

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and implementing regulations, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared and incorporated into the James River, South Dakota Feasibility Study once alternative actions are identified that meet the project objectives described below. The James River Water Development District (JRWDD) is the non-Federal sponsor for this study. The JRWDD encompasses portions of Brown, Marshall, Spink, Davison, Yankton, Beadle, Sanborn, Hutchinson and Hanson Counties in South Dakota.

Based on the authorizing legislation and previous studies, this Feasibility Study will address the need for enhancement of ecological resources and ecosystem management and flood damage reduction, both independently and in combination. The study will evaluate pertinent information and identify problems and opportunities that exist in the study area. Various alternatives (*i.e.*, potential projects) will be evaluated to determine whether or not they are technically feasible and economically cost effective or economically justified depending on their purpose (*e.g.*, ecosystem enhancement/restoration and/or flood damage reduction).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For additional information on the NEPA process, or to be added to the mailing list, contact Eric Laux, CENWO-PM-AE, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 106 South 15th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102, telephone at (402) 221-7186, or Fax (402) 221-4886. For additional information on the Feasibility Study, contact Richard Taylor, CENWO-PM-AP, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 106 South 15th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102, telephone (402) 221-3772, or Fax (402) 221-4890.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: a. This Feasibility Study is authorized under Section 401(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. The Federal objective of water and related land resources planning is to contribute to national economic development consistent with protecting the nation's environment in accordance with national environmental statutes, applicable executive orders, and other Federal planning requirements.

b. The study area consists of the portion of the James River and adjacent areas that are located in eastern South Dakota. The James River flows generally southward for a distance of 747 river miles, 474 miles of which lie in the study area. This river has the flattest gradient of any river of its length in

North America, falling only about 135 feet along its South Dakota course. The James River basin occupies a total of 22,000 square miles, of which 14,000 square miles lie in South Dakota. The basin in South Dakota is bounded by the Missouri River drainage to the west and the Big Sioux and Vermillion River basins to the east and southeast. The Sand Lake Wildlife Refuge is located at the upper end of the study area. Land use in the basin is primarily agriculture and the larger communities located in the study area include Mitchell, Huron, and Aberdeen.

c. The intention of this Feasibility Study and EIS is to formulate and evaluate alternatives that help to restore or enhance ecological function and habitat and/or ameliorate flooding problems along the James River. Factors such as sediment deposits from tributaries, log jams, encroachment of vegetation into the channel, inadequate bridge capacity, low head dams in the channel, and the flat slope and meandering nature of the river are contributors to the flooding problems exhibited by the river. In 2000, the Corps completed a reconnaissance study evaluating potential solutions to limit flooding along the James River and to identify where flood control storage could supplement instream flows for fish and wildlife habitat. No structural flood control projects were found to be feasible. However, the study recommended future local study efforts focusing on long-term management and protection of the two- to five-year flood plain with emphasis on removing local channel obstructions. In addition, the report identified numerous opportunities to pursue environmental restoration projects that would also help alleviate agricultural flood damages.

d. Scoping and agency meetings will be held for this project. A public notice will be widely distributed inviting public participation in the scoping process. This process will be the key to preparing a concise EIS and clarifying the significant issues to be analyzed in depth. Public concerns on issues, studies needed, alternatives to be examined, procedures and other related matters will be addressed during scoping. Scoping meetings are tentatively planned to be held at Aberdeen, Huron, Mitchell and Yankton, South Dakota in the middle part of December. Upon setting exact locations, dates, and times for the meetings, the specific locations of the meetings will be provided in news releases and posted on the Omaha District Corps of Engineers and James River Water Development District Web-sites. The web addresses for the sites are

<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/pa/pahm/hottopics.htm> and <http://www.jrwdd.com>.

e. The estimated date when a Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be available for public review is September 2006.

Candace M. Gorton,

Chief, Environmental, Economics, and Cultural Resources Section, Planning Branch.
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Regional Dredged Material Management Plan for San Francisco Bay and Estuary, CA

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District (Corps) will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the San Francisco Bay and Estuary Regional Dredged Material Management Plan (Regional DMMP). The Regional DMMP will identify specific measures to manage the dredged material from maintenance and construction dredging at Federal navigation projects over the next twenty years. The Corps will take into consideration the dredged sediment from non-Federal, permitted dredging projects with the Bay and Estuary in formulating the Regional DMMP to the extent that disposal of the material affects the capacity and availability of disposal options required for Federal projects.

