

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Final Environmental Assessment

National Archives and Records Administration

Proposed Granting of an Easement by and Construction of Improvements for the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
Columbia Point, Boston MA

The Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed grant of an easement by the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum (JFK Library), Columbia Point, Boston MA, to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting by and through the Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts (University), the University of Massachusetts Building Authority (Authority), and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate Inc. (EMK Institute), for the construction of a facility to house an educational institute (EMK Facility) on the Boston campus of the University of Massachusetts, and for the construction of certain improvements on JFK Library land, attached hereto, provides sufficient evidence and analysis to determine that a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate for this action. The EA documents the evidence and analysis in the following sections: 1. PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED; 2. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED; and, 3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND POTENTIAL PROJECTS IMPACTS; (see attached EA).

The EA analysis for the proposed grant of easement and construction of certain improvements indicates that the project would have no significant impact on the natural or human environment, therefore, no mitigation measures are proposed.

The EA also considered an alternative action, the No Action Alternative. This analysis concluded that the No Action Alternative (e.g., not granting the easement) would result in a reorientation of the EMK Facility's design that would not meet the purpose and need for the project, more specifically it would not allow for the creation of an architectural and symbolic link between the JFK Library and the EMK Facility. As such, the alternative was not considered further in the EA.

An Archeological and Historic Resources Review (Section 106) was conducted to determine the effects of the proposal on any historic properties. It was concluded that no archeological or historic sites will be adversely impacted by the proposed grant of easement or construction of certain improvements.

PREDECISIONAL EA DRAFT REVIEW AND COMMENT: The National Archives and Records Administration NARA held a public meeting and invited review and comment on the pre-decisional EA from the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer, the City of Boston, as well as the general public. The public meeting was noticed in the *Boston Herald* newspaper on June 2, 3 and 4, 2011 and announced on the JFK Library's web site at <http://www.jfklibrary.org/About-Us/About-the-JFK-Library.aspx>. NARA noticed a 35-day public review and comment period

ending July 8, 2011, during which time the public meeting on the project was held, on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, at 7:00 PM at the JFK Library.


Comments were received as the result of the Public Meeting and circulated draft EA, and the comments were responded to in the final EA (see EA Section 5). No other comments were received in response to the legal advertisements placed in the local newspaper or on the JFK Library web site.

AGENCY CONSULTATIONS: An Archeological and Historic Resources review (Section 106) was conducted as part of the EA. Various parties were consulted, and the findings were reviewed by the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer, who agreed that there would be no adverse affect on historic structures and archeological resources by the proposed grant of easement or the construction of certain improvements. (see EA *section 3 12*. Appendix B)

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: The National Archives and Records Administration finds that proceeding with the proposed grant of an easement by the JFK library to Authority and the EMK Institute, for the construction of the EMK Facility on the Boston campus of the University of Massachusetts, and for the construction of certain improvements on JFK Library land, will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102 (2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347. This finding is based on the EA that analyzed the consequences of the relevant issues of environmental concern associated with the proposed project. The EA determined the proposed grant of easement or construction of certain improvements would not result in any significant impacts on the natural or human environment. The National Archives and Records Administration makes this Finding of No Significant Impact pursuant to NEPA, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA at 40 CFR §§ 1500 – 1508. Therefore, no environmental impact statement is required for this project.

The National Archives and Records Administration, having taken into account the effects that the proposal to grant an easement to the Authority and EMK for the construction of the EMK Facility on the Boston campus of the University of Massachusetts, and to construct certain improvements on JFK Library land will have on any historic or archeological resources listed in or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, finds that no resources will be adversely affected by the proposal. This finding is based on the Archeological and Historic Resources review (Section 106) conducted as part of the EA, and consultation with the community including the office of the State of Massachusetts Historic Preservation Officer. This finding fulfills the Agency's obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. §§ 470-470x-6, and the implementing regulations for section 106 at 36 CFR Part 800.

Finding by:



 THOMAS PUTNAM

Director
 John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
 Columbia Point
 Boston, MA

8-4-11

 Date

Approved by:



 SUSAN DONIUS

Acting Director of Presidential Libraries
 National Archives and Records Administration

8-4-11

 Date

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: For further information on the project or this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), please contact:

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Copies of this FONSI (with the EA attached) will be made available for public review at the National Archives and Records Administration website at <http://www.archives.gov/about/plans-reports/environmental-assessment/> and copies may be obtained by writing to the contact listed above.

ATTACHMENT
 Environmental Assessment