

**From:** Myers, Karen  
**To:** Aubrey, Craig; Fontenot, Kristin  
**Cc:** Ross, Portia; von Lehe, Arthur; Bissell, Kathryn E  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] COVID 19 - HOT Question  
**Date:** Friday, March 13, 2020 3:23:30 PM

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Thanks, Craig. Kristin, our POC will be Kate Bissell (cc'd). Please do also keep me in the loop on any emails as well. Thanks,

Karen

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Karen Myers  
Manager, Branch of National Consultations  
Ecological Services Program, MS: ES  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
5275 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803  
(703) 358-2353

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**From:** Aubrey, Craig <craig\_aubrey@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2020 3:01 PM  
**To:** Fontenot, Kristin (b)(6); Myers, Karen <karen\_myers@fws.gov>  
**Cc:** Ross, Portia (b)(6); von Lehe, Arthur (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] COVID 19 - HOT Question

Karen Myers is the chief of our national consultations branch. I'll let her weigh in on poc but please keep me copied on any emails...

Also, Let's make sure to address or elevate any issues that come up quickly.

Thanks,

Craig

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 13, 2020, at 2:11 PM, Fontenot, Kristin  
(b)(6) wrote:

Craig,

Hope you are well – I'm reaching out because this afternoon I'll be meeting with my team to discuss likely temporary hospitals that will be proposed nationwide under a national disaster declaration – these are likely to be Statutorily excluded or

categorically excluded from NEPA. But, as we have seen in the past and all well know, that doesn't change the name of the game for ESA compliance.

Who on your team should be our POC if we start talking about fast moving programmatic discussions associated with ESA. As you might imagine, I may need to move very quickly on this.

Including Portia Ross, who you met last week and who serves as our Environmental Officer as she will be part of these discussions as well.

Looking forward to hearing back.  
Kristin

Kristin Leahy Fontenot  
Director  
Office of Environmental Planning/Historic Preservation  
DHS/FEMA  
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Washington, DC 20472-3020

(b)(6) (cell)

*FEMA's Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) Team provides expertise in facilitating compliance that results in better decisions and stronger communities.*

<image001.png>

**From:** [Aubrey, Craig](#)  
**To:** [Bissell, Kathryn E](#); [Myers, Karen](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] COVID-19 ESA Emergency Consultation - Update  
**Date:** Friday, June 5, 2020 8:52:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [20200526\\_COVID\\_Data.xlsx](#)

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Kate, can u pls put together a brief letter responding to FEMA? reference our previous letter, acknowledge a 5/27 call i had with FEMA and NMFS, and state we agree with their proposal to get back together in 60 days

thanks,

Craig

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**From:** Fontenot, Kristin (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2020 2:37 PM  
**To:** [cathy.tortorici@noaa.gov](mailto:cathy.tortorici@noaa.gov) <[cathy.tortorici@noaa.gov](mailto:cathy.tortorici@noaa.gov)>; Aubrey, Craig <[craig\\_aubrey@fws.gov](mailto:craig_aubrey@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ross, Portia (b)(6); Stewart, Jessica M (b)(6); Dluzak, Catherine (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] COVID-19 ESA Emergency Consultation - Update

Craig and Cathy,  
Hope you and yours continue to be well during this dynamic time.

Please find attached data tracking our current project load as of yesterday in support of COVID-19 response/recovery. I've also reviewed a handful of example projects to get a sense of what we are funding...

Non-construction activities – PPE, water/ice supplies, materials for testing sites, sanitizing interiors of medical buildings, and the like.

Construction activities – largely retrofitting buildings for new uses

To date – there have been no ground disturbing activities approved by FEMA. It continues to be a possibility as the upcoming months continue in the pandemic response , which continues to ebb and flow geographically (example – Navajo Nation has high case load, and we monitor and get a read out daily on other “hot spots” as they emerge). For this reason, FEMA is requesting a 60 day extension on the emergency consultation agreements/process laid out in the April letters from both NMFS and USFWS. We would continue to share information with you on project types – and identify when we have actual ground disturbance to understand potential impacts as we learn more.

Below are two good examples of a description of a project funded (retroactively after work completed) for a variety of activities (the reviewer looks at far more details than is synthesized here, including location review, etc) :

1. SOW: Florida Division of Emergency Management,

Statewide, State EOC office located at 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd Tallahassee, Florida 32399, CAT B, \$756,440.79, project consist of providing the state EOC office with labor, supplies, and materials, including training, disinfection of facilities, security, barricading, patrolling, and purchase of food, water, and ice. - dhil111 - 05/06/2020 12:37:09 GMT

2. The applicant will utilize force accounts and contract services including mutual aid and emergency management assistance compacts to provide non-congregate sheltering operations in response to COVID-19. The sheltering operations include providing 550 beds located within pre-existing facilities (KLF emphasis) within the California State University of Long Beach. All sheltering operations will be within the existing building footprint and will not require any ground disturbing activities (KLF emphasis). The statutory exclusion from NEPA in Section 316 of the Stafford Act applies to emergency protective measures under Sections 403 and 502 undertaken in response to COVID19 including the construction of temporary medical and sheltering facilities and repurposing, renovating, or re-using existing facilities as temporary medical and sheltering facilities. - mjohns93 - 04/21/2020 23:46:59 GMT

Kristin Leahy Fontenot

Director | Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation | FIMA

Mobile (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[fema.gov](https://www.fema.gov)

COVID Data	18-May-2020	26-May-2020	% Increase
Number of Declarations (Emergency and Disaster)	99	99	0.00%
Number of Emergency Declarations	43	43	0.00%
Number of Disaster Declarations	56	56	0.00%
Number of Declarations with Projects	52	55	5.77%
Number of Projects Reviewed	211	261	23.70%
Number of Projects Reviewed by CRC EHP that do not have the Potential to Affect EHP Resources	147	191	29.93%
Percentage of Projects Reviewed by CRC EHP that do not have the Potential to Affect EHP Resources	69.67%	73.18%	
Number of Projects Reviewed by Regional EHP that have the Potential to Affect EHP Resources	64	70	9.38%
Percentage of Projects Reviewed by Regional EHP that have the Potential to Affect EHP Resources	30.33%	26.82%	
Average Number of Days in EMIS Queue	1 day	1 day	0.00%
Number of Projects with Ground Disturbing Activities (ESA)	0	0	0.00%
Number of Projects that have Adverse Effects to Historic Properties	0	0	0.00%
Number of Tribal Projects Associated with Tribal Declarations	3	3	0.00%
Amount of Federal Share Obligated that EHP Reviewed	\$1,567,196,085.22	\$1,594,062,669.01	1.71%