Project Summary

Please share your thoughts on the following items:

(a) Based upon the discussions that took place in the Roundtables and Bridge meetings held in your two counties, what are the 4-5 most important things a community can do to help:

- Both groups indicated that citizens should be involved in plan development
- Improve communications between citizens and leaders
- Increase education and understanding
- Create resource contact list
- Create awareness of emergency assistance plan

(b) What final recommendations would you offer on the EPD process, regarding:

- Need more information about community coach concept
- Emergency Management and Community Groups both felt it was important to have local input into developing the maps and that the maps should be checked for accuracy by community members once developed.

(c) What specific needs do the counties have with regard to emergency preparedness and response?

- Communication improvement between citizens and first responders.
- Education regarding the existence and implementation of the plan.
- Awareness of how to find contact information.
- All of these apply to socially and economically disadvantaged.

(d) What do you think about the meetings that were held in the county?

- Yes, they were useful to the communities.
- Identified issues pertinent to at-risk and disadvantaged populations.
- Provided disadvantaged citizens the opportunity to meet and have open dialogue with elected officials and first responders.
- People who are geographically isolated and have medical, physical, developmental challenges had their special needs recognized.

(e) Did you learn anything new as a result of your involvement in this FEMA/CSREES/SRDC project?

- Yes
- Learned more about the special needs of at-risk and disadvantaged populations within the parish.
- Learned that plans may exist, but the population does not know about them.
- Learned that at-risk and disadvantaged populations depend greatly upon each other for help and information.
• Most first responders were aware of a plan, but in some cases the content remained “in-house”.

(f) Is there anything else you would like to bring to our attention in terms of your experiences taking part in these county meetings and the overall project?

• Simplify and streamline grants/contracts procedures so that more lead time is available for preparing for and conducting the project.