any threatened or endangered species within, or near, the project area. The determination remains valid for additional structures.
			US Fish & Wildlife dated 9-26-17 along with US Fish & Wildlife Service Clearance to Proceed SCDNR letter dated 10-05-17.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes	No	This project will not increase the number of structures or people using structures. The determination remains valid for additional structures
			https://nepassisttool.epa.gov/nepassist/nepa map.aspx see attached map
			There are no above ground storage tanks present in project area. The determination remains valid for additional structures. See consultation – Mayor, Town of Yemassee.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658	Yes	No	This project is in an area already in urban development or is in existing right-of-ways. There is no significant impact on Prime or Statewide Important Farmlands. The determination remains valid for additional structures. USDA dated 10-04-17 and 12/09/19

		State Soil Scientist- George Sullivan
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	Yes No	Project is located in Zone X areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain and one property is in Zone A, areas inundated by the 100-year frequency flood event. An Eight Step Process is being done. The determination remains valid for additional structures
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes No	No properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by these undertakings. If archaeological materials are encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) will apply. SC Archives & History date 12/17/19, ArchSite map, No immediate concerns regarding traditional cultural properties, sacred sites or Native American archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project area. However, the Catawba are to be notified if Native American artifacts and/or human remains are located during the ground disturbance phase of this project Catawba Indian Nation date 12/20/19 Muscogee (CREEK) Nation of Oklahoma
		email on 11/15/17 stated no historic or traditional cultural properties affected. The determination remains valid for additional structures.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes No	Project is demolition and not a noise sensitive use. The determination remains valid for additional structures Rhonda Davis, LCOG
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes No	No sole source aquifers are located in South Carolina. The determination remains valid for additional structures http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sourcewater/pubs/reg4.pdf for further information.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes No	Demo is not a ground disturbing activity and not subject to EO 11990 however, after structures are demolished, grading and filling will be done. An NWI map was created covering the project area and no wetlands are in or near the demo sites. The

		,
		determination remains valid for additional
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes No	The Chattooga River is the only Wild and Scenic River in SC. See attached list. There are no State Scenic Rivers in Hampton County where the project is located. The determination remains valid for additional structures. See attached map. Combahee, Coosawatchie, and Salkehatchie Rivers are on the NRI list. Salkahatchie River is 29.3 miles from The Yemassee Demo project. The Coosawhatchie River is 23.2 miles away from project. Combahee River is 49.5 miles. http://www.dnr.sc.gov/water/river/pdf/scenic
		riversmap.pdf
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTIC	E	
Environmental Justice	Yes No	As a result of this Environmental Review,
Executive Order 12898		there are no environmental conditions (i.e., toxic pollutants, hazardous industrial operations, landfills or dumps, foul odor producing operations, explosive or flammable operations, or high automobile or train traffic hazards) that may have disproportional effects on low income or minority populations. The determination remains valid for additional structures. See attached EJSCREEN Report

Environmental Assessment Factors [24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 &1508.27] Recorded below is the qualitative and quantitative significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features and resources of the project area. Each factor has been evaluated and documented, as appropriate and in proportion to its relevance to the proposed action. Verifiable source documentation has been provided and described in support of each determination, as appropriate. Credible, traceable and supportive source documentation for each authority has been provided. Where applicable, the necessary reviews or consultations have been completed and applicable permits of approvals have been obtained or noted. Citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references are clear. Additional documentation is attached, as appropriate. All conditions, attenuation or mitigation measures have been clearly identified.

Impact Codes: Use an impact code from the following list to make the determination of impact for each factor.

- (1) Minor beneficial impact
- (2) No impact anticipated
- (3) Minor Adverse Impact May require mitigation
- (4) Significant or potentially significant impact requiring avoidance or modification which may require an Environmental Impact Statement

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Environmental	Impact	
Assessment Factor	Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELO	PMENT	
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	The project area is zoned as General Commercial along Hwy. 321and General Residential and Rural T2R throughout the rest of the project area. Proposed work is consistent with zoning. Town of Yemassee.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff (Stormwater Management and Sediment Reduction Act of 1991)	2	See attached map websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app No hydric soil present. SCDHEC letter 11-08-17 – No apparent impacts to water quality.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	2	Temporary construction noise only during the construction period. Construction site safety measures will be enforced. The project area will not be adversely affected by onsite or offsite noise. No impact anticipated. See consultation Mayor, Town of Yemassee.
Energy Consumption	2	

