

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Brad Tarr, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, Environmental Branch, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL, 32232-0019, by email bradley.a.tarr@usace.army.mil, or by telephone at 904-232-3582.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

a. Authorization: The authority for this project is contained within the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2000. The "Design Agreement between the Department of the Army and the SFWMD for the Design of Elements of the Comprehensive Plan for the Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Project" contains additional guidance.

b. Study Area: The study area, including the wetland and/or chemical treatment area and/or storage impoundment area, includes the entire 8,680-acre Acme Basin B, located adjacent to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge in Palm Beach County.

c. Project Scope. The Acme Basin B project may include the construction of a wetland or chemical treatment area and a storage reservoir adjacent to the Refuge located in Palm Beach County. The final size, depth and configuration of these facilities will be determined through more detailed planning and design.

The purpose of this feature is to provide water quality treatment and possible stormwater attenuation for runoff from Acme Basin B prior to discharge to the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge or an alternative location. In the event that excess water (above the amount needed by the natural system) is available, an alternative discharge location will be determined.

The study will evaluate alternatives based on their ability to improve water deliveries to the natural system, manage agricultural and urban water supplies, protect and conserve water resources, protect or restore fish and wildlife and their associated habitat, restore and manage wetland and associated upland ecosystems, sustain economic and natural resources, improve water quality, and other performance criteria being developed by the Project Delivery Team.

d. Preliminary Alternatives: Formulation of alternative plans will involve the selection of the most suitable size, depth, and configuration of facilities through detailed planning and design.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) evaluation of the project will include an evaluation of adverse environmental impacts, including but

not limited to, water quality, socioeconomic, archaeological and biological. In addition to adverse impacts, the evaluation will also focus on how well the plans perform with regard to specific performance measures.

e. Issues: The EIS will address the impacts of pumping stormwater runoff from ACME Basin B into a wetland treatment area, then into a storage reservoir prior to discharging into the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. If water quality treatment criteria is not met then water will be discharged into one of two alternative locations: the Palm Beach County Agricultural Reserve Reservoir or the combination above ground and in-ground reservoir area located adjacent to the L-8 Borrow Canal and north of the C-51 Canal.

The EIS will also address environmental issues, water quality; impacts to the estuaries; flood protection; aesthetics and recreation; fish and wildlife resources, including protected species; cultural resources; and other impacts identified through scoping, public involvement, and interagency coordination.

f. Scoping: A scoping letter and public workshops will be used to invite comments on alternatives and issues from federal, State, and local agencies, affected Indian tribes, and other interested private organizations and individuals. The next public workshop is scheduled for 22 May 2002; at the South Florida Water Management District headquarter, located at 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and continue to 10 p.m.

Other public meetings will be held over the course of the study; the exact location, dates, and times will be announced in public notices and local newspapers.

g. DEIS Preparation: The integrated draft PIR, which will include a DEIS, is currently scheduled for publication in May 2003.

Dated: May 8, 2002.

George M. Strain,

Acting Chief, Planning Division.

[FR Doc. 02-13043 Filed 5-23-02; 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 Montauk Point Storm Damage Reduction Project, Town of East Hampton, Suffolk County, Long Island, NY

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), New York District, is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to ascertain compliance with and to lead to the production of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document in accordance with the President's Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) Rules and Regulations, as defined and amended in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), parts 1500-1508, USACE principals and guidelines as defined in Engineering Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100, and other applicable Federal and State environmental laws for the proposed Storm Damage Reduction Project at the Montauk Point Lighthouse in Montauk, New York. The study area consists of the Montauk Point Lighthouse bluff in the Town of East Hampton, Long Island, New York.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christopher Ricciardi, Project Archaeologist, Planning Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 2131, New York, New York, 10278-0090 at (212) 264-0204 or at christopher.g.ricciardi@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This study is authorized by a U.S. House of Representatives Resolution adopted May 15, 1991 to provide, in part, storm damage protection for the bluff and lighthouse.

1. A public scoping meeting was held in November of 2001 and the results were collected in the Public Scoping Document. These results are available for review and additional scoping comments. All results from public and agency scoping coordination will be addressed in the DEIS. Parties interested in receiving the Scoping Document should contact Christopher Ricciardi at the above address.

