

Impact Statement (DEIS) for the South River, Raritan River Basin, Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Study. The purpose of the study is to identify a plan that would protect local communities from damages caused by hurricanes and storms, and restore degraded ecosystem structure and function in the South River watershed.

In response to requests to increase the public notice comment period, the Corps finds it appropriate to extend the comment period for an additional 45 days beyond the 22 July 2002 date previously in effect. All interested parties are notified that the comment period of this public notice is hereby extended until 5 September 2002.

**DATES:** Written comments should be submitted on or before 5 September 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be submitted to Mark Burlas, Project Wildlife Biologist, Planning Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, New York 10278-0090.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mark Burlas, Project Wildlife Biologist, Planning Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, New York, 10278-0090 at (212) 264-4663.

**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 for the Federal Flood Control Project for Hunting Bayou, Harris County, TX

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed action to be addressed in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) is the reformulation and implementation of a new flood damage reduction plan for the Hunting Bayou Watershed. The project plan reformulation includes a re-analysis of all engineering, economic, and environmental aspects using Department of the Army criteria and guidelines, as well as local engineering and analytical criteria. These studies are being conducted by the Harris County

Flood Control District (HCFCD), the local sponsor, in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as authorized by Section 211 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-303).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Questions about the proposed action and draft SEIS can be answered by Mr. Enrique Villagomez at (409) 766-3173 or by mail at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, TX 77553-1229.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

1. *Purpose and Need for Action*—An authorized plan (authorized as part of WRDA 1990) exists to resolve many of the flooding problems along the bayou; however, the local sponsor (HCFCD) no longer supports the previously authorized plan because of the magnitude of the impacts identified adjacent to the channel through Herman Brown Park and downstream. HCFCD believes less intrusive options are available that can selectively address the critical areas of flooding. The purpose of the proposed action is to develop an alternative flood damage reduction plan to the plan authorized in WRDA 1990. The need for the proposed action is to reduce flooding along Hunting Bayou in a manner that is less disruptive to the existing environment versus the authorized plan adjacent to the channel through Herman Brown Park and downstream; that is effective, affordable, and sensitive to the aesthetics of the area; and that is compatible with parks located along the bayou.

2. *Alternatives*—The draft SEIS will address a combination of alternative flood reduction plans, including structural and non-structural measures, and the no action alternative. Mitigation measures for any significant adverse effects on the environment will be identified and incorporated into the alternatives in compliance with various federal and state statutes.

3. *Scoping*—A public scoping meeting was held on June 11, 1998, at the Houston Public Library, Kashmere Gardens Branch. The announcement for the scoping meeting was published in the *Houston Chronicle* on May 12 and 27, 1998. Meeting notices were also mailed to 74 elected officials, government agencies, local organizations, civic groups, the media, businesses, and interested citizens. The purpose of the meeting was to invite and encourage members of the public and jurisdictional government agencies to aid in determining the scope of significant issues to be examined in the proposed SEIS for reformulation of the

flood damage reduction plans for the Hunting Bayou Watershed.

4. *Public Involvement During the Project Planning Process*—In addition to the scoping process, several public information meetings have been held to keep the public updated on the studies progress. These meetings consisted of a presentation by HCFCD updating the various activities or plans being considered followed by a question and answer period.

5. Issues that will be addressed in the draft SEIS include potential effects on vegetation and wildlife, water quality, air quality, socioeconomic resources, physical resources, and cultural resources. Other issues may include soils, topography, noise, aesthetics, and recreation.

6. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report.

7. A 45-day review period will be allowed for all interested agencies and individuals to review and comment on the draft SEIS. All interested persons are encouraged to respond to this notice and provide a current address if they wish to be contacted about the draft SEIS.

8. *Availability*—The draft SEIS is scheduled to be available for public review in December 2002.

**Carolyn E. Murphy,**

*Chief, Environmental Section.*

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**BILLING CODE 3710-52-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Walla Walla District Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, Walla Walla River Basin, Oregon and Washington

**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), Walla Walla District, intends to prepare, in cooperation with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), the project sponsor, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The DEIS will be prepared in conjunction with a study to determine the feasibility of conducting aquatic ecosystem restoration within the Walla Walla River Basin in Oregon and Washington. The Walla Walla River Basin Feasibility Study will concentrate on restoration of fish habitat quality as

its main objective, with primary emphasis placed upon options for increasing flows. Other habitat improvement measures identified during the study will be identified in the DEIS and considered for possible expansion of the scope of the project or for development of future projects. The DEIS will evaluate the environmental effects of alternative actions identified during the study. Specific restoration actions and proposed restoration sites will be identified and evaluated throughout the study process and in the DEIS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. James S. Smith, NEPA Coordinator, Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers, CENWW-PD-E, 201 North Third Avenue, Walla Walla, WA 99362, phone (509) 527-7244 or Mr. Chris Hyland, Project Manager, Walla Walla District Corps of Engineers CENWW-PM, 201 Third Avenue, Walla, Walla, WA 99362, phone (509) 527-7264.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On May 10, 2002, the Corps and CTUIR signed a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement, the terms of which provide for the Corps and CTUIR to share equally in the cost of conducting the Feasibility Study and preparing the Feasibility Report and DEIS.

