

*Background:* The CMP is a tidal channel 3.75 miles long in metropolitan San Juan, Puerto Rico and one of eight interconnected bodies of water within the SJBE, the only tropical estuary in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Estuary Program (NEP). The SJBE interior coastal lagoons and tidal channels are connected to the Atlantic Ocean at both ends. Extending from east to west through eight densely populated impoverished communities in San Juan, the CMP connects the San Juan Bay with the San José and Los Corozos Lagoons, which are further connected by the Suárez Canal to La Torrecilla Lagoon and the Atlantic Ocean. The drainage area of the CMP comprises about 2,500 acres. Historically, the CMP had an average width of approximately 200 feet and a depth between 6 to 8 feet and provided tidal exchange between San Juan Bay and San José Lagoon. The CMP's ability to convey flows has been almost completely blocked as a result of siltation, accumulation of household and construction debris, and encroachment of housing and other structures, thus affecting the habitat functional value and water quality in both the CMP and San José Lagoon. Water quality has been affected by the lack of sewer systems and proper trash collection in neighboring areas. The study area is the SJBE and the detailed project area is the eastern half of the CMP from the Enrique Martí Coll pedestrian bridge eastward, the San José and Los Corozos Lagoons, and the western half of the Suárez Canal.

*Purpose:* The purpose of this project is to restore the hydraulic connection and tidal exchange between the San José Lagoon and the San Juan Bay, and thus, in the SJBE. The dredging of 2.2 miles of the CMP will restore and improve habitat functional value and water quality in both the CMP and San José Lagoon, and significantly enhance the fish and wildlife habitats and water quality of the entire SJBE, thus achieving ecological uplift. The tidal restoration will achieve viable, healthy, diverse, and sustainable conditions that are necessary to support life. The project will also improve the quality of life of approximately 26,000 residents along the CMP, addressing health and safety concerns. As ancillary benefits, the project will reduce the risk of flooding, and promote recreation and tourism, with minimal temporary negative impact on the ecosystem and the adjacent communities. It will create new economic development opportunities for the San Juan Metropolitan Area and Puerto Rico, while contributing to the

protection of crucial port and airport facilities. The Project responds to one of the most significant ecosystem restoration and environmental justice efforts in Puerto Rico.

*Alternatives:* The restoration of the CMP will occur within the Public Domain lands associated with the CMP Maritime Terrestrial Zone, as per Commonwealth Law 489 of September 24, 2004. The alternative interventions within the restoration area include no action, rectangular section 100 feet wide x 10 feet deep channel width with earth bottom and sheet piles; hybrid section 100 feet x 10 feet channel width with earth bottom and sheet piles in some areas and slopes in others; rectangular section 75 feet wide x 10 feet deep channel with articulated cement bottom and sheet piles; and hybrid section 75 feet wide x 10 feet deep canal with articulated cement bottom and sheet piles in some areas and slopes in others.

All the alternatives may restore open water resources and improve the wetland and benthic habitat functional value. The Corps will consider other project measures such as in-bay sediment disposal and the relocation of infrastructure.

*Issues:* The DEIS will consider impacts on benthic communities, protected species, public health and safety, water quality, aesthetics and recreation, fish and wildlife resources, cultural resources, conservation resources, environmental justice, and other impacts identified through scoping, public involvement and interagency coordination.

*Scoping:* Scoping has been conducted by ENLACE, the non-Federal sponsor and leading local expert, over the past 10 years. ENLACE conducted a scoping meeting and interagency review in 2003, and created varied mechanisms to ensure continued participation of all concerned parties. The scoping process has involved federal, state, and municipal agencies, residents along the CMP, as well as other interested persons and organizations.

*Public Involvement:* We invite the participation of affected federal, state and local agencies, and other interested private organizations and individuals. There will be a public meeting on the DEIS following its preparation. The exact location, date, and time of the public meeting will be announced in a public notice and local newspapers.

*Coordination:* The proposed action is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) [under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act] and with the National Marine Fisheries Service [under Magnuson-

Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (on Essential Fish Habitat)] and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The proposed action is also being coordinated with the Puerto Rico State Historic Preservation Office and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

*Other Environmental Review and Consultation:* The proposed action would involve evaluation for compliance with guidelines pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act, water quality certification (application to the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board) pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, certification of state lands, easements, and rights-of-way, and determination of Coastal Zone Management Act Consistency.

*Agency Role:* As the cooperating agency, non-Federal sponsor and leading local expert, ENLACE will provide information and assistance on the resources to be impacted and construction mitigation measures and alternatives. Additionally, other agencies with either regulatory authority or special expertise have been incorporated and are participating in an interagency Technical Dredge Committee coordinated by ENLACE. These agencies may be called upon in preparation of the DEIS.

*DEIS Preparation:* It is anticipated that the DEIS will be available for public review in the 3rd quarter of 2013.

Dated: November 2, 2012.

