

the feasibility phase, contingent upon the execution of a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) with a non-Federal Sponsor. An FCSA was executed with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LADNR) on February 18, 2000. The proposed action focuses on wetland restoration/creation in the Barataria Basin ecosystem due to the very high rate of wetland loss, estimated at about 11 square miles per year, throughout the basin.

The proposed action also provides additional advantages: (1) This proposed action potentially provides a low risk and quickly implementable plan to address wetland loss in the Barataria Basin; (2) the proposed action study area is strategically placed and could potentially yield benefits to other coastal resources within the unique Barataria Basin ecosystem, geologic framework, and the human environment infrastructure associated with transportation, oil and gas extraction, utilities, etc.; (3) the proposed action could also provide additional benefits in terms of protection of important landscape structural features that function as important hydrological features within the Barataria Basin; and (4) the proposed action could be implemented independently of the remaining Coast 2050 Plan strategies for the Barataria Basin.

3. Study Alternatives

a. During the Coast 2050 public meetings conducted in 1998, two marsh creation strategies, Strategy R2-17—Dedicated Dredging near Caminada Bay and Strategy R2-16—Dedicated Dredging Along Louisiana Highway 1, were considered as viable ecosystem restoration strategies. Hence, these strategies will be developed into alternatives for the proposed action. Other alternatives that will be considered include: The No Action Alternative, filling, marsh replenishing, terracing, and the beneficial use of dredged material from maintenance dredging of navigation channels. In addition, alternatives developed during the scoping process will also be developed and considered.

b. Wetland restoration/creation design features will be evaluated to ensure compliance with current Federal and State laws and regulations. Any adverse effects of the alternative plans will be identified and appropriate mitigation measures will be included in the plans. However, because the proposed action is ecosystem restoration, it is not the intent to generate alternative plans that would require mitigation. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared during the feasibility

phase because of the potential for significant direct and indirect, secondary, and cumulative impacts on the human and natural environment.

4. Scoping Process

An intensive public involvement program will be initiated and maintained throughout the study to solicit input from affected Federal, State, and local agencies, Indian tribes, and interested private organizations and individuals. Scoping is a critical component of the overall public involvement program. The scoping process is designed to provide an early and open means of determining the scope of issues (problems, needs, and opportunities) to be identified and addressed in the DEIS.

5. Public Scoping Meeting

The Corps of Engineers and the LADNR invite NEPA input in writing or in person concerning the scope of the EIS, resources to be evaluated, and alternatives to be considered. Individuals, groups, agencies and other interested parties can write comments to the Corps of Engineers using Dr. Klein's mailing address shown above. In the early summer of 2000, the Corps of Engineers will hold at least one public meeting in the study area to receive oral and written comments on the proposed action. Notices will be mailed to the affected and interested public once the date of the public scoping meeting has been established. Comments received as a result of the scoping meeting will be compiled and analyzed; and a Scoping Document, summarizing the results, will be made available to all participants.

6. Interagency Coordination

The Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will provide a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report. Coordination will be maintained with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding threatened and endangered species under their respective jurisdictional responsibilities. Coordination will be maintained with the Natural Resources Conservation Service regarding prime and unique farmlands. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will be consulted regarding the "Swampbuster" provisions of the Food Security Act. We will prepare a section 404(b)(1) evaluation. Coordination will be maintained with the Advisory Counsel on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Officer. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources will be consulted regarding

consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Act. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will be contacted concerning potential impacts to Natural and Scenic Streams. Application will be made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for a Water Quality Certificate.

7. Availability of DEIS

It is anticipated that the Draft EIS will be available for public review during the spring of 2001. A 45-day review period will be allowed so that all interested agencies, groups, and individuals will have an opportunity to comment on the draft report and EIS. In addition, a public meeting will be held during the review period to receive comments and address questions concerning the draft EIS.

Dated: April 26, 2000.

Thomas F. Julich,

Colonel, U.S. Army District Engineer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Supplement (SEIS) to the 1992 Final Environmental Impact Statement on Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park (Mod Waters Project) to Address a Change in Design of U.S. Highway 41 (Tamiami Trail) Originally Proposed Modifications

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The congressionally authorized Mod Waters project consists of structural modifications and additions to the existing C&SF Project required for improvement of water deliveries for ecosystem restoration in Everglades National Park. The authorized plan calls for only minor modification of Tamiami Trail by increasing the elevation of about 3,000 linear feet of the roadbed. The existing culvert system was thought adequate to pass the maximum desired volume of water. Additional analysis indicates that the existing culverts are not adequate to do so. Therefore additional water conveyance methods will be analyzed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232; Attn: Mr. Elmar Kurzbach, 904-232-2325.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Alternatives that will be evaluated include: addition of 4 new bridges, relocating the road (either to the north or south) with sufficient culverts and bridges, installation of an underground piping system, and installation of a new pump and "getaway" channel. The bridge and underground piping system alternatives would include alternative upgrades of the existing roadbed ranging from no upgrades, to raising approximately 10 miles of roadbed up to about 2 feet in elevation, or to an elevation of 12 feet NGVD.

