



Long Beach Gateway Project
Community Development Block Grant Program

City of Long Beach, 39560
Harrison County, Mississippi



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Environmental Assessment

Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects

24 CFR Part 58

1.0 Project Information

Project Name: Long Beach Gateway Project

Responsible Entity: City of Long Beach, Mississippi

Certifying Officer Name and Title: The Honorable George Bass, Mayor of Long Beach

Grant Recipient: City of Long Beach, Mississippi

Consultants: BMI Environmental Services, LLC, and Overstreet & Associates Engineers.

Preparer: Larry Lewis, BMI Environmental Services, LLC

Direct Comments to:

1. City of Long Beach
Attention: Mayor George Bass
201 Jeff Davis Ave
Long Beach, MS 39560
2. BMI Environmental Services, LLC
Attention: Larry Lewis
401 Cowan Road, Suite A
Gulfport, Mississippi 39507

Does this project involve over 200 lots, dwelling units, or beds?

- Yes (Project requires approval from the Environmental Clearance Officer (ECO))
- No

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

The City of Long Beach proposes a Gateway Enhancement Project which will provide an improved connection between the Long Beach Harbor and the "Main Street" downtown areas. The project will tie the two areas together by establishing an identity along Beach Boulevard (US Highway 90) with architectural, landscape, and lighting enhancements as well as walkways that will provide continuous pedestrian connections.

By improving the connection between the Long Beach Small Craft Harbor and Jeff Davis Ave., the "Main Street" of Long Beach, this project will enhance public access to coastal areas and will be a much needed economic "shot in the arm". The project aims to create an inviting and enticing entrance into Long Beach along the Beach Boulevard corridor which is designed to welcome tourists into the area and connect them with the charming area businesses and harbor which are an asset to the City of Long Beach.

This project will improve the scenic drive on Beach Boulevard and provide a family friendly waterfront destination with recreational and educational opportunities which will enhance the overall attractiveness of the community and region. Improved walkways, lighting, and landscape will be an important element of the project and enhance the overall aesthetics of the beach and boulevard corridor. Landmarks such as the towers pylon will create focal points from major North-South streets in the town, and visually tie the two sides of the boulevard together. Entry markers will notify visitors when they are entering into the core of Long Beach.

Building a seat wall and adding mobile vendor shelters will provide a place for area restaurants to park food trucks providing a great option for fresh food while enjoying the waterfront. Signage will include environmental and educational information, and artwork will make the area conducive to locals, families, and tourists. The project will also add sidewalks, ADA enhancements, site furnishings, curb and gutter, and beautiful shade trees, shrubs, and grasses. Creating constant activity along the corridor is critical to the vibrancy of this area. Having vendor opportunities on the beach, and places to see and be seen will be the success of the implementation of this plan.



Figure 1: Long Beach Gateway Exhibit (Source CPLA Design+Planning)



Figure 2: Photos of Long Beach Gateway Model. Source CPLA-Design+Planning

Project Location:

The project area is south of U.S. Highway 90, and it extends from the intersection of Jeff Davis Avenue and U.S. 90 east to the western part of the Long Beach Harbor

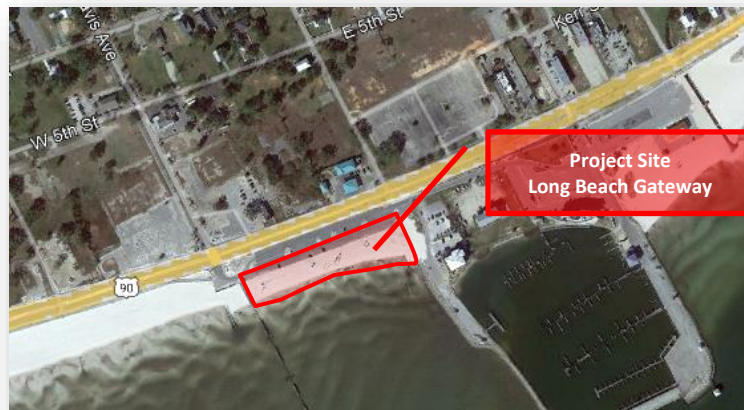


Figure 4: Project Site (Source: Google Earth Image Dated 2023).

