

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Los Angeles District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the City of Long Beach intend to prepare a draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, Los Angeles County, California. The components of the EIS/EIR will be contained in an Integrated Feasibility Report (IFR) that also includes a Feasibility Report.

DATES: Two public scoping meetings will be held on April 7, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m. Submit written comments concerning this notice no later than May 7, 2016.

ADDRESSES: The location for the scoping meetings is: Bixby Park Community Center, 130 Cherry Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802.

Mail written comments, suggestions, and/or request to be placed on the mailing list for announcements to: Naeem A. Siddiqui, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, CESPL-PDR-N, 915 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90017-3401 or by email to: Naeem.A.Siddiqui@usace.army.mil.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Naeem A. Siddiqui, Project Environmental Coordinator, 213-452-3852, Naeem.A.Siddiqui@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Feasibility Study is being conducted as a partial response to Senate Resolution, dated June 25, 1969, reading in part:

Resolved by the Committee on Public Works of the United States Senate, that the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, created under Section 3 of the River and Harbor Act, approved June 13, 1902, be, and is hereby requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and Ballona Creek, California, published as House Document Numbered 838, Seventy-sixth Congress, and other pertinent reports, with a view to determining whether any modifications contained herein are advisable at the present time, in the resources in the Los Angeles County Drainage Area. . . .

The study area is located offshore of the City of Long Beach, California, in the easternmost part of San Pedro Bay. It includes the area between the Long Beach shoreline, the Long Beach Breakwater and the Los Angeles River estuary.

The Corps is the lead agency in preparing the EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The City of Long Beach is the non-Federal sponsor of the Feasibility Study and the lead agency in preparing the EIR in accordance with the

California Environmental Quality Act. The Corps and City of Long Beach have agreed to jointly prepare an IFR including EIS/EIR to optimize efficiency and avoid duplication.

1. Description. The study will evaluate opportunities to restore aquatic habitat such as kelp, rocky reef, coastal wetlands and other types of sufficient quality and quantity to support diverse resident and migratory species, and to improve water circulation sufficient to support and sustain aquatic habitat, within East San Pedro Bay, California. Recreational opportunities will also be explored, although the primary objective will be ecosystem restoration.

The Corps completed a Reconnaissance Report in August 2010 which identified a federal interest in addressing issues such as loss of historic coastal wetlands, lack of rocky reef/hard bottom habitat, loss of kelp habitat, poor water circulation and tidal action, and other degraded ecosystem conditions. The study is now entering the feasibility phase in which alternatives will be developed, a tentatively selected plan and ultimately a proposed project will be identified, and environmental documentation will be completed.

2. Alternatives. Potential measures that would meet the objectives of the study are currently being developed and may include the addition of rocks out side of navigational channels to create underwater rocky reef and form a base for kelp beds; creation of sandy islands to provide suitable habitat for eelgrass; and various modifications to the Long Beach Breakwater such as removal and/or notching to improve water circulation. Measures will be grouped into discrete alternatives and analyzed in the IFR. In addition, the study will also evaluate the No Action alternative pursuant to NEPA.

3. Scoping and Analysis. a. The Corps intends to hold a public scoping meeting for the Draft IFR to aid in the determination of significant environmental issues associated with the proposed project, and to assist with alternative development. Affected federal, state and local resource agencies, Native American groups and concerned interest groups/individuals are invited to participate in the scoping process. Public participation is critical in defining the scope of analysis in the Draft IFR, identifying significant environmental issues in the Draft IFR, providing useful information such as published and unpublished data, sharing knowledge about relevant issues, and recommending potential measures or alternatives that may be considered for the purpose of meeting study objectives.

b. Potential impacts associated with the proposed project will be fully evaluated during the feasibility study. Identified planning constraints and considerations such as navigational operations, existing major utilities and infrastructure, minimizing flood risks will be considered. Resource categories that will be analyzed include: Physical environment, geology, biological resources, navigation/land use, air quality, water quality, recreational usage, aesthetics, cultural resources, transportation, noise, hazardous waste, socioeconomic and safety.

c. Throughout the feasibility study, the Corps and the City of Long Beach will coordinate and, or consult with other State and Federal regulatory and permitting agencies to ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations including but not limited to the Coastal Zone Management Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act, as amended, National Historic Preservation Act, and the Clean Air Act.

4. Public Scoping Meetings: The Corps and City of Long Beach will jointly conduct two public scoping meetings at the date and address indicated above. The purpose of the scoping meeting is to gather information from the general public or interested organizations about issues and concerns that they would like to see addressed in the Draft IFR. Comments may be delivered in writing or verbally at the meeting. All comments will be entered into the public record.

5. Availability of the Draft IFR: The Draft IFR including Draft EIS/EIR is anticipated to be available for public review and comment in the spring or summer of 2017.

Dated: March 23, 2016.