2. A scoping letter and public Scoping Meeting will be used to invite comments on alternatives and issues from Federal, State, and local agencies, affected Indian tribes, and other interested private organizations and individuals.

3. The Draft EIS will analyze potential impacts to local businesses and residents, Everglades National Park, endangered species, wetlands, biological resources, water quality, and recreational fishing. Impact analysis will be limited to issues associated with the construction of the improvements, only. All general Mod Waters issues were addressed in the original Environmental Impact Statement.

4. The alternative plans will be reviewed under provisions of appropriate laws and regulations, including the Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and Clean Water Act.

5. The Draft SEIS is expected to be available for public review during the 4th quarter of calendar year 2000.

John A. Hall,

Alternate Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in Conjunction With Proposed Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Measures in the Kankakee River Basin in Northeast Illinois and Northwest Indiana

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The project involves proposed construction of flood control measures and ecosystem restoration measures along the Kankakee River, Yellow River, Iroquois River, and major tributaries. Alternatives under consideration include setback levees,

sediment traps, wetland restoration, bank stabilization, vegetation buffers, and selective dredging at locations in several counties in northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Keith Ryder, 312/353-6400 ext. 2020; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Suite 600, 111 North Canal Street; Chicago, Illinois 60606-7206.

Dated: April 21, 2000.

Peter J. Rowan,

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 00-11295 Filed 5-4-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Notice of Intent and Notice of Preparation for a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for a Proposed Flood Reduction Investigation in Yolo County, California

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The action being taken is the development of a joint draft EIS/EIR to identify and assess the significance of potential measures that would reduce flood damages to the city of Woodland, adjacent unincorporated areas, and agricultural lands of Yolo County, and improve the conveyance of the hydraulic system for the Lower Cache Creek area. The intent of the draft EIS/EIR is to describe and evaluate the potential effects of the proposed alternatives on environmental resources in the study area.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and draft EIS/EIR can be answered by Patti Johnson at (916) 557-6611 or by mail at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, ATTN: CESPK-PD-R, 1325 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2922.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 1.

Proposed Action.—The Corps in cooperation with the non-Federal sponsors (The Reclamation Board of the State of California and the City of Woodland) is conducting a cost-shared feasibility study on alternative flood damage reduction measures to the city of Woodland, Yolo County, California, adjacent unincorporated areas, and agricultural lands. The study is authorized by section 209 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (Public Law 87-

874). A reconnaissance study of flooding problems in the westside tributaries, including Putah and Cache Creeks, and the Yolo Bypass was conducted in 1993-1994 under the authorization of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 1993. Information resulting from this reconnaissance report is providing some data for the present feasibility study.

2. **Alternatives.**—The feasibility study's draft EIS/EIR will address a combination of one or more flood control measures including setback levees along Cache Creek, stream channel improvements, a north Woodland floodway, and a no-action alternative. Mitigation measures for any significant adverse effects on environmental resources will be identified and incorporated into the alternatives in compliance with various Federal and State statutes.

3. **Scoping Process.**—a. The study plan provides for public scoping, meetings, and comment. The Corps has initiated a process of involving concerned Federal, State, and local agencies and individuals. The City of Woodland Task Force has held periodic public meetings to discuss issues and solicit public comment.

b. Public involvement during the reconnaissance phase of the study included the "Notice of Initiation of a Reconnaissance Study, Westside Tributaries to Yolo Bypass, Flood Control Investigation, California," that was sent to Federal, State, county, and city agencies and other interested groups and individuals in May 1993. The Corps participated in a number of meetings with the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and the Yolo-Solano Flood Control Task Force to brief participants including other public agencies, organizations, and interested individuals on the proposed alternatives. Comments received focused on flooding along Cache Creek, land subsidence, gravel mining, and effects of the alternatives on the Cache Creek Settling Basin. On April 15 and May 6, 1996, the Corps held public workshops in Woodland to present the study result and discuss the procedures to complete the reconnaissance phase and initiate the feasibility phase of the study.

c. Issues that will be analyzed in depth in the draft EIS/EIR include effects on vegetation and wildlife, special-status species, water quality, air quality, socio-economic conditions, and cultural resources. Other issues may include geology, soils, topography, noise, esthetics, climate and recreation.