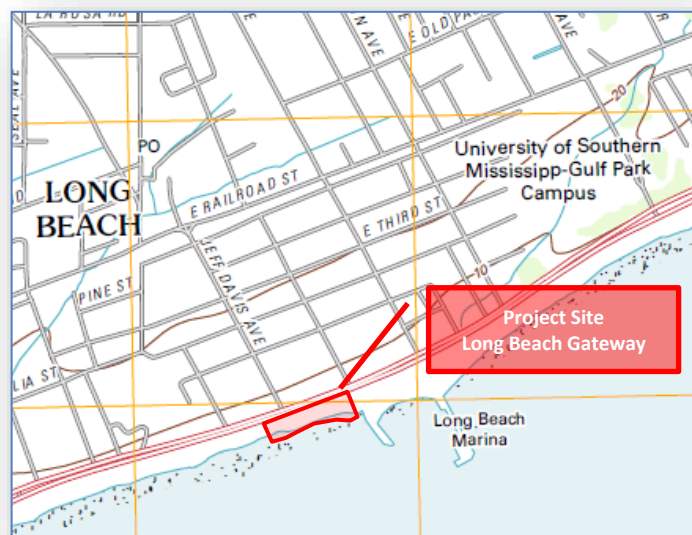


Figure 3: Vicinity Map Showing Project Site (Source USGS Quadrangle Map Pass Christian, Mississippi).



2.0 Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:

The purpose of the Long Beach Gateway Project is to improve the connection between the existing Long Beach Harbor and the downtown area of Long Beach via Jeff Davis Ave. The improvements include architectural, landscaping, and lighting enhancements as well as walkways, vehicular parking, and traffic control features which will provide a scenic and safe “Gateway Corridor.”

There is a need to improve the public waterfront areas of Long Beach and to add features which allow safe access to the waterfront for local users as well as the growing visitor population. Parking is limited and vehicular traffic patterns need to be improved. Lighting, pedestrian improvements handicapped accessible walkways and shelter are needed. New Landmarks such as the towers pylon are needed to create focal points from major North-South streets in the town, and visually tie the two sides of the boulevard together. Entry markers are needed to notify auto drivers when they are entering into the core area of Long Beach’s waterfront.

3.0 Existing Conditions and Trends [24 CFR 58.40(a)]:

The Long Beach waterfront area is an important part of the City which is used by residents and visitors alike. A public pavilion, beach volleyball facilities, public restrooms, and parking areas have added to this area; however hurricanes and major storms have resulted in significant impacts to these important features. Repairs have been made and some new features have been added to enhance the value of the waterfront area.

In recent years, beach and waterfront visitation has increased and more local families and visitors from other states and the upper part of Mississippi have chosen to visit Long Beach. This increase in visitors will benefit from the project improvements funded by the program.

Funding Information-HUD

Grant Number	Program	Funding Amount
R-118-023-21-HCCR	HUD Community Development Program	\$9.2 Million

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

Recorded below are the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation relating to this project. When necessary, credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority has been referenced and included in the Environmental Records Review Section (ERR) of this Environmental Assessment (EA). Where applicable, all necessary reviews or consultations and approvals have been obtained and clearly noted. Documentation regarding these reviews and consultations have also been included in the ERR.



Table 1: Compliance and Conformances Determinations

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 ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 and 58.6		
<p>Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project site is not located within 15,000 feet of a military airport or 2,500 feet of a civilian airport. The project site is approximately 14 miles south southeast of the Diamondhead Privately Owned Civilian Airport, 6 miles west of the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, and 13 miles west of the Keesler AFB Military Airport. The HUD Airport Hazards-Partner Worksheet, and a copy of a SkyVector flight plan maps showing the locations of the airport runways at Diamondhead Private Airport, Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, and Keesler AFB Military Airport are provided in the ERR. https://skyvector.com/airport/BIX/Keesler-afb-airport https://skyvector.com/airport/GPT/Gulfport-Biloxi-International-Airport https://skyvector.com/airport/66Y/Diamondhead-Airport</p>
<p>Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The US Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) Coastal Barriers Resources System (CBRS) mapper website was accessed on April 23, 2024 and FIRM maps for this area of Harrison County (Community Panel Number 28047C0357G) on 4/16/2024 were reviewed to determine possible CBRS sites. The HUD CBRS-Partner Worksheet was completed on May 3, 2024 and confirmed that the project site is not located within a CBRS site. The HUD CBRS-Partner Worksheet and attachments are provided in the ERR. https://fwprimary.wim.usgs.gov/CBRSMapper-v2 https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=LONG%20BEACH%20MISSISSIPPI</p>
<p>Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project does not involve financial assistance for construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of a mobile home, buildings, or insurable personal property; therefore, Federal Flood Insurance is not required. This compliance determination is based on information compiled during the project assessment and with the Mr. Michael Gundlach, Floodplain Manager for the City of Long Beach, Mississippi. A HUD Flood Insurance Partner Worksheet and attachments are provided in the ERR. http://www.fema.gov/hazard/map/firm.shtm;</p>