Environmental	Impact		
Assessment Factor	Code	Impact Evaluation	
SOCIOECONOM	IIC		

Employment and Income Patterns	2	This is not a job creation or retention project. There will be no effect on employment and income patterns. See consultation Mayor, Town of Yemassee.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	This project will have no effect on demographic character changes, or cause displacement. See consultation Mayor, Town of Yemassee

Environmental	Impact	
Assessment Factor	Code	Impact Evaluation
	ACILITIE	S AND SERVICES
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	There are no educational and cultural facilities in the project area. The Fennell Elementary School is less than a mile from the project area. Middle/High schools approximately 18 miles from project area. The project will not adversely affect the schools serving this project. No impact anticipated. Mayor, Town of Yemassee.
Commercial Facilities	2	There are a few businesses located in the project area, with the majority of them being closed. Clearance of overgrown lots will have a minor beneficial impact on those businesses. See consultation -
Health Care and Social Services	2	This project will have no impact on health care or social services.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	Solid Waste disposal for this project can be adequately handled by public or private collectors without adversely affecting landfill capacity. Some of the materials from demolition will be recycled. No impact anticipated. See consultation
Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers	2	owns/operates public wastewater/sanitary sewer. Project has no beneficial impact.
Water Supply	2	LRWS owns/operates the public water system. This project will have no beneficial impact on water supply See consultation
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	Police patrols the Town of Yemassee and is stationed in town hall. Adequate Emergency Medical service is available the EMS base is approximately 5.5 miles and the nearest hospital is approximately 9.5 miles from project site. Adequate fire protect is available; the fire station is in the project area. Public Safety will not be adversely affected by this project. Removing blighted buildings/clearing overgrown properties may help reduce crime.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	The park is located near the project area. Clearance of vacant land, demolition of vacant, dilapidated buildings will have a minor beneficial impact on parks, open space, and recreation.
Transportation and Accessibility	2	Public transportation is not available to serve this project. Nearby public roadways conveying traffic to and from the project site will not be adversely affected by the project.

Environmental	Impact	
Assessment Factor	Code	Impact Evaluation
NATURAL FEATU	RES	
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources		No natural resources of specific concern have been identified on the proposed project sites and it is the opinion of SCDNR that the proposed work will not substantially alter the quality of the natural environment. SCDNR dated 10-05-17 There are no known unique natural areas or features that may be affected by the project.
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	No natural resources of specific concern have been identified on the proposed project sites and it is the opinion of SCDNR that the proposed work will not substantially alter the quality of the natural environment. SCDNR dated 10/05/17
Other Factors		There are no other Factors that may be affected by the project. No impact anticipated.

Additional Studies Performed (if any, attach copies):

An Eight-Step Process is being done.

Field Inspection (date and completed by):

Greg Alexander, Town of Yemassee inspected structures on August 11, 2019

List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

State Historic Preservation Office South Carolina Department of Archives and History 8301 Parklane Road Columbia, SC 29223-4905

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Catawba Indian Nation 1536 Tom Stevens Road Rock Hill, SC 29730

Muscogee Creek Nation Cultural Preservation PO Box 580 Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Endangered Species Biologist-Section 7 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Charleston Field Office 176 Croghan Spur Road, Suite 200 Charleston, SC 29407

NATURAL RESOURCES

Coastal Environmental Coordinator S.C. Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 12559 Charleston, SC 29422

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

Stormwater & State Certification Regulatory Programs Division South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management Control 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400 Charleston, SC 29405

WETLANDS PROTECTION

Charleston Office
Regulatory Division
Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers Charleston District
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, SC 29403-5107

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

Coastal, Hydrology & Hydraulics Team Department of the Army Corps of Engineers Charleston District 69-A Hagood Avenue Charleston, SC 29403-5107

WATER QUALITY/STORMWATER MANAGEMENT & SEDIMENT REDUCTION

Bureau of Water South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control 2600 Bull Street Columbia, SC 29201-1708

