

SUMMARY: Development of environmentally sustainable flood protection alternatives for the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway basins is the purpose of the proposed reevaluation. A Notice of Availability for the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) on the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway, Missouri, First Phase, Supplement to the 1982 St. Johns Bayou-New Madrid Floodway Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project, Mississippi River Levees and Channel Improvement 1976 Final Environmental Impact Statement was published in the **Federal Register** on September 8, 2000. The FSEIS was distributed to Federal and State agencies and the public. The FSEIS evaluated plans that provide flood protection in the St. Johns Bayou and New Madrid Floodway Basins in southeast Missouri. Substantive comments promulgated by the Department of the Interior, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the State of Missouri concerning the FSEIS array of alternatives resulted in the Corps of Engineers decision to prepare a revised DSEIS to evaluate alternative levee closure alignments and relevant mitigation options.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Larry Sharpe, telephone (901) 544-3476, CEMVM-PM-P, 167 North Main street, B-202, Memphis, TN 38103-1894. Questions or comments regarding the revised DSEIS (including scoping input) may be directed to Mr. David L. Reece, Chief, Environmental and Economic Analysis Branch, telephone (901) 544-3970, CEMVM-PM-E, or Mr. John Rumancik, telephone (901) 544-3975, CEMVM-PM-E.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The St. Johns Bayou Basin and New Madrid Floodway are located in the Bootheel region of southeast Missouri, and include all or portions of New Madrid, Scott, and Mississippi counties. The basins are adjacent to the Mississippi River, and subject to both backwater and interior headwater flooding. Congress authorized the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) Project in the Flood Control Act of 1928, to construct the mainline Mississippi River levees. The Birds Point—New Madrid Floodway was a portion of the 1928 Flood Control Act. A levee closure and outlet structure at New Madrid, Missouri, were authorized in the Flood Control Act of 1954 (Pub. L. 780-83), but not constructed. The St. Johns Bayou Basin levee closure, with drainage structure, was authorized in the Flood Control Act

of July 24, 1946, and subsequently constructed. An EIS for the MR&T and Channel Improvement was filed with the Council on Environmental Quality on July 2, 1976, which addressed the New Madrid Floodway levee closure. The St. Johns Bayou/New Madrid Floodway Project Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was filed with the EPA on July 23, 1982. The current project was authorized for construction by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-662), section 401(a). The authorized project is based on the Report of the Chief of Engineers, dated January 4, 1983, which is part of the Phase I General Design Memorandum (GDM) documents prepared in response to section 101(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1976 (Pub. L. 94-587). This revised DSEIS is being prepared to supplement the 1976 MR&T EIS and the 1982 St. Johns Bayou/New Madrid Floodway Project Final SEIS.

1. Proposed Action

The recommended plan of improvement for the First Phase work, as evaluated in the September 2000 FSEIS, includes about 23 miles of channel modification, a 1,000 cfs pumping station for the St. Johns Bayou Basin area, a 1,500 cfs pumping station for the New Madrid Floodway area, and a 1,500 foot closure levee and gravity outlet structure at the southern end of the New Madrid Floodway. The revised DSEIS will address and evaluate the environmental and economic impacts of alternative levee closure locations, develop and discuss the locations of potential compensatory mitigation sites, and further address concerns from Federal and State resource agencies.

2. Alternatives

Several flood reduction alternatives, including mitigation, were evaluated in the previous EIS(s). In addition to the recommended plan, the September 2000 FSEIS included a reevaluation of the 1986 authorized plan for flood protection and NO Action alternative. The revised DSEIS will analyze other alternative levee closure alignments and options inside the New Madrid Floodway. Each alternative levee closure alignment would result in different amounts of cropland and wooded land available for periodic Mississippi River backwater flooding to provide fishery spawning and rearing habitats.

3. Scoping Process

An intensive public involvement program has been ongoing. There have been additional interagency

environmental and project sponsor meetings since the September 2000 FSEIS was produced. Interagency environmental meetings will continue to be held as needed. Significant issues to be addressed in the revised DSEIS will include alternative levee closure locations for the New Madrid Floodway, related impacts, and fish and wildlife mitigation alternatives. This NOI will serve as a request for scoping input. Interested parties are invited to provide comments or concerns to the above address. It is anticipated that the revised DSEIS will be available for public review in the Fall of 2001.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Pertaining to the Santa Cruz River Where Its Course From the South Enters the City of Tucson, Pima County, AZ

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Analyses of foreseeable environmental impacts from potential actions along the Santa Cruz River in the City of Tucson, Pima County, Arizona, will commence. No explicit plans have been advanced as yet, so contents of the Draft EIS remain to be determined during the public scoping process. The portion of the river to be studied extends from about Valencia Road (upstream) to about Congress Road (downstream), a distance of about 6.9 river miles. Pima County has identified within this length of the river needs associated with loss of riparian habitat and the presence of cultural resources. Those needs will guide the formulation of plans for this region, the *Paseo de las Iglesias* (way, or walk of the churches) segment of the Santa Cruz River.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Pima County, Arizona, will cooperate in conducting this feasibility study.

