



**FEMA**

December 18, 2006

Colonel Thomas Kirkpatrick  
State Coordinating Officer  
Louisiana Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness  
415 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: FEMA 1603-DR-LA  
West Baton Rouge Parish School FIPS No. 121-07728-00  
First Appeal, Recreation Structures and Equipment Project Worksheet (PW) 4294

Dear Colonel Kirkpatrick:

This is in response to the State's Analysis and Determination letter dated September 22, 2006, transmitting the first appeal for recreational structures and equipment for West Baton Rouge Parish School.

#### Background

The Applicant requests reimbursement for repairs on Category G items caused by Hurricane Katrina's high winds. PW 4294 was prepared for \$0 because damage was recommended as ineligible. Total losses described in PW equal \$41,450. The Applicant has appealed this determination. The following items and rationales for ineligibility were described in PW 4294:

1. The utility shed was identified as ineligible due to deferred maintenance on structure;
2. Pen netting (baseball) was identified as ineligible because netting had been previously repaired, and repairs had unfurled during the Hurricane;
3. The dugout brick wall was identified as ineligible because vegetative growth in and around the collapsed brick suggested that damage occurred prior to Katrina;
4. The Grand Stand canopy was identified as ineligible because it was donated by the Parish Council, and according to the PW, the West Baton Rouge Parish School Board did not request repairs.

#### Discussion

Outdoor school equipment is, by nature, naturally exposed to the elements and shows signs of wear which should not be construed as neglect on the part of the applicant.

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The utility shed shows signs of deterioration, but was serving its intended function at the time of disaster (housing school's sports equipment). The applicant seeks cost effective repair of approximately \$400 to only the small portion of the shed roof that was damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Holes in pen netting had been sewn closed prior to the disaster. Repairs that came undone by the disaster need to be re-stitched. This type of repair displays prudence by the applicant, and the applicant seeks to pursue a cost effective repair with the reimbursement request (repair vs. replacement) of approximately \$100.

The dugout brick wall shows significant growth amongst the individual bricks in photographs taken by the project officer in January of 2006. In response to FEMA's request, the Applicant produced photographic evidence that the wall was intact during Spring 2005 baseball season. The dugout wall repair is estimated at \$400.

The Grand Stand was given by the Parish Council as a gift to the school. The treatment of gifts (in Applicant's current possession and use at time of the disaster) is the same as any item purchased by the Applicant prior to the disaster. As such, the Grand Stand is owned by the applicant and was damaged due to high winds by Hurricane Katrina. The Grand Stand canopy tore off its frame as a result of Hurricane Katrina and is irreparably damaged. The canopy is approximately 2700 square feet and replacement is estimated at \$15 per square foot totaling approximately \$40,500.

To be eligible for financial assistance, an item must: (1) Be required as the result of the major disaster event; (2) Be located within a designated disaster area; and (3) Be the legal responsibility of an eligible applicant (44 Code of Federal Regulations §206.223). The West Baton Rouge Parish School appeal for Port Allen High School on PW 4294 meets the aforementioned criteria.

#### Conclusion

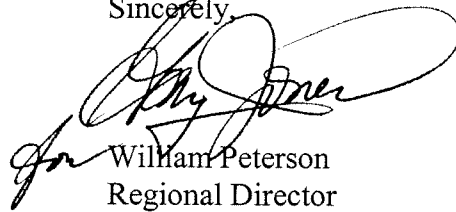
All items advanced in the West Baton Rouge Parish School appeal on PW 4294 are eligible. A version will be prepared to obligate \$41,450 to restore the four items identified in the appeal to pre-disaster function and use.

Please inform the applicant of my determination.

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Should you have any questions, please contact James Stark, Director, Louisiana  
Transitional Recovery Office, at (504) 762-2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Peterson", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name and title.

William Peterson  
Regional Director