

private organizations and parties are invited to participate.

Potentially significant issues to be analyzed in the EIS include, but are not limited to: Hydrology, water supply, water quality, cultural resources, biological resources, traffic and transportation, and air quality. The Corps is the lead agency for preparation of the EIS under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Corps has requested the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) serve as cooperating agencies on the EIS. The Corps will coordinate with other agencies, such as the City of Rancho Cordova, in preparation of the EIS.

Other environmental review and consultation requirements for the proposed actions include water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. All six of the Sunridge Specific Plans projects have received water quality certification. In addition, because the projects may affect federally-listed endangered species, the Corps was required to consult with the USFWS in accordance with Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act. Biological Opinions were issued by the USFWS for all six projects.

Two public scoping meetings for the EIS will be held on July 30, 2009, with the first from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and the second from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The meetings will be held at the Rancho Cordova City Hall, 2729 Prospect Park Drive, American River Room—South, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Interested parties can provide oral and written comments at the meetings. Scoping comments should be submitted before August 31, 2009 but may be submitted at any time prior to publication of the Draft EIS.

Interested parties may register for the Corps' public notice email notification lists at: <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/organizations/cespk-co/regulatory/pnlist.html>.

Dated: July 9, 2009

James A. Porter,

Lt. Colonel, Corps of Engineers, Acting District Engineer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project Located in Miami-Dade Counties, FL

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is issuing this notice to advise the public that a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been completed and is available for review and comment.

DATES: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we have filed the Final EIS with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for publication of their notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The EPA notice officially starts the 30-day review period for this document. It is the goal of the USACE to have this notice published on the same date as the EPA notice. However, if that does not occur, the date of the EPA notice will determine the closing date for comments on the Final EIS. Comments on the Final EIS must be submitted to the address below under Further Contact Information and must be received no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday, August 17, 2009.

ADDRESSES: The Final EIS can be viewed online at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Divisions/Regulatory/InterestItems.htm>. Copies of the Final EIS are also available for review at the following libraries: Miami-Dade Public Library, Homestead Branch, 700 N. Homestead Blvd., Homestead, FL 33030. Miami-Dade Public Library, Main Branch, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Alisa Zarbo, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, 4400 PGA Boulevard, Suite 500, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410, Telephone: 561-472-3516, Fax: 561-626-6971.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) proposes to construct the C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project in Miami-Dade County. The project addresses the need to restore ecosystem function in Taylor Slough and Florida Bay within the Everglades National Park, the adjacent Southern Glades, the

Model Land, and other associated wetlands and estuarine systems. The SFWMD anticipates that this proposed project will become an authorized Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) project, and that it will receive credit for the early construction of this proposed project as the local sponsor. This Final EIS builds upon the draft Project Implementation Report (PIR)/EIS that has already been released to the public under the CERP and the Regulatory program. As such, this EIS includes numerous discussions of compliance with CERP requirements. While not critical to the Department of the Army permit decision, this information provides more context than a typical EIS and also details about USACE planning policy.

The C-111 Spreader Canal Western Project is essential to achieving restoration of Taylor Slough and downstream areas within the affected areas in the Everglades National Park, the Model Land and the Southern Glades area, and plays an integral role in meeting the CERP system-wide ecosystem restoration goals and objectives. Structural and operational changes will be implemented to improve the quantity, timing, and distribution of water delivered to Florida Bay via Taylor Slough, as well as improve hydroperiods within the wetlands of the Southern Glades and Model Land. Hydroperiods and hydropatterns within the wetlands of the Southern Glades and Model Land will be improved by the construction of a new operable water control structure in the lower C-111 Canal, incremental operational changes at existing structure S-18C, changes in operations at the existing S-20 structure, construction of a plug at existing structure S-20A, and the installation of ten earthen plugs in the C-110 Canal. As a result of the construction and operation of the C-111 Spreader Canal Western project, approximately 200.73 acres (in total) of wetlands and waters of the United States would be permanently impacted and 39.98 acres (in total) of wetlands and waters of the United States would be temporarily impacted as a result of the placement of fill material, excavation, and/or flooding. In addition, approximately 149.26 acres of atypical wetlands (agricultural) would be impacted by excavation, then inundated with water. The SFWMD would need to obtain a U.S. Department of the Army permit from the USACE pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This final Environmental Impact Statement evaluates the environmental effects of seven alternatives, including the

SFWMD's preferred alternative and the No Action Alternative.

Dated: July 10, 2009.

