

National Historic Preservation Act Proposed Water Tower Project S&WB Carrollton Water Treatment Facility

Discussion at Carrollton-Riverbend Neighborhood Association
Board Meeting

March 12, 2015, 7pm

Central St. Matthew United Church of Christ, 1333 S. Carrollton Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (S&WB) has requested FEMA funding for upgrades to water distribution facilities.¹ The upgrades will reduce the occurrence of the damaging “water hammer” effect, the abrupt surge in water pressure caused by pump shut-downs when there is a power loss or power surge. The proposed construction of two elevated water tanks (towers), up to 200’ high with a capacity of 2 million gallons, at the Carrollton Water Treatment Facility will adversely affect the Carrollton National Register Historic District. The tower shown in the foreground of the illustration will be constructed in the visitors’ parking lot at the main entrance on S. Claiborne Avenue. The second tower, visible in the background on the left side of the illustration, will be constructed inside the Carrollton facility near Leonidas Street between Sycamore and Panola Streets. Construction of the “Water Hammer” project will not begin until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Damage Reduction Project on Claiborne Avenue is completed. S&WB is planning to minimize the effect of construction activities on the neighborhood. This plan will include monitoring vibration, directing truck routes, and setting hours of construction.



Proposed water towers projected from S. Claiborne Ave. & Eagle St. facing south. *Image created using Google Earth.*

Federal regulations require FEMA, as the funding agency, to address the visual adverse effects to the historic district,² in part, by creating measures that will provide long-term public benefit focusing on the Carrollton NR Historic District and the S&WB Water Treatment Plants. This is where FEMA is requesting your assistance with gathering ideas and suggestions. **Do you have any ideas for measures that will provide long-term public benefits to the Carrollton NR Historic District and the neighborhood around the S&WB Water Treatment Plant?** One example is a historical marker or display; do you have ideas that would fit well with the neighborhood, or any topics that you would like to see? Other examples are public education materials such as a historic booklet or research about the Carrollton NR Historic District or the S&WB Water Treatment Plant. FEMA encourages you to be creative and share your comments and suggestions at the upcoming Carrollton-Riverbend Neighborhood Association Board Meeting. FEMA will take ideas and suggestions and consider them when formulating a plan for offsetting the adverse effect to historic properties for this project. FEMA is working with several parties, including the State Historic Preservation Office and the Sewerage and Water Board to select a reasonable plan. Your suggestion will provide valued input to this process but FEMA will not be able to adopt all ideas.

Please attend the meeting or Post comments at: <http://www.crt.state.la.us/culturalassets/fema106/>

Or mail by March 15, 2015 to: FEMA Mail Center/Historic Preservation, 1500 Main Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

¹ FEMA is issuing this public notice as part of its responsibilities under the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

² FEMA is required to follow the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (NEPA regulations, 43 FR 55978 [1978]) that provide policy and procedures to enable FEMA officials to be informed of and take into account environmental considerations when authorizing or approving major FEMA actions that may significantly affect the environment of the United States.