2. A DEIS is due for completion by March 2003.

3. Federal agencies interested in participating as a Cooperating Agency are requested to submit a letter of intent

to COL John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer, at the above address.

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 for a Dredged Material Management Plan for the Port of Baltimore, Chesapeake Bay, MD

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will conduct a study to evaluate the dredged material placement needs and opportunities for the Port of Baltimore, Maryland and develop a Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP). The study area encompasses the Baltimore Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay approach channels, which extend from the mouth of the Bay in Virginia to Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, in the upper Bay, Maryland/Delaware. The purpose of the plan is to develop a long-term strategy for providing viable placement alternatives that meet the dredging needs of the Port of Baltimore Federal channels and include consideration of state and local dredging needs. The DMMP study will be evaluated through the preparation of a tiered EIS. As part of the process, the goals and objectives of the study will be clearly determined by all study participants. The DMMP will identify the quantity of material to be dredged from the Federal channels and how the dredged material can be managed in an economically and environmentally acceptable manner. Priority will be given to beneficial uses of the material. Beneficial uses include, but are not limited to, restoration of underwater grasses, islands, wetlands, shorelines, or fish and shellfish habitat. The DMMP will identify, evaluate, screen, prioritize, and ultimately optimize placement alternatives resulting in the recommendation of a plan for the placement of dredged materials for at least the next 20 years. The Baltimore District is actively seeking public opinion and advice to be incorporated into the plan. To this end, three public

scoping meetings are planned throughout the study area. The meetings are tentatively scheduled at 7:00 p.m. for the following dates, in the following locations: Wednesday, June 12, 2002 at Queen Anne's County Library in Stevensville, MD; Tuesday, June 18, 2002 at Community College of Baltimore County, Dundalk Campus, Campus Community Center, in Baltimore, MD; and Thursday, June 20, 2002 at Anne Arundel Community College, Lecture Hall 101, in Arnold, MD.

The study will be conducted in compliance with Section 404 and Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Clear Air Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Prime and Unique Farmlands, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Act. All appropriate documentation (i.e., Section 7, section 106 coordination letters, and public and agency comments) will be obtained and included as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and draft EIS can be addressed to Ms. Michele Bistany, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CENAB-PL, 10 South Howard Street, PO Box 1715, Baltimore, MD 21203-1715, telephone 410-962-4934; e-mail address: michele.a.bistany@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. The Baltimore District Corps of Engineers is responsible for the maintenance of navigation channels in the Chesapeake Bay and Patapsco River known as the Baltimore Harbor and Channels project. Maintenance of these channels requires the annual placement of approximately 4.5 million cubic yards of dredged material. The DMMP study will include an associated programmatic tiered EIS to allow for identification of a suite of options or projects for future detailed study in order to provide for long-term optimized capacity of dredged material. The tiered EIS allows all interested parties the opportunity to participate in the process from inception. It also includes adequate environmental analysis so that future NEPA documentation can be based on a solid foundation.

2. The USACE, Engineering Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100 mandates that the Corps Districts develop DMMP plans for all Federal harbor projects where there is an indication of insufficient capacity to accommodate maintenance dredging for the next 20

years. The ER further states that the Districts are encouraged to consider options that provide opportunities for beneficial uses of dredged material for environmental purposes including habitat restoration. The DMMP process began with a Preliminary Assessment that was completed in September 2001. The Preliminary Assessment identified placement option shortfalls within the next 8-10 year time frame.

3. As part of the EIS process, recommendations of placement sites and options for dredged material management will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for the protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which may reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposal, will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, among there are wetlands; fish and wildlife resources; cultural resources; land use; water and air quality; hazardous, toxic, and radioactive substances; threatened and endangered species; regional geology; aesthetics; environmental justice; and the general needs and welfare of the public.

4. The draft EIS for the DMMP is expected for public release in late 2004.

Mr. Kevin Bunker,

Assistant Chief, Planning Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare an Integrated Draft Project Implementation Report/ Environmental Impact Statement for the Southern Golden Gate Estates Hydrologic Restoration

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Jacksonville District intends to prepare an integrated Draft Project Implementation Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (DPIR/ EIS) for the Southern Golden Gate Estates Hydrologic Restoration (SGGEHR). This DPIR/EIS is a cooperative effort between the Corps and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The SGGEHR planning process is authorized