

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Titled: Amite River and Tributaries,
Bayou Manchac, LA**

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, is initiating this study as a continuation of the Amite River and Tributaries Initial Evaluation Study, dated November 1984. The Amite River and Tributaries Study was initiated in response to a resolution, dated April 14, 1967, of the committee on Public Works of the United States Senate. This resolution directed the Board of Engineers, created under Section 3 of the River and Harbors Act, dated June 13, 1902, to determine whether the existing project should be modified for additional improvements for flood control and related purposes on the Amite River, Bayou Manchac, and Comite River and their tributaries.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions concerning the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be addressed to Ms. Elizabeth McCasland at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PM-RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267, by E-mail at elizabeth.l.mccasland@mvn02.usace.army.mil, phone (504) 862-2021, or fax number (504) 862-2572.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: An early screening phase concluded that there were not enough structural damages to support a single-purpose flood damage reduction study. However, it was determined that opportunities exist for ecosystem restoration that could possibly lower storm water stages as an ancillary benefit. This project will be evaluated under the National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) and National Economic Development (NED) planning and procedures guidelines.

1. *Proposed Action.* The proposed action would include one or more of the alternatives that when combined would improve the ecosystem and possibly reduce flood stages. Economic and environmental analysis would be used to determine the most practical plan, which would provide for the greatest overall public benefit.

2. *Alternatives.* Alternatives recommended for consideration presently include: A higher capacity

structure at the confluence of Alligator Bayou and Bayou Manchac, a connection to New River, a freshwater input from Willow Glen Power Plant, a replacement of Frog Bayou Structure, Habitat Restoration, a pump and conveyance at Elbow Bayou with a flow restriction on Bayou Fountain, an operational water management plan and Non-Structural flood reduction measures.

3. *Scoping.* Scoping is the process for determining the scope of alternatives and significant issues to be addressed in the EIS. For this analysis, a letter will be sent to all parties believed to have an interest in the analysis, requesting their input on alternatives and issues to be evaluated. The letter will also notify interested parties of public scoping meetings that will be held in the local area. Notices will also be sent to local news media. All interested parties are invited to comment at this time, and anyone interested in this study should request to be included in the study mailing list.

A public scoping meeting will be held in the fall of 2003. The meeting will be held in the vicinity of Baton Rouge, LA. Additional meetings could be held, depending upon interest and if it is determined that further public coordination is warranted.

4. *Significant Issues.* The tentative list of resources and issues to be evaluated in the EIS includes wetlands (marshes and swamps), aquatic resources, commercial and recreational fisheries, wildlife resources, essential fish habitat, water quality, air quality, threatened and endangered species, recreation resources, and cultural resources. Socioeconomic items to be evaluated in the EIS include navigation, flood protection, business and industrial activity, employment, land use, property values, public/community facilities and services, tax revenues, population, community and regional growth, transportation, housing, community cohesion, and noise.

5. *Environmental Consultation and Review.* The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be assisting in the documentation of existing conditions and assessment of effects of project alternatives through Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act consultation procedures. The USFWS will provide a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act report. Consultation will be accomplished with the USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concerning threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat. The NMFS will be consulted on the effects of this proposed action on Essential Fish Habitat. The draft EIS

(DEIS) or a notice of its availability will be distributed to all interested agencies, organizations, and individuals.

6. *Estimated Date of Availability.* Funding levels will dictate the date when the DEIS is available. The earliest that the DEIS is expected to be available is the summer of 2006.

Dated: September 15, 2003.

Peter J. Rowan,

Colonel, U.S. Army, District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 03-24615 Filed 9-26-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-84-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Development by Cooper Land Development, Inc. in Baldwin County, AL**

AGENCY: Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District (Corps) intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to address the potential impacts associated with the construction of the Cooper Land Development project located near Stockton in Baldwin County, Alabama. The Corps will be evaluating a permit application for the work under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The environmental impact statement will be used as a basis for the permit decision and to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

DATES: A scoping meeting will be held on October 28, 2003, at the Bay Minette Civic Center, 301 D'Olive Street, Bay Minette, Alabama 36507 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and the DEIS should be addressed to Dr. Diane Findley (diane.i.findley@sam.usace.army.mil), phone 251-694-3857 or Munther Sahawneh (munther.n.sahawneh@sam.usace.army.mil), phone 251-694-3782. Mailing address for Dr. Findley and Mr. Sahawneh is U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, AL 36628-0001.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 1. The permit applicant (Department of Army permit application number AL03-00285-H) is proposing a residential

development that will result in filling/impacting approximately 349.3 acres of wetlands and approximately 7.05 linear miles of streams. The project site contains approximately 845 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and 14.53 miles of streambeds. This residential development project is comprised of approximately 5,024 acres and is located near the Stockton Community in Baldwin County. The proposed project will consist of the construction of six lakes, three 18-hole golf courses, roadways, and approximately 9,000 low to medium density single-family residential home sites. The lakes will be created as impoundments through the construction of dams across existing stream segments and bottomlands. In addition to their use for recreation, the lakes will be used to supply irrigation water to the development. It is anticipated that the proposed development will occur in at least three (3) phases over a period of approximately 15 years.