Table 1: Compliance and Conformances Determinations (Continued)

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 ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5 (Continued)		
<p>Air Quality Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>According to the MDEQ, all areas of the State of Mississippi are in attainment with the NAAQS at the present time. Mr. Rodney Cuevas, Branch Manager of the MDEQ Air Toxics Branch was contacted by letter dated May 5, 2024 and Mr. Bryan Williams of MDEQ Air Quality Branch provided a response letter dated May 14, 2024 advising that the MDEQ does not expect that the project will adversely affect ambient air quality in the project area. Copies of the MDEQ response letter and a copy of the HUD Air Quality-Partner Worksheet are provided in the ERR. https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2022-Air-Quality-Data-Summary-FINAL.pdf https://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbook/obtcw.html</p>
<p>Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project is located within the Mississippi Coastal Zone as defined in the Mississippi Coastal Program (MCP) of 1980. The MCP, which is administered by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), was developed by the MDMR in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, and guides and regulates the use of coastal resources in the Mississippi Coastal Zone. The proposed Gateway project was submitted to the MDMR for review on May 28, 2024, and MDMR advised that a permit to place fill on the sand beach was required. After review, the MDMR issued a certificate of waiver permit for the project on October 22, 2024 and the reported that the project was consistent with the MCP. A HUD Coastal Management-Partner Worksheet and a copy of the MDMR response letter and the Certificate of Waiver are provided in the ERR. http://www.dmr.state.ms.us/index.php/coastal-resources-management</p>



Table 1: Compliance and Conformances Determinations (Continued)

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 ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5 (Continued)		
<p>Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) EnviroMapper was accessed June 13, 2024 to determine presence of contamination of toxic and hazardous substances on the site or on adjoining property that could impact the subject site. Review indicates no contamination or toxic substances on the site or adjoining property. A HUD Contamination and Toxic Substances-Partner Worksheet with attachments and compliance determination is provided in the ERR. https://geopub.epa.gov/myem/efmap/index.html?ve=11,30.3595245,-89.171774&pText=39560,%20Long%20Beach,%20Mississippi&miny=30.3085245&minx=-89.222774&maxy=30.4105245&maxx=-89.120774</p>
<p>Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The City coordinated with the USFWS by letter dated March 21, 2024. The USFWS provided response letter dated August 12, 2024 requesting a biological assessment (BA) "that fully addresses all impacts resulting from the project on federally listed species, critical habitats, and birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act". A BA was prepared and submitted to the USFWS on September 11, 2024 and an updated BA was submitted on September 12, 2024. The USFWS reviewed the BA and recommended modifications. The final BA was submitted to the USFWS on December 27, 2024 and the USFWS submitted a "Concurrence email on January 10, 2025. Copies of the coordination documents and the HUD Partner Worksheet is provided in the ERR.</p>



Table 1: Compliance and Conformances Determinations (Continued)

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 ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5 (Continued)		
<p>Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The City of Long Beach maintains two 400-gallon stationary above ground fuel storage tanks (AST's) north of Kholer Street at the Police station. The AST's are 4,882.7 feet from the project site and are maintained within a concrete secondary containment structure. • The HUD Acceptable Separation Distance (ASD) Electronic Assessment Tool (https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/asd-calculator) was accessed on June 14, 2024 to determine the ASD from the AST's The calculations are shown in the attachments, and results indicate that the distance from the AST's far greater than that required by the ASD tool for this project. A HUD Explosives and Flammable Materials Partner Worksheet has been completed and the Partner Worksheet and attachments are provided in the ERR. https://geopub.epa.gov/myem/efmap/ https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/asd-calculator</p>
<p>Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project area is described by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey as “Coastal Beach Sand.” Coastal Beach Sand is not considered “Prime Farmland Soils” and it is not suitable for farming. Furthermore, the proposed project is a previously developed site and the native soils have been removed. The HUD Farmland Partner Worksheet has been completed and included in the ERR. http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/fppa/ http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/fppa</p>



