

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park, Florida**

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The congressionally authorized Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park (Mod Waters) project consists of structural modifications and additions to the existing Central and Southern Florida project required to improve water deliveries for ecosystem restoration of the Park. The June 1992 Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Mod Waters project-induced an evaluation of a plan element consisting of structural features to mitigate project-induced flooding in a residential area in the East Everglades called the 8.5 Square Mile Area (SMA). In 1998, the local sponsor of the project, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), responded to a Florida Governor's Commission recommendation to evaluate other alternatives and requested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) modify the authorized project to provide for a total buy-out of the area in lieu of the authorized flood mitigation plan. Additionally, the National Park Service recently stated that the 1992 authorized flood mitigation plan is not consistent with long term restoration of Everglades National Park. The proposed total buy-out of the 8.5 SMA will be addressed as a locally preferred option (LPO) in a Supplement to the Mod Waters Final Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 1. The action proposed by the SFWMD is for a plan of total purchase of all private property within the 8.5 SMA to be substituted for the 1992 Federally authorized plan of constructing structural features to prevent the additional flooding in the 8.5 SMA that is expected when the Mod Waters project is fully operational (the flood mitigation plan).

2. Alternatives to be discussed include the LPO, the Federally authorized plan, and various water management structural configurations for the 8.5 SMA.

3. 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.

4. The Draft SEIS will analyze issues related to loss of unique farm lands, water quality degradation endangered species protection, urban development impacts, agricultural flood protection, Everglades National Park ecosystem restoration, implementation time, potential impacts on other project features, and direct and secondary costs for construction, operation and maintenance, land management, and acquisition for each alternative plan.

5. The National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been identified as Cooperating Agencies under the lead of the Corps for preparation of the SEIS.

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

7. A Scoping meeting will be held in Homestead, Florida at the Miami-Dade County Extension Office. The date and time will be announced in the Scoping letter.

8. The Draft SEIS is expected to be available for public review in the 4th quarter CY 1999.

Mary V. Yonts,

Alternate U.S. Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army****Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Construction of a Containerized Cargo and Cruise Ship Terminal, Along Port Road, East of Old Highway 146, in the Extra-territorial Jurisdiction of the City of Pasadena and the City of Seabrook, Harris County, TX**

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District intends to prepare a DEIS to access the social, economic and environmental effects of

the proposed multi-year phased construction of a container terminal and cruise ship facility. The DEIS will access potential impacts on a range of alternatives, including the preferred alternative.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information and/or questions about the proposed action and DEIS, please contact Mr. Mark King, Project Manager, by letter at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, Texas 77550, by telephone at (409) 766-3991, or by electronic mail at john.m.king@swg02.usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Galveston District intends to prepare a DEIS on the proposed container cargo and cruise ship terminal which would be located along Port Road, east of Old Highway 146, in the Extra-territorial Jurisdiction of the City of Pasadena and the City of Seabrook, Harris County, Texas. The Port of Houston Authority (PHA) proposes this project.

1. Description of the Proposed Project

The PHA proposes to construct containerized cargo loading areas, roadways, rail lines, an intermodal transit yard, and associated warehouses, administration, and operations buildings. It is the PHA's projection that initial construction would use approximately 1,600 feet of waterfront and 54 acres of land for a container yard. Construction beyond this initial phase would occur in increments (50-100 acre yard expansions and associated waterfront construction). These additional phases of construction would occur based upon cargo demand. It is currently estimated that the ultimate build-out of the container terminal to seven berths and over 608 acres of container yard and a 90 acre intermodal transit facility (rail yard) could take 15 to 20 years. Cruise ship facilities beyond the initial single berth would be construction based upon passenger demand.

2. Alternatives

The following alternatives will be examined to identify the reasonable alternatives to be fully evaluated in the DEIS: No Action; the modification of existing PHA facilities to meet the purpose and need of and for the proposed project; alternative locations within the jurisdictional authority of the PHA where the proposed facilities might be developed; off-site alternatives such as Spillman Island, Shoal Point (Texas City), and Galveston Harbor; modified on-site alternatives. The applicant's preferred alternative is the PHA owned property on the Bayport