David Hobbie,

Chief, Regulatory Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Public Hearings for the U.S. Marine Corps Grow the Force at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River, and MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina Draft Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); Department of Navy Procedures for Implementing NEPA (32 CFR Part 775); and Marine Corps NEPA directives (Marine Corps Order P5090.2A), the Marine Corps has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which evaluates the potential environmental consequences that may result from implementing the Grow the Force initiative in North Carolina in accordance with the President's mandate and Congressional direction to increase end strength across the Marine Corps war-fighting organizations by the end of Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington district, is a cooperating agency for the EIS. A Notice of Intent for this EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on December 14, 2007 (Vol. 72, No. 240, p. 71128).

The Marine Corps will conduct three public hearings to receive oral and written comments on the Draft EIS. Federal, State, and local agencies and interested individuals are invited to be present or represented at the public hearing meetings. This notice announces the dates and locations of the public hearings for this Draft EIS; supplementary information about the environmental planning effort is also included in this notice.

DATES: An open house session will precede the public hearing at each of the locations listed below. Individuals will be allowed to review the information presented in the Draft EIS and Marine Corps representatives will be available during the open house sessions to clarify information related to the Draft EIS. For all meetings the open house will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., and the public hearing will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Public hearings will be held on the following dates and at the following locations in North Carolina:

(1) Tuesday, August 18, 2009, Havelock Tourist and Event Center, 201 Tourist Center Drive, Havelock, NC.

(2) Wednesday, August 19, 2009, Jacksonville High School, Auditorium, 1021 Henderson Drive, Jacksonville, NC.

(3) Thursday, August 20, 2009, Holly Ridge Community Center, 404 Sound Road, Holly Ridge, NC.

The Draft EIS was distributed to Federal, State, and local agencies, elected officials, and other interested parties and organizations on July 17, 2009. The public comment period will end on September 1, 2009. Copies of the Draft EIS are available for public review at the following libraries: Onslow County Public Library, 58 Doris Ave. East, Jacksonville, NC 28540; Richlands Branch Library, 299 S. Wilmington St., Richlands, NC 28574; Sneads Ferry Branch Library, 242 Sneads Ferry Rd., Sneads Ferry, NC 28460; Law Library Branch, 109 Old Bridge St., Jacksonville, NC 28540; and Havelock-Craven County Public Library, 301 Cunningham Boulevard, Havelock, NC 28532. The Draft EIS is also available for electronic public viewing at: <http://www.GrowTheForceNC.com>.

A paper copy of the Draft EIS will be made available upon written request by contacting Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic, Marine Corps Grow the Force in NC, EIS Project Manager, 6506 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, VA 23508.

Comments: Federal, State, and local agencies and interested parties are invited to be present or be represented at the public hearings. Written comments can be submitted during the open house sessions preceding the public hearings.

Oral statements will be heard and transcribed by a stenographer; however, to ensure the accuracy of the record, all statements should be submitted in writing. All statements, both oral and written, will become part of the public record on the Draft EIS and will be responded to in the Final EIS. Equal weight will be given to both oral and written statements. In the interest of

available time, and to ensure all who wish to give an oral statement have the opportunity to do so, each speaker's comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. If a long statement is to be presented, it should be summarized at the public hearing with the full text submitted in writing at the hearing, or mailed to Naval Facilities Engineering Command Mid-Atlantic, Marine Corps Grow the Force in NC, EIS Project Manager, 6506 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, VA 23508. In addition, comments may be submitted on-line at <http://www.GrowTheForceNC.com> during the 45-day comment period. All written comments must be postmarked by September 8, 2009, to ensure they become part of the official record. All comments will be addressed in the Final EIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael H. Jones, *telephone:* (757) 322-4942. Please submit requests for special assistance, sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired or other auxiliary aids at the public meetings to Mr. Jones by August 4, 2009.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action and subject of the Draft EIS covers the permanent, incremental increase of active duty and civilian personnel and their dependents at three North Carolina Marine Corps Installations: MCB Camp Lejeune, MCAS New River, and MCAS Cherry Point. The increase in personnel is part of a nationwide Presidential mandate for the Marine Corps to grow its force size from 186,000 to 202,000 Marines by the end of FY11. Three action alternatives and a No Action Alternative were carried forward for analysis in the Draft EIS.

The No Action Alternative (Alternative 1) was examined in the Draft EIS. Under this alternative, the permanent, incremental increase of Marine Corps personnel at North Carolina Installations would not occur. This alternative is included to provide a baseline from which to gauge potential impacts of the action alternatives, even though it would not meet the purpose and need to permanently increase Marine Corps personnel at North Carolina bases. In addition, it is incompatible with the President's mandate to increase Marine Corps personnel.

The Preferred Alternative (Alternative 2) includes the addition of approximately 7,700 personnel at MCB Camp Lejeune, 1,400 at MCAS New River, and close to 800 at MCAS Cherry Point (total of 9,900 active duty and civilian personnel), as well as approximately 9,450 dependents.