Alternatives being considered for the proposed action include a range of measures to increase flows within the Walla Walla River Basin. The following measures have been identified for initial consideration during the Study. Related actions include analysis of effects of measures upon groundwater and analysis of optimum flows for targeted reaches. Actions ultimately proposed for implementation in future years may involve a combination of these or other measures.

#### **1. Water Exchange: Piping Water from Another Drainage**

This measure would take water from the Columbia River and transport it to existing irrigation delivery systems. In exchange, less water would be withdrawn from ground and surface waters for use in the irrigation delivery systems.

#### **II. Off-Channel Storage Reservoirs**

This potential measure would involve construction of off-channel water storage reservoirs that would store water when it is available and release it during periods of low flow. In exchange, less water would be withdrawn from ground and surface waters.

#### **III. Irrigation Efficiency**

Potential measures include improved canal lining systems and consolidation

of existing irrigation delivery system to reduce seepage losses, and use of more efficient irrigation application methods.

#### **IV. Water Rights**

This measure would include possible acquisition of existing surface and ground water rights issued by the states of Oregon and Washington or transfer into trust for environmental purposes. This effort would be studied for the purposes of ensuring that flows were met at selected sites.

#### **V. Channel Modification**

Potential modifications of the Walla Walla River and other Basin river channels may also be studied if the benefits of increased flow are not realized. Such studies may, but will not necessarily include efforts to reduce seepage and the resulting effects on groundwater rejuvenation and/or recharge.

#### **VI. No Action**

The no action alternative identifies the "without" project condition, or those activities which will occur or continue to occur whether or not the proposed actions ultimately identified in the DEIS are implemented.

The public scoping period will run from August 28 through September 27, 2002. The Corps plans to have formal public meetings during the scoping period, with times and exact dates yet to be determined. The Corps currently plans to have meetings in Milton-Freewater and Mission, Oregon, and in Walla Walla and Dayton, Washington.

The DEIS should be available for public review in April 2004.

**Harry L. Cunningham,**

MAJ, EN, Deputy District Commander.

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### **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

[CFDA No. 84.016A]

#### **Office of Postsecondary Education; Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program; Notice Inviting Applications for New Awards for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003**

*Purpose of Program:* The Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program provides grants to strengthen and improve undergraduate instruction in international studies and foreign languages.

*Eligible Applicants:* (1) Institutions of higher education, (2) combinations of institutions of higher education, (3)

partnerships between nonprofit educational organizations and institutions of higher education, and (4) public and private non-profit agencies and organizations, including professional and scholarly associations. Applications available: September 13, 2002.

*Deadline for Transmittal of Applications:* November 4, 2002.

*Deadline for Intergovernmental Review:* January 3, 2003.

*Estimated Available Funds:* The Administration has requested \$4,700,000 for this program for FY 2003. The actual level of funding, if any, depends on final congressional action. However, we are inviting applications to allow enough time to complete the grant process, if Congress appropriates funds for this program.

*Estimated Range of Awards:* \$40,000–\$130,000 per year.

*Estimated Average Size of Awards:*

\$78,028 per year.

*Estimated Number of Awards:* 30.

**Note:** The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

*Project Period:* Up to 24 months for grants to single institutions of higher education, and up to 36 months for grants to combinations of institutions of higher education and partnerships.

*Page Limit:* The application narrative is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. You must limit the narrative to the equivalent of no more than 40 pages, using the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11", on one side only, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.

- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions. However, you may single space all text in charts, tables, figures and graphs.

- Use a font that is either 12-point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch). However, you may use a 10-point font in charts, tables, figures and graphs.

The page limit does not apply to the cover sheet; the budget section, including the narrative budget justification; the assurances and certifications; or the one-to-two page abstract or the appendices. However, you must include all of the application narrative in responding to the selection criteria.

We will reject your application if—

- You apply these standards and exceed the page limit; or
- You apply other standards and exceed the equivalent of the page limit.