**Eric P. Summa,**

*Chief, Environmental Branch.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environment Impact Statement for the Proposed Prado Basin, California Feasibility Study, City of Corona, Riverside County, CA

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

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**SUMMARY:** The Los Angeles District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Orange County Water District (OCWD), the non-Federal sponsor for the project, intend to jointly prepare an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) to study, plan, and implement a multifaceted project to restore

environmental resources and conserve water within Prado Basin and downstream of the Prado Dam, within the Santa Ana River. This effort will focus on restoring aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats for endangered and otherwise associated native species, conserving water and resolving issues related to the alteration of the natural sediment transport regime.

**ADDRESSES:** Christopher T. Jones, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Ecosystem Planning Section, CESPL-PD-RN, P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Christopher T. Jones, Biologist,  
*Christopher.T.Jones@usace.army.mil*,  
213-304-6234.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Prado Basin, California study was authorized by a study resolution dated May 8, 1964, the Committee on Public Works, U.S. House of Representatives (House Document No. 135, 81st Congress, 1st Session). It was additionally authorized by Section 401(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) previously conducted a Reconnaissance Phase Study of the Santa Ana River Basin and Orange County Streams, California. Ecosystem restoration and water conservation problems were identified as having a Federal interest. The study did not identify sediment management as a Federal interest to address at that time. However, sediment management has been determined to contribute to ecosystem restoration goals and is a planning objective of the study.

1. Project Description. The proposed feasibility study will investigate alternatives to restore environmental resources, conserve water and resolve issues related to alterations to the natural sediment transport regime in the Santa Ana River.

Preliminary objectives for this study were based on identification and consideration of problems, needs and opportunities in the areas associated with ecosystem restoration and watershed development. The establishment of these objectives focused primarily on the authorized study purpose of determining the Federal interest in ecosystem restoration in Prado Basin. However, related problems and needs in the study area were also given consideration.

The first objective is to restore environmental resources in the study area, which would contribute to the National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) Federal objective. The efficiency of the restoration would be measured in the

increases in the net quantity and/or quality of desired ecosystem resources.

A second objective is to provide a more efficient means of meeting the study area's water demands. The efficiency of meeting these water demands is measured in the cost of providing the needed water supplies. A reduced cost in providing water supply as compared to the without project condition would result in savings to the nation's economic development (NED).

A third objective is to improve sediment management and sediment transport in the study area. Improvements to sediment management and transport could result in habitat, water supply and flood risk reduction benefits.

2. Alternatives. Several potential measures have been discussed that may meet the objectives of this study. Measures will be grouped into discrete alternatives and analyzed in the EIS/EIR. These potential measures include, but are not limited to, wetland and riparian habitat creation, restoration of stream banks through bio-engineering, creation of perennial stream habitat for the Santa Ana sucker, removal of non-native vegetation, eradication of non-native fish species, enhancement of habitats and structures to facilitate wildlife movement, dredging sediment, sluicing sediment past Prado Dam, fish passage structures, passage of sediment through the dam's spillway via various means, re-operate dam for water conservation year-round at 505 feet in elevation, and to re-operate the dam for water conservation at a level higher than 498 feet elevation, but lower than 505 feet in elevation. This initial list of potential measures may be enhanced by input received at public meetings.

3. Scoping. a. The Corps intends to hold a public scoping meeting(s) for the EIS/EIR to aid in the determination of significant environmental issues associated with the proposed project. Affected federal, state and local resource agencies, Native American groups and concerned interest groups/individuals are encouraged to participate in the scoping process. Public participation is critical in defining the scope of analysis in the Draft EIS/EIR, identifying significant environmental issues in the Draft EIS/EIR, providing useful information such as published and unpublished data, and knowledge of relevant issues and recommending mitigation measures to offset potential impacts from proposed actions. The time and location of the public scoping meeting will be advertised in letters, public announcements and news releases.

b. Potential impacts associated with the proposed project will be fully evaluated. Resource categories that will be analyzed include: physical environment, geology, biological resources, air quality, water quality, recreational usage, aesthetics, cultural resources, transportation, noise, hazardous waste, socioeconomics and safety.

c. Individuals and agencies may offer information or data relevant to the environmental or socioeconomic impacts of the proposed project by submitting comments, suggestions, and requests to be placed on the mailing list for announcements by sending correspondence to the address listed above, or to the following email address: *christopher.t.jones@usace.army.mil*.

d. The project will require certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Depending upon the recommended alternative, the project may also require additional real property rights for construction and operation of a facility, compliance with Federal and State Endangered Species Acts, and relevant Department of California Fish and Game Code.

4. Public Scoping Meeting: A public scoping meeting will be held at the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) Events Center on Wednesday, November 28, 2012, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The project will be presented twice during this open house style meeting. The address for the IEUA Events Center is: Inland Empire Utilities Agency, 6075 Kimball Avenue, Chino, CA 91708, Phone: (909) 993-1600.

5. The Draft EIS/EIR is scheduled to be published and circulated for public review in May 2014.

**Brenda S. Bowen,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

[Docket ID: USN-2012-0019]

#### Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice to amend a System of Records.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of the Navy is amending a system of records notice in its existing inventory of record systems subject to the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a), as amended.