

After the public comment period ends on December 21, 2001, USACE will consider all comments received, revise the Draft EIS as appropriate, and issue a Final EIS.

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 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project Located on the Missouri River From Sioux City, IA to the Mouth Near St. Louis, MO in the States of Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The purpose of the DSEIS is to identify and evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the reauthorized Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project and to provide this information in the form of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The reauthorized project includes the development, restoration, or enhancement of an additional 118,650 acres on individual sites purchased from willing sellers. The project study area is located along 735 miles of the Missouri River from Sioux City, Iowa to the mouth near St. Louis, Missouri. The reauthorized project is a continuation of the Missouri River Mitigation Project authorized in 1986 for 48,100 acres currently being developed on over 20 individual sites. The purpose of the mitigation project is to restore fish and wildlife habitat losses resulting from the construction and development of the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Kelly Ryan, Civil Works Branch, ATTN: CENWK-PM-CJ, U.S. Army Engineer District, Kansas City, 601 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106-2896, Phone: 816-983-3324.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. The Kansas City District, Corps of Engineers, is the lead District in undertaking a DSEIS to supplement the EIS prepared for the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project authorized by section 601(a) of the 1986 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA86). WRDA86 authorized 48,100

acres for mitigation. Section 334(a) of WRDA99 modifies the authority of the Mitigation Project for an additional 118,650 acres.

2. The DSEIS will evaluate the no action alternative and other reasonable alternatives that may be identified during the public scoping process. The proposed action will include the acquisition of sites from willing sellers and the construction of mitigation sites designed to develop, restore or enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitat.

3. Scoping Process

a. The DSEIS public involvement program will include nine public scoping meetings that will use an open house format to obtain input from Native American tribes, government agencies, non-government organizations, and the general public. Tribes, individuals, organizations, and government agencies may participate in the scoping process by written comment and/or by attending a scoping meeting. The scoping meetings will be held at the following locations.

November 13, 2001: Sidney, Iowa—Sidney Elem. School, Cafeteria, 1004 Illinois Street.

November 14, 2001: Onawa, Iowa—West Monona Community High School, Commons Area, 1314 15th Street.

November 15, 2001: St. Joseph, Missouri—St. Joseph Civic Center, Meeting Room, 100 N. 4th Street.

November 19, 2001: Blair, Nebraska—Arbor Park Elementary School, Cafeteria, 1717 Adams Street.

November 26, 2001: Leavenworth, Kansas—Riverfront Community & Convention Center, Riverview Rm, 123 S. Esplanade.

November 27, 2001: Columbia, Missouri—Columbia College, Delaney Hall Banquet Room, 600 N. 8th Street.

November 28, 2001: Lexington, Missouri—Lexington High School, Cafeteria, 2309 Aull Lane.

November 29, 2001: Plattsmouth, Nebraska—Plattsmouth High School, Commons Area, 1916 E. Hwy 34.

December 5, 2001: Washington, Missouri—Washington West Elementary, 1570 W. 5th Street.

All meetings will be held from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. CST.

b. The times and locations of the meetings will also be announced in a primary paper serving each county along the river and by notice sent to parties on the mailing list maintained for this project. The Corps of Engineers encourages participation of affected Native American tribes, affected Federal, State, and local agencies, and other individuals and organizations.

c. Agency scoping and preparation of the DSEIS will be conducted with

appropriate Federal and state environmental and natural resource management agencies.

4. The anticipated date of availability of the DSEIS for public review is in the spring of 2002.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Va Shly'ay Akimel Salt River Restoration Project, Maricopa County, AZ

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Los Angeles District intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to support the proposed study for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the City of Mesa. The Va Shly'ay Akimel study area is located in the upper Sonoran Desert in the Salt River watershed. It includes portions of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the City of Mesa, and includes upland areas around the vicinity of the Salt River between the Pima Freeway (US 101) and Granite Reef Dam. The study area will be refined during the course of the study to include appropriate areas of consideration in accordance with the general study objectives.

The proposed project involves restoration of riparian habitat along the Salt River in Maricopa County, also increased recreational opportunities consistent with ecosystem restoration.

ADDRESSES: Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Stephen Dibble, CESPL-PD-RN, Los Angeles District, Ecosystem Planning Section, P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Stephen Dibble, Environmental Manager, at (213) 452-3849. He can also be reached by e-mail at ddibble@spl.usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Study Authority:* This study would be conducted under two separate authorities provided by Congress. The first and most recent authority is provided by House Resolution 2425 (HR 2425), dated May 17, 1994. The second

authority is given in Public Law 761, Seventy-fifth Congress, known as Section 6 of the Flood Control Act of 1938.