Kirk E. Gibbs,

Colonel, U.S. Army, Commander and District Engineer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for The Coastal Texas Protection and 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 (USACE) intends to prepare a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (DIFR-EIS) for the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study. This study will identify and evaluate the feasibility of developing a comprehensive plan for flood risk management, hurricane and storm risk management, and ecosystem restoration for the coastal areas of the State of Texas. The study will focus on providing for the protection, conservation, and restoration of wetlands, barrier islands, shorelines, and related lands and features that protect critical resources, habitat, and infrastructure from the impacts of coastal storms, hurricanes, erosion, and subsidence. This notice announces the USACE's intent to determine the scope of the issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant resources related to a proposed action.

DATES: Comments on the scope of the DIFR-EIS will be accepted through May 9, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Scoping comments may be sent by electronic mail to: CoastalTexas@usace.army.mil.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Galveston District Public Affairs Office at 409-766-3004 or swgpao@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Authority.* The Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study is authorized under Section 4091, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007, Public Law 110-114, to develop a comprehensive plan to determine the feasibility of carrying out projects for flood risk management, hurricane and storm risk management, and ecosystem restoration in the coastal areas of the State of Texas.

2. *Proposed Action.* The study will identify critical data needs and recommend a comprehensive strategy for reducing coastal storm flood risk through structural and nonstructural measures that take advantage of natural features like barrier islands and storm surge storage in wetlands. Structural alternatives to be considered include improvements to existing systems (such as existing hurricane protection projects at Port Arthur, Texas City, Freeport, and Lynchburg, and seawalls at Galveston, Palacios, Corpus Christi, North and South Padre Island), and the creation of new structural plans for hurricane storm risk management. Ecosystem restoration alternatives to be considered include estuarine marsh restoration, beach and dune restoration, rookery island restoration, oyster reef restoration, and

seagrass bed restoration. The study will evaluate potential benefits and impacts of the proposed action including direct, indirect and cumulative effects to the human, water and natural environments that balance the interests of flood risk management, hurricane and storm risk management, and ecosystem restoration purposes for Texas and the Nation.

3. *Scoping.* In August, 2014, early scoping meetings were held in League City, Palacios, Corpus Christi, and the City of South Padre Island, Texas. Comments were received for 30 days following the last scoping meeting. Additional input from Federal, state and local agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested private organizations and parties is being solicited with this notice. The USACE requests public scoping comments to: (a) Identify the affected public and agency concerns; (b) identify the scope of significant issues to be addressed in the DIFR-EIS; (c) identify the critical problems, needs, and significant resources that should be considered in the DIFR-EIS; and (d) identify reasonable measures and alternatives that should be considered in the DIFR-EIS. A Scoping Notice announcing the USACE's request for public scoping comments will be sent via electronic mail to affected and interested parties. Scoping comments are requested to be sent by May 9, 2016.

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

5. *Availability of DIFR-EIS.* The DIFR-EIS will be available for public review and comment in July 2018.

Dated: March 23, 2016.

Richard P. Pannell,

Colonel, U.S. Army, Commanding.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Record of Decision in re Application of Clean Line Energy Partners LLC

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Record of decision.

SUMMARY: Section 1222 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA 2005) grants the Secretary of Energy the authority to

design, develop, construct, operate, maintain, or own, or participate with other entities in designing, developing, constructing, operating, maintaining, and owning new electric power transmission facilities and related facilities located within any state in which the Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) operates. In response to an application submitted by Clean Line Energy Partners LLC on behalf of itself and several corporate affiliates (collectively, Clean Line or the Applicant) the Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) announces its decision to participate in the development of approximately 705 miles of ±600 kilovolt (kV) overhead, high-voltage direct current (HVDC) electric transmission facilities and related facilities from western Oklahoma to the eastern state-line of Arkansas near the Mississippi River (the Project). This decision implements DOE's preferred alternative in Oklahoma and Arkansas as described in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line Transmission Line Project* (Final EIS) (DOE/EIS-0486). Clean Line, acting on its own and without the Department's participation, would build additional facilities that would connect to the Project in Texas and Tennessee.

Collectively, the facilities built by Clean Line would have the capacity to deliver approximately 4,000 megawatts (MW) from renewable energy generation facilities, located in the Oklahoma Panhandle and potentially Texas Panhandle regions, to the electrical grid in Arkansas and Tennessee. The potential environmental impacts associated with the Project, plus the additional facilities in Texas and Tennessee, are analyzed in the Final EIS. DOE's review included consultations in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). DOE's decision requires the implementation of mitigation measures, and a complete list of these measures can be found in the Mitigation Action Plan (MAP).

ADDRESSES: Information regarding Section 1222 of EPA 2005 can be found on the DOE Web site at <http://energy.gov/oe/services/electricity-policy-coordination-and-implementation/transmission-planning/section-1222>. The determination by the Secretary of Energy, Summary of Findings, and Participation Agreement are available on the DOE Web site at <http://energy.gov/oe/services/electricity->