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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Any licenses granted shall comply with 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR Part 404.

**Brenda S. Bowen,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Spring Bayou, Louisiana, Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, in conjunction with the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury, the non-Federal sponsor, is undertaking studies to investigate the feasibility of restoring the Spring Bayou area ecosystem.

**DATES:** Initiate EIS, June 30, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** Correspondence may be sent to Mr. Larry Marcy, U.S. Army Engineer District, Vicksburg, CEMVK-PP-PQ, 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Larry Marcy at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, telephone (601) 631-5965, fax (601) 631-5115, or e-mail at [larry.e.marcy@usace.army.mil](mailto:larry.e.marcy@usace.army.mil).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Proposed Action.* A feasibility level study will identify and evaluate alternatives to restore the Spring Bayou area ecosystem, Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana. The ecosystem is being degraded by water pollution, sedimentation, and growth of nuisance aquatic weeds. An opportunity exists to restore previously existing hydrology by diverting freshwater from the Red River into the Spring Bayou area to improve water quality, fishery production, and wetland habitat.

*Alternatives.* Alternative locations for water diversion from the Red River will be identified and evaluated, as well as investigating alternatives to control sediment entering the Spring Bayou area from Chatlin Lake Canal. Combinations of alternatives involving water diversion, sediment control or removal, modification or replacement of existing water control structures, and nuisance aquatic weed control will be developed and evaluated in cooperation with state

and Federal agencies, local government, Native American tribes, and the public.

*Scoping.* Scoping is the process for determining the range of the alternatives and significant issues to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (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 the public scoping meeting that will be held in the local area. A notice will be sent to the local news media. All interested parties are invited to comment at this time, and anyone interested in the study should request to be included on the mailing list.

A public scoping meeting will be held July 29, 2008, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Marksville Fire Department, 512 North Main Street, Marksville, Louisiana.

*Significant Issues.* The tentative list of resources and issues to be evaluated in the EIS includes aquatic resources, recreational fisheries, wildlife resources, water quality, air quality, threatened or endangered species, recreation resources, and cultural resources. Tentative socioeconomic items to be evaluated in the EIS include business and industrial activity, tax revenues, community and regional growth, community cohesion, and navigation.

*Environmental Consultation and Review.* The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will be asked to assist in the documentation of existing conditions, impact analysis of alternatives, and overall study review through the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) consultation procedures. The FWS would provide an FWCA report to be incorporated into the EIS. The draft EIS or a Notice of Availability will be distributed to all interested agencies, organizations, and individuals.

*Estimated Date of Availability.* The earliest that the draft EIS is expected to be available is May 2010.

Dated: June 10, 2008.

**Douglas J. Kamien,**

*Chief, Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division.*

[FR Doc. E8-14240 Filed 6-23-08; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Clear Creek General Reevaluation Study, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston and Harris Counties, TX

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Clear Creek watershed drains portions of Fort Bend, Harris, Galveston, and Brazoria counties, Texas, including portions of Houston and the smaller towns of League City, Friendswood and Pearland, among others. The watershed also forms part of the boundary between Harris County to the north and Galveston and Brazoria counties to the south. Clear Creek flows into the west side of upper Galveston Bay through Clear Lake. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will evaluate several flood detention and conveyance features to reduce flooding of homes and businesses in the Clear Creek Watershed. The study will focus on environmental and social conditions currently present and those likely to be affected by the proposed changes in the watershed. The flood-control project includes construction of several miles of high flow channel adjacent to the existing channel, while preserving the existing channel and floodplain forest. Detention of flood waters would also be provided in some areas where the high flow channel diverges from the low flow channel and in off-line detention areas adjacent to the creek. All flood control measures on Clear Creek occur upstream of the Dixie Farm Road crossing. The proposed project also includes widening three tributaries to Clear Creek, Mud Gully, Turkey Creek, and Mary's Creek, for improved conveyance of flood flows, with detention basins constructed adjacent to Mary's Creek and between Clear Creek and Mud Gully.