Table 1: Compliance and Conformances Determinations (Continued)

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 ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5 (Continued)		
<p>Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Gateway Project is shown on FIRM Map Panel Number 28047C0357G, and the map confirms that the project area is located within the 100-year floodplain. Meeting was held with Michael Gundlach on May 2, 2025 and solicitation of Views letter and A HUD 8-Step Planning Process was prepared and submitted on May 5, 2024 to Mr. Michael Gundlach the Floodplain Manager for review. Mr. Gundlach provided a response letter dated May 7, 2024 confirming that the proposed project would not increase flood levels or increase the 100-Year Floodplain. A copy of the response letter is attached to the ERR.</p>
<p>Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The City issued solicitation of views letters on May 5, 2024 requesting comments from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO) of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, the Choctaw Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas. The MDAH reviewed the proposed project and issued a letter no objection on June 17, 2023. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma submitted an email request on June 21, 2024 advising that they wished to exercise their right to enter into government-to-government consultation directly with HUD as directed in 36 CFR Part 800.3(c) (3). The consultation was complete and the THPO for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma submitted an email dated August 3, 2024 stating that their our office concurred with the finding of “no historic properties affected. Copies of correspondence with the MDAH and the THPOs and the Hud Historic Preservation Partner Worksheet are included in the ERR.</p>



Table 1: Compliance and Conformances Determinations (Continued)

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 ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5 (Continued)		
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This project is not a noise sensitive project, and the current and anticipated future noise levels should not negatively impact the area around the project. The HUD Noise Partner Worksheet is provided in the ERR.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Within the state of Mississippi, there is only one aquifer system designated by the USEPA as a Sole Source Aquifer (SSA). The EPA Sole Source Aquifer Mapper was accessed on May 3, 2024 and a map of the Southern Hills Regional Aquifer was downloaded for documentation. The Long Beach Gateway Project was plotted on the Southern Hills Regional Aquifer System SSA map and confirmed that Long Beach Gateway Project is not located within the Southern Hills Regional Aquifer System SSA. A map of the SHRA-SSA and the HUD SSA Partner Worksheet are provided in the ERR. https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ebb047ba3ec41ada1877155fe31356b and https://www.epa.gov/dwssa
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly Sections 2 and 5	Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps published by the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) indicate that there are no wetlands within the limits of the project. A copy of the NWI map for the project site is provided in the ERR. The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) also confirmed that the project site is not a wetland. The HUD Wetlands Partner Worksheet and correspondence from the coordination with agencies are provided in the ERR.



Table 1: Compliance and Conformances Determinations (Continued)

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 ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5 (Continued)		
<p>Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The Black Creek is the closest river system within the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Black Creek segment designated as a Wild and Scenic is 21 miles long and extends from Fairley Bridge Landing upstream to Moody’s Landing. Fairley Bridge Landing is the lowest point of the Black Creek, and the Long Beach Gateway Project is approximately 65 miles south of the project site. The HUD Wild and Scenic Rivers Partner Worksheet are provided in the ERR. https://www.rivers.gov/rivers/mississippi</p>
<p>Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898</p>	<p>Yes No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations" requires consideration of potential disproportionately high and adverse impacts federally assisted projects may have on human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations. Analysis of proposed impacts as described in this environmental assessment document did not indicate any significant environmental impacts. The USEPA Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool, accessed June 2, 2024 was also used to analyze potential project impacts to minority and low-income populations. The “EJScreen Mapper” data and information did not identify any at risk populations or groups that would be impacted by this project. A copy of the USEPA EJ-Screening Tool report, and the HUD-Environmental Justice Worksheet are provided in the ERR. https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/index.html</p>



5.0 Environmental Assessment Factors [24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 &1508.27]

Recorded below are 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 or 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

Table 2a: Environmental Assessment Factors-Land Development (24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 &1508.27)

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOPMENT		
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	The proposed action is consistent with the existing land uses for the waterfront area of Long Beach. The Gateway project will improve the scenic drive along Beach Boulevard and provide a family friendly waterfront destination with recreational and educational opportunities which will enhance the overall attractiveness of the community and region. Improved walkways, lighting and landscape will be an important element of the project and enhance the overall aesthetic of the beach and boulevard corridor.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	2	The project will not change site conditions, create erosion, drainage, or stormwater runoff problems.



Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	2	No unusual odors which would negatively impact the project area or surrounding areas are present. Additionally, there are no facilities or activities in the vicinity of the site which are considered a high-risk site that could impact site safety or create an unacceptable noise level that could impact the project.
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Table 2b: Environmental Assessment Factors-Socio-economic (24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 &1508.27)

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
SOCIO-ECONOMIC		
Energy Consumption	2	The proposed project should not cause a significant increase in energy consumption. The majority of the energy consumption will be fossil fuels used to operate construction equipment. Once construction is completed the energy consumption for this project will be minimal.
Employment and Income Patterns	2	The project will not cause any significant changes in employment conditions or income patterns.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	No changes to the demographic character of the area in the vicinity of project are anticipated.

Table 2c: Environmental Assessment Factors-Community Facilities and Services (24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 &1508.27)

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES		
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	The project will not negatively impact educational facilities, nor will it cause an increase in the need for new or expanded educational facilities within the community.
Commercial Facilities	2	The proposed project will not negatively impact commercial facilities in the project area.
Health Care and Social Services	2	The project will not negatively impact health care facilities, nor will it result in change in the existing health care system within the community.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	The proposed project will not generate significant quantities of solid waste.
Wastewater / Sanitary Sewers	2	This project will not increase demands on the sanitary sewer system nor the wastewater systems.
Water Supply	2	. This project will not increase demand for additional water supply.
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	The proposed project will not increase the need for additional police patrols in the area nor will it increase the need for additional fire protection. No increase in emergency medical response actions is anticipated for this project.



Parks, Open Space and Recreation	2	The proposed project will not increase the area of open space recreation, nor will it negatively impact open space recreational opportunities. The project will not negatively impact recreational facilities in the project area.
Transportation and Accessibility	1	The proposed action will improve traffic conditions and pedestrian accessibility for visitors and locals who enjoy the waterfront.

Table 2d: Environmental Assessment Factors-Natural Features (24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 &1508.27)

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
NATURAL FEATURES		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	No unique natural features or agricultural lands will be impacted by this project. The major surface water resource in the vicinity of the project is the Mississippi Sound. The Mississippi Sound is a shallow coastal lagoon approximately 80 miles long by approximately 9 miles wide which is separated from the Gulf of Mexico by a chain of sandy barrier islands.
Vegetation, Wildlife	2	The project is located within an urban setting, and no impacts to wildlife resources are anticipated.
Other Factors	-	N/A

Additional Studies Performed:

No additional studies were required to completed for the EA

Table 3: List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]

TOPIC	AGENCY/SOURCE/PERSON CONSULTED
Airport Hazards	SkyVector flight plan maps for Diamondhead Private Airport, Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, and Keesler AFB Military Airport. https://skyvector.com/airport/BIX/Keesler-AFB-Airport https://skyvector.com/airport/GPT/Gulfport-Biloxi-International-Airport https://skyvector.com/airport/66Y/Diamondhead-Airport
Coastal Barriers	CBRS Mapper site and FEMA Firm Map https://fwprimary.wim.usgs.gov/CBRSMapper-v2 https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=LONG%20BEACH%20MISSISSIPPI)
Clean Air	MDEQ, Air Toxics Branch/Rosco Cuevas and Bryan Williams https://www.mdeq.ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2022-Air-Quality-Data-Summary-FINAL.pdf
Flood Insurance	Mike Gundlach, Long Beach Floodplain Manager; MEMA/Floodplain Management Specialist; mgundlach@cityoflongbeachms.com



TOPIC	AGENCY/SOURCE/PERSON CONSULTED
Coastal Zone Management	MDMR/Willa Brantley; http://www.dmr.state.ms.us/index.php/coastal-resources-management
Contamination and Toxic Substances	Brad Ware, MDEQ/EPA EnviroMapper https://geopub.epa.gov/myem/efmap/index.html?ve=17,30.294106,89.349983&pText=Bienville%20Dr,%20Waveland,%20Mississippi,%2039576Asseset Accessed June 13, 2024

Table 3 (Continued): List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted [40 CFR 1508.9(b)(Continued)

