

4. It is anticipated that the DEIS will be made available for public review in January of 2002.

**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 (EIS) for the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet (MR-GO), Louisiana, Reevaluation Study

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet (MR-GO) is a deep-draft navigation channel built to provide the tidewater dock facilities of the Port of New Orleans, Louisiana, with direct access to the Gulf of Mexico. Construction of the channel began in 1958 and an interim channel was opened in 1963. The channel was completed to authorized dimensions of 36 feet deep by 500 feet wide in 1968. The channel is currently used by container and bulk cargo ships, as well as other deep-draft vessels that utilize the docks along the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal and MR-GO in New Orleans. Many shallow-draft vessels also use the channel. The Corps of Engineers is evaluating modifications to the MR-GO project, with a focus on alternatives that would reduce channel dimensions. Improvements and relocations planned and currently occurring in the Port of New Orleans may reduce the need for the deep draft channel. Some environmental groups and segments of the public want the MR-GO closed or reduced in size for environmental reasons and to lessen the risk of flooding from hurricane storm surge.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions concerning the EIS should be addressed to Mr. Richard Boe at (504) 862-1505. Mr. Boe may also be reached at FAX number (504) 682-2572 or by E-mail at richard.e.boe@mvn02.usace.army.mil. Mr. Boe's address is U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PM-RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Authority.* The MR-GO was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1956 (P.L. 84-455). The USACE has

the authority to conduct reevaluation studies of authorized projects if a significant period of time has elapsed or conditions have changed significantly since a feasibility study was completed. Construction authorities imply the authority to undertake reevaluation studies.

2. *Proposed Action.* The proposed action is to reduce the controlling depth of the MR-GO. Economic analyses will be performed to determine the current and future needs for the channel by various draft vessels, and the costs and benefits of maintaining channels of various sizes.

3. *Alternatives.* Channel depths of 12, 16, and 20 feet will be investigated. The current authorization provides for a 36-foot deep channel. Alternatives to be investigated include abandonment of channel dredging until a minimal controlling channel dimension is reached, whereupon channel maintenance would resume to maintain the new channel size. Also, structural features will be investigated to quickly reduce the controlling depth of the channel. These structures will be evaluated for their effectiveness in producing desirable effects on salinity levels and fish and wildlife habitats, especially tidal wetlands. The structures will also be evaluated for their effectiveness in reducing hurricane storm surge.

4. *Scoping.* Scoping is the process for determining the scope of alternatives and significant issues to be addressed in the EIS. For this study, a letter will be sent to all parties believes to have an interest in the study, requesting their input on alternatives and issues to be evaluated. The letter will also notify interested parties of a public scoping meeting that will be held in the local area. Notices will also be sent to local news media. All interested parties are invited to comment at this time, and anyone interested in this study should request to be included in the study mailing list.

A public scoping meeting will be held on August 30, 2001, at 7 pm. The meeting will be held in the St. Bernard Parish Council Meeting Room of the St. Bernard Parish Government Complex located at 8201 West Judge Perez Drive in Chalmette, Louisiana.

5. *Significant Issues.* The tentative list of resources and issues to be evaluated in the EIS includes tidal wetlands (marshes and swamps), aquatic resources, wildlife resources, essential fish habitat, water quality, air quality, threatened and endangered species, recreation resources, and cultural resources. Socioeconomic items to be evaluated in the EIS include navigation, flood protection, business and industrial

activity, employment, land use, properly values, public/community facilities and services, tax revenues, population, community and regional growth, vehicular transportation, housing, community cohesion, and noise.

6. *Environmental Consultation and Review.* The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be assisting in the documenting of existing conditions and assessment of effects of project alternatives through Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act consultation procedures. The USFWS will also provide a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act report. Consultation will also be accomplished with the USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service concerning threatened and endangered species. The draft EIS or a notice of its availability will be distributed to all interested agencies, organizations, and individuals.

7. *Estimated Date of Availability.* Funding levels will dictate the date when the draft EIS is available. The earliest that the draft EIS may be expected to be available is mid-2002.