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Chief

SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE/UST

Regulatory Compliance Division

Office of Environmental Assessment (OEA)
United States Environmental Protection
Agency
Region IV
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

Underground Storage Tank Program
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
South Carolina Department of Health and
Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201-1708

AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Standards & Assessment Section Bureau of Air Quality South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control 2600 Bull Street Columbia, SC 29201-1708 websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app

USDA-NCRS

State Soil Scientist USDA-NRCS 1835 Assembly Street, Room 950 Columbia, SC 29201

Colin Moore, Mayor Town of Yemassee

http://www.dnr.sc.gov/ /river/pdf/scenicriversmap.pdf

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sourcewater/pubs/reg4.pdf

http://www.scaeronautics.com/mapping.asp http://www.scaeronautics.com/mapping.asp

https://nepassisttool.epa.gov/nepassist/nepamap.aspx

List of Permits Obtained/to be Obtained:

No permits outside of the normal permits that will be obtained by contractors

Public Outreach (list all efforts to involve the public in the environmental process, to include all public notices posted or published) [24 CFR 50.23 & 58.43]:

Early Notice was published in Beaufort Gazette on 9/04/20 Final Notice was published in Beaufort Gazette on 10/05/20

Combined Notice was posted at Yemassee Town Hall, Post Office, and R&M Convenience Store From 10/05/20 to 10/23/20.

Cumulative Impact Analysis (applicable for multiple-phase projects) [24 CFR 58.32]:

Alternatives (identify all other reasonable courses of action that were considered and not selected - such as other sites, design modifications, or other uses of the subject site - and describe the benefits/adverse impacts to the human environment of each alternative and the reasons for rejecting it) [24 CFR 58.40(e); 40 CFR 1508.9]

Other alternatives considered and not selected:

Rehabbing structures. This alternative was dismissed for cost and non-feasibility.

No Action Alternative (discuss the benefits and adverse impacts to the human environment of not implementing the preferred alternative) [24 CFR 58.40(e)]:

This would not provide the residents of the project area that would provide a safe environment. The eyesore and safety issues would remain if the vacant/dilapidated houses remain. This alternative was rejected. The residents in this area along with the Town of Yemassee officials have exhausted time and efforts in planning this project.

Summary of Findings and Conclusions (discuss whether the review indicated the preferred alternative will have an adverse impact on the environment and how it will impact the end users):

After considering the type and degree of environmental effects identified by the environmental review completed for the proposed project, I have found that the proposal did not require the preparation and dissemination of an environmental impact statement. This project is Categorically Excluded Subject to 58.5. The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

Mitigation Measures and Conditions [40 CFR 1505.2(c)]

Summarize below all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid, or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements, and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	If archaeological materials are encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) will apply. SC Archives & History date 12/17/19, ArchSite map, No immediate concerns regarding traditional cultural properties, sacred sites or Native American archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project area. However, the Catawba are to be notified if Native American artifacts and/or human remains are located during the ground disturbance phase of this project Catawba Indian Nation date 12/20/19 Muscogee (CREEK) Nation of Oklahoma email on 11/20/19 stated no historic or traditional cultural
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	properties affected. CDBG funds will be used for demolition of vacant, dilapidated structures and clearance of debris. Clearance/Demolition actions will include: determination of environmental hazards on the property and proper removal; testing and disposal of hazardous materials; utility disconnections; and demolition permits. Once demolition is complete, the sites will be leveled and seeded as appropriate, and any damages to sidewalks, curbs, drives, etc. will be repaired. The structure located at 180 John Street is located in Flood Zone A but there are no wetlands present at the site. The contractor will comply with all environmental regulations and permits pertaining to minimizing impacts on floodplains.

Finding of No Significant Impact [24 CFR 58.40(g)(1); 46 The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the	0 CFR 1508.27] ne human environment.
Finding of Significant Impact [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2); 40 CFT The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment of the project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.	FR 1508.27] nment.
Preparer Signature:	Date: <u>08/26/20</u>
Name/Title/Organization: Rhonda Davis, Community & Econom Council of Governments	nic Developer, Lowcountry
	Date: <u>08/26/20</u>
Name/Title: Colin moore mayor.	

Determination:

A copy of the complete Environmental Record must be submitted to the South Carolina Department of Commerce/Grants Administration Division. This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).