TOPIC	AGENCY/SOURCE/PERSON CONSULTED (Continued)
Endangered Species	USFWS/Paul Necaie,USFWS http://www.fws.gov/mississippiES/_pdf/MS_county_list_TE_%202014_Final.pdf
Explosive and Flammable Hazards	EPA EnviroMapper Accessed December 1, 2017. https://www.hudexchange.info/environmental-review/asd-calculator)
Farmland Protection Act	USDA WebSoil Survey/ https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/ ; 7 CFR 659.2; and USDA Website/ https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/fppa
Floodplain Management	Mike Gundlach, Long Beach Floodplain Manager; MEMA/Floodplain Management Specialist; mgundlach@cityoflongbeachms.com
Historic Preservation	Hal Bell/Mississippi Department of Archives and History; Lindsey D. Bilyeu, MS Program Coordinator Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma lbilyeu@choctawnation.com
Noise Abatement and Control	http://www.epa.gov/air/noise.html
Sole Source Aquifers	U.S. EPA Sole Source Aquifer Mapper web site https://epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ebb047ba3ec41ada1877155fe31356b and (https://www.epa.gov/dwssa) Accessed May 3, 2024
Wetlands Protection	Willa Brantley/ MDMR http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html
Wild and Scenic Rivers	National Wild and Scenic River System http://www.rivers.gov/wildriverslist.html Accessed April 21, 2024
Environmental Justice	EPA EnviroMapper access June 2, 2024 https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/ https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/environmental-justice/

List of Permits Obtained:

The City of Long Beach acting through its consultant Overstreet & Associates Engineering, has obtained permits from the MDMR to authorize construction of pavilions, a pedestrian walkway system, and other features for the public.

Public Outreach [24 CFR 50.23 & 58.43]:

- The City of Long Beach City Council approved this project during their public meetings and have prepared public notices which appeared in the local newspaper advising that the project description is available for public review and comment. A HUD 8-Step



Planning Process document was prepared, and the City advertised availability of the document and invited the public to provide comments relative to project impacts on floodplains and wetlands. The Early Notice of Public Review of a Proposed Activities in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetlands was prepared and the consultant met with Michael Gundlach on May 2, 2024. A solicitation of Views letter A HUD 8-Step Planning Process was prepared and submitted on May 5, 2024 to Mr. Michael Gundlach the Floodplain Manager for review. The Final Notice and Explanation of Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain or Wetlands was advertised on August 9 and August 16, and the public was invited to comment by August 23, 2024.

Cumulative Impact Analysis [24 CFR 58.32]:

The City of Long Beach and the entire Mississippi Gulf coast continue to recover from devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina and the more recently Hurricanes Nate and Zeta. The recovery and improvement efforts in the City of Long Beach include remodeling, rebuilding, and new construction. The repair and restoration projects at the Long Beach Harbor and the Jim Simpson Pier remain underway in hopes that the City will complete the repair work to open these facilities to the public. of existing tenants as well as new tenant opportunities. While the project may cause some short-term disturbances during the construction phase of the project, the overall long term cumulative impacts will be positive.

Alternatives [24 CFR 58.40(e); 40 CFR 1508.9]

Given that this waterfront is currently located within the 100-year floodplain and given that Gateway Project is intended to repair and improve the facilities along the waterfront, there are no other practical alternatives for the Proposed Action.

No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]:

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no benefits to the Waterfront Gateway Project that would improve recreational opportunities along the Long Beach waterfront and scenic landscaping improvements along US. 90. Limited public use of the waterfront could occur if the project is not implemented. The No Action Alternative may also result in lost opportunities for jobs and vendors which would not be able to locate within the Gateway Project area and that important public area would not be lost.

6.0 Summary of Findings and Conclusions:

The City of Long Beach has completed an analysis of the project to determine possible impacts on the man and the environment. As part of the analysis, the City has coordinated with federal and state agencies and accessed data relative to environmental conditions including the environmental setting, special plants and animals of importance, and socio-economic factors that reflect the characteristics of the project area and its living and non-living components. No negative comments or impacts were identified during this analysis and the City has concluded that the project does not conflict with existing federal and state regulations or require project changes.



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

The proposed project has been designed to minimize impacts to the environment. No additional mitigation measures or conditions, other than BMP's are required to implement this project.


8.0 Determination:

Finding of No Significant Impact [24 CFR 58.40(g)(1); 40 CFR 1508.27]

The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

Finding of Significant Impact [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2); 40 CFR 1508.27]

The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Preparer Signature:  Date: ???

Name/Title/Organization: Larry, Senior Scientist, BMI Environmental Services, LLC

Certifying Officer Signature: _____ Date: ???

Name/Title: Mr. George Bass, Mayor, City of Long Beach

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).



Appendix 1

Environmental Review Records