**Luz D. Ortiz,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Joint Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)/Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Llagas Creek Flood Control Project

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District (Corps) in coordination with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) is preparing a joint Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)/Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Llagas Creek Flood Control Project. This project will provide flood protection for residential, commercial, and agricultural developments in southern Santa Clara County, to protect and improve water quality in the watershed and to preserve and enhance the rivers's habitat, fisheries, and wildlife.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Christopher K. Eng either by telephone at (415) 977-8543, by fax at (415) 977-

8695, by e-mail:

*ceng@spd.usace.army.mil*, or by mail at the address below.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The SEIS/SEIR will supplement the original Llagas Creek Watershed Final EIS/EIR that was released in 1982 by the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service formerly the Soil Conservation Service) and the SCVWD to examine the potential environmental impacts of the original Llagas Creek Flood Control Project. The original Llagas Creek Project was implemented in 1969 by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (Pub. L. 83-566). To date, the NRCS has completed about half of the authorized project on the lower Reaches of Llagas Creek. Congress, in the House Report to the 1998 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act (HR 105-190, July 1997), urged the Corps to develop plans and specifications of the authorized Llagas Creek project, in anticipation of the Corps assuming the construction of the remaining project elements. The Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) of 1999 (Pub. L. 106-53) authorized the Corps to complete the remaining upper reaches of the project "substantially in accordance with the NRCS watershed plan for the Llagas Creek." The SEIS/SEIR will address the environmental impacts of two alternatives, those being the proposed action and the no action (or no project) alternative, and will focus on changes to environmental setting and conditions, regulatory context and/or new information that has become available since release of the final SEIS/EIR. The project area extends approximately 12.3 miles along the upper reaches of Llagas Creek from the Pajaro River south of Bloomfield Road upstream to just beyond Wright Avenue. The proposed alternative would provide a 100-year level of flood protection in the urban areas of Morgan Hill and Gilroy, and an approximately 10-year level of flood protection in the agricultural areas. In addition, the proposed alternative would provide channel stabilization measures, thus reducing erosion and sedimentation. Structural measures would include the replacement of more than 35 bridges and culverts at road crossings. Potential impacts of the proposed action and no action alternatives that may be examined by the SEIS/SEIR include impacts to water resources, geology and soils, biological resources, environmental justice and socioeconomics.

**Scoping:** Federal, state and local agencies, and interested individuals are encouraged to participate in the SEIS/SEIR scoping process to assist the Corps and SCVWD in determining the range of issues and alternatives to be addressed. Public meetings and workshops will be held in Morgan Hill, CA. Dates, times and locations will be published in the newspaper and provide by mail to all those requesting notification. At these meetings, Corps and SCVWD representatives will briefly summarize the description of the proposed project, the environmental impact assessment process, and will then solicit public comments. Attendees will be invited to submit written comments about the proposed alternatives and "no project" alternative either at the meeting, or following the meeting by fax, e-mail or by mail. The Draft SEIS/SEIR is expected to be published in early September 2002, and a public hearing to receive comments on the Draft SEIS/SEIR will be held after it is published. Comments, suggestions, and requests to be placed on the mailing list for announcements and for the Draft SEIS/SEIR, should be sent to Mr. Christopher K. Eng, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, 333 Market Street, 7th floor (CESPN-ET-PP), San Francisco, California, 94105-2197.

**Luz D. Ortiz,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### Meeting of the Secretary of the Navy's Advisory Subcommittee on Naval History

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

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of the Navy's Advisory Subcommittee on Naval History, a subcommittee of the Department of Defense Historical Advisory Committee will meet to review naval historical activities since the last meeting of the Advisory Subcommittee on Naval History, which was conducted on September 21, and September 22, 2000 and to make comments and recommendations on these activities to the Secretary of the Navy. The meetings will be open to the public.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2001, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday, September 21, 2001, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the Navy Museum of The Naval Historical Center, 805 Kidder Breese Street, SE, Building 76, Washington Navy Yard, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. William S. Dudley, Director of Naval History, 805 Kidder Breese Street, SE, Bldg. 57, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060, telephone (202) 433-2210.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice of open meeting is provided in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2). The purpose of these meetings is to review naval historical activities since the last meeting of the Advisory Subcommittee on Naval History and to make comments and recommendations on these activities to the Secretary of the Navy.

Dated: July 24, 2001.

**T. J. Welsh,**

*Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Notice of Proposed Information Collection Request

**AGENCY:** Department of Education

**SUMMARY:** The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 9, 2001.

**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 Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, 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