2. *Proposed Action:* Provide for restoration of riparian habitat, increase recreation facilities, and flood protection. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) intends to prepare a Draft EIS to assess the environmental effects associated with the proposed VA Shly'ay Akimel project. The Environmental Impact Statement will evaluate impacts of viable alternatives along with a No Action Alternative. Resources categories that will be analyzed in the EIS are: land use, physical environment, geology, biological, agricultural, air quality, water quality, groundwater, recreational usage, aesthetics, cultural resources, transportation/communications, hazardous waste, socioeconomic and safety. The public will have the opportunity to comment on this analysis before any action is taken to implement the proposed action.

3. *Scoping Process:* The Corps will conduct a scoping meeting prior to preparing the Environmental Impact Statement to aid in determining the significant environmental issues associated with the proposed action. The public, as well as Federal, State, and local agencies are encouraged to participate in the scoping process by submitting data, information, and comments identifying relevant environmental and socioeconomic issues to be addressed in the environmental analysis. Useful information includes other environmental studies, published and unpublished data, alternatives that should be addressed in the analysis, and potential mitigation measures associated with the proposed action.

A public scoping meeting will be held in conjunction with the local sponsor to discuss the project scope and invite public participation in developing alternatives for the project. Individuals and agencies may offer information or data relevant to the environmental or socioeconomic impacts by attending the public scoping meeting, or by mailing the information to the above address.

4. *Public Scoping Meeting:* A public scoping meeting will be held in November 2001. The location, date, and time of the public scoping meeting will be announced by means of letter, public announcements and news releases.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 01-27630 Filed 11-1-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Record of Decision for Transfer and Reuse of the Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant, Bethpage, NY

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy announces its decision to transfer the Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant, at Bethpage, New York, to Nassau County, New York.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998, section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing NEPA procedures (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy (Navy) announces its decision to transfer the Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant Bethpage (NWIRP) to Nassau County, New York. The conveyance and subsequent reuse of this property will be in accordance with the preferred alternative as described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS).

Background

NWIRP Bethpage is located in the hamlet of Bethpage, town of Oyster Bay, and consists of two land parcels encompassing about 109.5 acres. The larger parcel (105 acres) contains Plant 3; Plant 10; Buildings 4-9 (north warehouses); Buildings 11-20 (south warehouses); and 30 Navy-owned ancillary buildings. The smaller parcel (4.5 acres) contains Plant 20 and one out-building. In addition to these land holdings, the transfer of NWIRP Bethpage includes Plant 5, a Navy-owned research and development building, and six other Navy-owned buildings located on land owned by the Northrop Grumman Corporation.

The Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1998 authorized the Secretary of the Navy to convey the property to Nassau County, NY, provided the property is used for economic redevelopment or other public uses.

Alternatives Considered—The Federal action is the conveyance of the NWIRP property outside of federal control. The EIS considered reuse of the NWIRP property an indirect effect of conveyance. The EIS analyzed the indirect effects of Nassau County's Preferred Reuse Plan, as well as the indirect effects of two other reuse plans, one that proposed a lesser intensity use and the other a greater intensity use of the site.

Nassau County's Preferred Reuse Plan proposes a mix of light industrial, warehousing, and office uses for the 105-acre parcel, and commercial uses on the 4.5-acre parcel. A total of about 1.97 million square feet of new and existing buildings would provide employment opportunities for about 5,400 workers. Full build-out of the NWIRP Bethpage property under the Preferred Reuse Plan was estimated to occur in 2010.

The EIS evaluated the development of NWIRP Bethpage under a second mixed reuse plan that proposed a less intense use than that in the Preferred Reuse Plan. Under the less intense reuse plan, about 1.7 million square feet in existing buildings and new construction would provide employment opportunities for 2,200 workers.

The EIS evaluated a third use plan that proposed a more intense use than the Preferred Reuse Plan. Under the more intense reuse plan, the NWIRP property would be redeveloped entirely for administrative use. This alternative would result in about 2.2 million square feet of office space and create job opportunities for approximately 9,900 employees.

Under the No Action Alternative, the NWIRP property would not be conveyed and would remain in U.S. Government ownership. The property would be placed in federal caretaker status with Navy maintaining the physical condition of the property, providing a security force, and making repairs essential to safety.

Environmental Impact of the Preferred Alternative—The EIS analyzes direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts. There are no direct environmental impacts associated with Navy conveyance of the property to Nassau County because conveyance simply results in a change in ownership. There are indirect and cumulative impacts that would result from Nassau County implementing its Preferred Reuse Plan after conveyance of the property.

Redevelopment of the property will generate an estimated 5,400 new jobs, resulting in beneficial socioeconomic impacts. Annual estimated earnings of these new jobs would be about \$220 million. Other employment occurring in the region as a result of the new development on the NWIRP property is estimated at 7,250 new jobs providing an additional \$203 million in earnings. As the property is transitioned from county ownership to private ownership, and thereby subject to local real estate taxes, the estimated tax generated would be about \$13 million.

The Reuse Plan does not provide for any new housing units on the NWIRP