**ADDRESSES:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, TX 77553-1229.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert Heinly, (409) 766-3992, Planning Lead, Planning Section, Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division; or Ms. Andrea Catanzaro, (409) 766-6346, Environmental Lead, Environmental Section, Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

(1) *Background.* Flooding along Clear Creek has caused problems for over 30

years. Floodwaters in 1973, 1976, 1979, 1989, and 1994 substantially damaged residences along the creek. Heavy rains from Tropical Storm Allison in 2001 resulted in severe flooding along Clear Creek and prompted the buyout of approximately 300 flood-prone homes. However, flooding is not only a problem associated severe rain events, but has become increasingly more frequent along Clear Creek, even with moderate amounts of rainfall. Local authorities have made limited channel improvements to address specific flood concerns, but those efforts have contributed little to resolving the current large-scale flooding problem. The Clear Creek Federal flood control project was authorized by Congress in the Flood Control Act of 1968 (Pub. L. 91-611, Section 221). The authorized project extended 31 miles from Clear Lake to the Fort Bend County line. Plans included deepening, widening, and realigning the creek channel. The congressional authorization for this project only allows the consideration of reducing flood damage caused by rainfall runoff along the main channel of Clear Creek and not coastal flooding caused by tropical storm systems. In 1982 the Phase I General Design Memorandum, including the Final Environmental Impact Statement, was signed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Southwest Division Engineer, thus authorizing the detailed design. Due to concerns regarding its design, the project's non-Federal sponsors, Galveston County and Harris County Flood Control District, with input from the public and governmental entities, requested reevaluation of the design. In 1997, the sponsors requested the USACE adopt changes to the plans. The changes requested by the non-Federal sponsors were beyond the discretionary authority of the USACE Southwest Division Commander to approve. As a result, in February 1999, the USACE decided a general reevaluation study would be needed. In April 1999, the non-Federal sponsors agreed to accept the USACE recommendation to conduct the general reevaluation study. The general reevaluation study reconsidered the previously authorized project as well as non-Federal sponsor-proposed alternatives and other alternatives that were deemed reasonable. Brazoria County Drainage District #4 joined the non-Federal sponsors in this effort by June 1999.

(2) *Alternatives.* The construction alternatives that will be evaluated are: (1) Constructing 15.2 miles of 130 ft to 240 ft wide high flow channel in two

separate sections of Clear Creek. (2) Detention of 485 acre feet of flood water in the high flow channel of Clear Creek where it diverges from the low flow channel. (3) Detention of 1,750 acre feet of flood water in a 160 acre basin adjacent to Clear Creek. (4) Construction of a grass-lined channel on 2.4 miles of Turkey Creek to its confluence with Clear Creek. (5) Construction of a concrete-lined channel for 0.8 mile of Mud Gully in the reach which is located between the northbound and southbound lanes of Beamer Rd. (6) Detention of 1,515 acre feet of flood water in a 120 acre basin between Clear Creek and Mud Gully. (7) Construction of a 2.1 mile grass-lined channel on Mary's Creek. (8) Detention of 857 acre feet of flood water in two detention basins totaling 120 acres along Mary's Creek.

(3) *Scoping.* Scoping meetings were held on March 15, 2001 at the Friendswood High School in Friendswood, TX, on March 15, 2001 in Friendswood, TX, on May 3, 2001 in League City, TX, and on May 9, 2001 in Pearland, TX. The scoping process involved Federal, State and local agencies, and other interested persons and organizations. Comments were received for 30 days following each scoping meeting. Comments will be considered during preparation of the EIS. At this time, there are no plans for an additional scoping effort.

(4) *Coordination.* Further coordination with environmental agencies will be conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat), and the Coastal Zone Management Act under the Texas Coastal Management Program.

(5) *DEIS Preparation.* It is estimated that the DEIS will be available to the public for review and comment in March 2009.

**Richard Medina,**

*Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests**

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**SUMMARY:** The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management

Services, Office of Management, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before August 25, 2008.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: June 18, 2008.

**Angela C. Arrington,**

*IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management.*

**Federal Student Aid**

*Type of Review:* Revision.

*Title:* Federal Family Education Loan, Direct Loan, and Perkins Loan Discharge Applications.

*Frequency:* On Occasion.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or household.