

## Gulf Region Infrastructure Program Recovery Action Plan Amendment 2 Technical Modification 1

### Background and Scope

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) submits this Gulf Coast Regional Infrastructure Partial Action Plan Amendment 2 Technical Modification 1 to the Final Plan approved by HUD on August 31, 2006. The MDA has determined that this does not represent a major modification to the plan requiring formal submission to HUD. The nature, purpose, scope and beneficiaries of the Partial Action Plan remain the same subsequent to the modification. Additionally, this technical modification will not negatively impact potential beneficiaries who have applied for assistance under this program.

The first modification involves the clarification of who may receive the grants for the emergency program. This modification will include the county regional utility authorities in the six coastal counties as eligible recipients. These include the following:

- The George County Utility Authority
- The Pearl River County Utility Authority
- The Hancock County Utility Authority
- The Harrison County Utility Authority
- The Jackson County Utility Authority
- The Stone County Utility Authority

The 2006 Mississippi Gulf Region Utility Authority Act created these authorities. These authorities have broad based powers regarding construction, operation and management of water, wastewater, and storm water systems in each of their respective counties.

The second modification involves clarification of the criteria for award under the emergency fund. The purpose of the emergency fund is to address those most critical needs created by the impact of Hurricane Katrina in a timely manner prior to completion of the Master Plan.

It is recognized that as a direct result of Hurricane Katrina, thousands of homes were destroyed or significantly damaged. Many of these residents are still being housed in FEMA trailers. Housing in FEMA trailers was not intended to be a long term solution. It is crucial that permanent housing be made available for these residents. In addition much of the infrastructure to support these trailers are not adequate for long term usage. Many areas in the region where these residents will be relocating do not have central sewer or water supply systems or do not have systems adequate to support the increased demand. In many of those areas individual onsite wastewater disposal systems are being utilized for disposal of wastewater along with private wells for resident's potable water supply. Due to poor soil conditions in many areas and improper management of the individual onsite wastewater treatment systems, the failure rate is high across the region resulting in runoff of poorly treated wastewater. This results in potential contamination of local

water bodies and poses a threat of contamination to the many private water supply wells. Providing water and wastewater infrastructure as soon as possible will allow for the acceleration of permanent housing and will minimize the potential public health problems that may occur if permanent infrastructure is not provided.

Projects that support housing development will be considered as meeting the criteria for funding under the emergency program.

The third modification clarifies administration of the emergency funding. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality will be the sub-grantee from MDA and as such will be responsible for handling grant applications and awards as well as fiscal management of CDBG funds.

Therefore, the Partial Action Plan Amendment 2 Technical Modification 1 is to clarify who may receive emergency grants and the criteria of these grants. The modification also clarifies the administration of the funds. Eligibility and funding level remains the same as defined in the Partial Action Plan Amendment 2.