2. Alternatives to the applicant's proposal may exist which would reduce the impacts. These could include alternative site layouts sites or alternate site locations.

3. *Scoping:*

a. The Corps invites full public participation to promote open communication on the issues surrounding the proposal. All Federal, State, and local agencies, and other persons or organizations that have an interest are urged to participate in the NEPA scoping process. A public meeting will be held to help identify significant issues and to receive public input and comment (see DATES).

b. The DEIS will analyze the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts to the local area resulting from the proposed project. Specifically, the following major issues will be analyzed in depth in the DEIS alternatives: hydrologic and hydraulic regimes, wetlands, streams, cultural resources, utilities, socioeconomic characteristics, biological resources, threatened and endangered species, transportation systems, secondary impacts, cumulative impacts, environmental justice (effect on minorities and low income groups), and protection of children (E.O. 13045).

c. The Corps will serve as the lead Federal agency in the preparation of the DEIS. It is anticipated that the following agencies will be invited and will accept cooperating agency status for the preparation of the DEIS: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service; Alabama Department of Environmental Management; Alabama Department of Conservation

and Natural Resources; Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer; Alabama Department of Transportation; South Alabama Regional Planning Commission; Baldwin County; and the City of Bay Minette.

4. It is anticipated that the DEIS will be made available for public review in August 2004.

Ronald A. Krizman,

Chief, Regulatory Branch.

[FR Doc. 03-24614 Filed 9-26-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-CR-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Indian River Lagoon South Project

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, intends to prepare an integrated Project Implementation Report/Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (PIR/DSFEIS) for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project, Indian River Lagoon—South Project. On October 11, 2002 a notice of availability was published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 63421) for the C&SF Project, Indian River Lagoon—South Feasibility Study and Integrated Final Environmental Impact Statement. The PIR/DSFEIS is being prepared to address the requirements of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 related to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan that were not addressed in the Feasibility Report and the FEIS. These requirements involve determination of water to be reserved for the natural system, savings clause, level of service for flood protection, the draft operations and monitoring plan and the ecological and water quality monitoring plan. The PIR/DSFEIS will also address a design refinement to the recommended plan identified during the Pre-construction Engineering and Design Phase.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Dupes, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, Environmental Branch, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019, by e-mail michael.dupes@sa02.usace.army.mil, or by telephone at 904-232-1689.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

a. *Study Area:* The study area remains the same as originally described in the Feasibility Report and FEIS.

b. *Project Scope:* The scope of the project remains the same as described in the Feasibility Report and FEIS.

c. *Public Involvement:* A public workshop will be conducted to notify the public of the WRDA 2000 requirements and of the change to the recommended plan. The exact location, date, and time of the workshop will be announced in public notices and local newspapers and on the Everglades Restoration Web site at fml:http://www.evergladesplan.org.

d. *SEIS Preparation:* The integrated Project Implementation Report, including the draft SEIS is currently scheduled for publication in late 2003 or early 2004.

Dated: September 16, 2003.

James C. Duck,

Chief, Planning Division.

[FR Doc. 03-24613 Filed 9-26-03; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[AZ-096-FIN; FRL-7564-3]

Adequacy Status of the Maricopa County, Arizona, Submitted CO Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for Transportation Conformity Purposes

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of adequacy.

SUMMARY: In this notice, EPA is notifying the public that we have found that the motor vehicle emissions budgets contained in the submitted Maricopa County 2003 Carbon Monoxide (CO) Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan are adequate for conformity purposes.

As a result of our finding, the Maricopa Association of Governments and the U.S. Department of Transportation must use the CO motor vehicle emissions budgets from the submitted CO Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for future conformity determinations.

DATES: This determination is effective October 14, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The finding is available at EPA's conformity Web site: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/transp/conform/adequacy.htm>, (once there, click on the "What SIP submissions has EPA already found adequate or inadequate?" button.)