ADDRESSES: District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, ATTN: CESPL-PD-RP, P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, California 90053-2325.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John E. Moeur, Environmental

Coordinator, telephone (213) 452-3874, or Mr. John E. Drake, Study Manager, telephone (602) 640-2033. The cooperating entity, Pima County, requests inquiries be made to Ms. Mary Lou Johnson, telephone (520) 740-6444, for any additional information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Authorization

Feasibility studies for Paseo de las Iglesias were authorized by Section 6 of the Flood Control Act of 1938. The 75th Congress of the United States passed what became Public Law 761. This legislation states, in part: “* * * the Secretary of War [Secretary of the Army since 1947] is hereby authorized and directed to cause preliminary examinations and surveys * * * at the following locations * * * Gila River and tributaries, Arizona, * * *.” The Santa Cruz River once flowed into the Gila when a wetter climate prevailed in the southwest, and its watershed still joins that of the Gila near Laveen, Arizona.

2. Background

The Santa Cruz River arises in southeastern Arizona, passes southwesterly into Sonora, Mexico, then turns northward again and re-enters the United States at Nogales, Arizona. Since before the late 16th century when the Spanish explored the southwest, the Santa Cruz River never ran continuously all the way to the Gila. Where underlying bedrock along its course forced water to the surface, the Santa Cruz was perennial. Historically, reliable surface flows along the Santa Cruz could be found intermittently between Nogales and Martinez Hill, to the east Mission San Xavier in the southerly parts of what is now metropolitan Tucson. Subsurface flow farther north sustained a riparian community. Downstream of the confluence with the so called West Branch of the Santa Cruz the water table again rose above the surface around Sentinel Hill. Year-round water supplied the needs of Mission San Agustín, built on the west side of the river at the foot of the hill where Tohono O’Odham people kept a village (called *stuksion* by them), and the *presidio* on the east side of the Santa Cruz. These two historic locations became the origin modern day Tucson.

The Feasibility Studies to be evaluated by this Draft EIS will evaluate: (1) Alternative means of structural stabilization to the river’s banks between Valencia Road (upstream) and the site of Mission San Agustín (downstream); (2) opportunities to reclaim lotic properties of the Santa

Cruz near downtown Tucson, and elements of the riparian community on its banks; (3) modifications of upland surfaces adjacent to the incised banks to promote growth of appropriate native upland vegetation; (4) designs for recreational facilities which would feature prehistoric elements, historic properties, and biological traits of this portion of the Santa Cruz; (5) integrate these recreational considerations into the Juan Bautista de Anza National Trail; and (6) the efficacy of recharging subsurface aquifers by means of water released into the river bottom downstream of Valencia Road.

Prehistoric and historic cultural resources are abundant along this stretch of the Santa Cruz. Neither Federally protected species nor critical habitat for listed species have been identified here.

3. Proposed Action

No plan of action has yet been identified.

4. Alternatives

- a. *No Action*: No improvement or reinforcement of existing banks or uplands.
- b. *Proposed Alternative Plans*: None have been formulated to date.

5. Scoping Process

Participation of all interested Federal, State, and County resource agencies, as well as Native American peoples, groups with environmental interests, and all interested individuals is encouraged. Public involvement will be most beneficial and worthwhile in identifying pertinent environmental issues, offering useful information such as published or unpublished data, direct personal experience or knowledge which inform decision making, assistance in defining the scope of plans which ought to be considered, and recommending suitable mitigation measures warranted by such plans. Those wishing to contribute information, ideas, alternatives for actions, and so forth can furnish these contributions in writing to the points of contacts indicated above, or by attending public scoping opportunities.

The scoping period will conclude 30 days after publication of this NOI and simultaneous publication in newspapers circulated in the greater Tucson area.

When plans have been devised and alternatives formulated to embody those plans, potential impacts will be evaluated in the DEIS. These assessments will emphasize at least fourteen categories of resources: Land use, impromptu historic landfills created by dumping trash over the

banks, hazardous wastes, physical environment, hydrology, groundwater, biological, archaeological, geological, air quality, noise, transportation, socioeconomic, and safety.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[CFDA No.: 84.299B]

Indian Education Discretionary Grant Programs—Professional Development

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice inviting applications for new awards for fiscal year (FY) 2001.

Purpose of Program: The purposes of this program are to (1) increase the number of qualified Indian individuals in professions that serve Indian people; (2) provide training to qualified Indian individuals to become teachers, administrators, teacher aides, social workers, and ancillary educational personnel; and (3) improve the skills of qualified Indian individuals who serve in the capacities described in (2). Activities may include, but are not limited to, continuing programs, symposia, workshops, conferences, and direct financial support.

Grants for training educational personnel may be for preservice or inservice training. For individuals who are being trained to enter any field other than education, the training received must be in a program resulting in a graduate degree.

For FY 2001, the competition for new awards is restricted to projects designed to meet the absolute priority described in the PRIORITY section of this application notice.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants for this program are institutions of higher education, including Indian institutions of higher education; State or local educational agencies, in consortium with institutions of higher education; and Indian tribes or organizations, in consortium with institutions of higher education. An application from a consortium of eligible entities must meet the requirements of 34 CFR 75.127 through 75.129. The written consortium agreement must be submitted with the application. The agreement must be signed or the applicant must submit other evidence that all the members of the consortium agree to the contents of the agreement. Letters of support do not meet the consortium requirements. The