DATES: A scoping meeting will be held Thursday, December 16, 2004 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be at the Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA (510) 464-7700. TDD/TTY is (510) 464-7769. Public transit access includes BART (Lake Merritt Station on Fremont Line), AC Transit and Amtrak.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action and Environmental Impact Statement should be directed to Mr. Richard Stradford, either at (415) 977-8669 or richard.a.stradford@spd02.usace.army.mil. Written correspondence should be sent to Mr. Stradford, U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers, San Francisco District, 333 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508) and Pub. L. 102–484 Section 2834, as amended by Pub. L. 104–106 Section 2867, the Department of the Army hereby gives notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the subject Regional DMMP. The San Francisco District of the Corps will be the lead agency in preparing the EIS. The EIS will provide an analysis supporting the requirements of NEPA in addressing impacts to the environment that may result from the implementation of the Regional DMMP.

1. *Proposed Action.* The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulation (Engineer Regulation 1105–2–100) requires that a dredged material management plan be prepared for each Federal navigation project. Where there are groups of interrelated harbor projects, a regional plan may be developed, which is the approach proposed for the projects in the San Francisco Bay and Estuary. Such plans are intended to implement channel and harbor dredging and disposal in a cost effective and environmentally acceptable manner. The proposed Regional DMMP will focus on the management of dredged material from maintaining Federal navigation channels and constructing new navigation projects, and will take into consideration the non-Federal dredging projects permitted by the San Francisco District. The approved Regional DMMP will be consistent with sound engineering practices and meet all Federal environmental standards, including those established by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (1972) and Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act (1972), as amended. In addition, the Regional DMMP will be consistent with State and local plans such as the California Regional Water Quality Control Board's "Basin Plan" and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission's "Bay Plan" (locally approved plan of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972). As a partner in the Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) to manage dredged material in the San Francisco Bay Region, the Corps is committed to incorporating into the Regional DMMP the goals that the multi-agency consortium has established. The Regional DMMP will work towards meeting the LTMS goal of reducing in-Bay disposal of dredged

material, eventually reaching the target of 40% ocean disposal, 40% beneficial reuse and 20% in-Bay disposal. In addition, in response to LTMS recommendations, the Regional DMMP will consider changes to the design parameters of navigation projects such as channel width, depth and configuration, in terms of changes that would reduce the volume of dredging necessary to meet the navigational needs of each project.

2. *Project Alternatives.* The alternatives for the Regional DMMP and EIS will consist of an array of disposal and beneficial reuse options for each of the Federal projects, which currently are the Napa River, Oakland Harbor, Petaluma River, Pinole Shoal Channel, Redwood City Harbor, Richmond Harbor, San Francisco Bar Channel, San Leandro Marina, San Rafael Creek and Suisun Bay Channel projects. There are approximately 70 non-Federal dredging projects, and the management of dredged material from them will be taken into account to the extent that it impacts the availability of disposal sites for the Federal dredged material.

The current beneficial reuse projects to be examined are predominantly wetlands restoration efforts, with the Hamilton Field & Bel Marin Keys Wetlands Restoration and Montezuma Wetlands being the two main plans. Additional beneficial-use initiatives are the disposal ponds at Mare Island, the Carneros River Ranch and Bair Island projects, as well as levee-rehabilitation projects on selected Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta islands (e.g., Sherman Island, Winter Island, and Van Sickle Island). The historically used in-Bay aquatic disposal sites to be carried forward in the Regional DMMP are the Carquinez Strait, San Pablo Bay, Alcatraz, and Suisun Bay sites. Ocean disposal sites for evaluation are the San Francisco Bar (actually a reuse site for dredged sand from the Bar Channel just outside the Golden Gate) and the San Francisco Deep Ocean Disposal site, located approximately 50 miles west of San Francisco.

3. *Scoping Process.* The Corps is requesting information as well as the views of interested Federal, State, and local agencies, Native American tribes, and other interested private organizations and parties through provision of this notice and holding of a scoping meeting (see **DATES**). The main purpose of this meeting is to solicit input regarding the environmental issues of concern and the alternatives that should be discussed in the Regional DMMP and EIS. The public comment period closes 30 days from the publication of this notice. Additional

public meetings are anticipated prior to the release of the draft EIS.

4. *Availability of EIS.* The public will have an additional opportunity to comment on the proposed alternatives after the draft EIS has been released, currently scheduled for January 2006.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection requests.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Information Management Case Services Team, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3507 (j)), since public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by January 31, 2005. A regular clearance process is also beginning. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before January 28, 2005.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Carolyn Lovett, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget; 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10222, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or faxed to (202) 395–6974.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (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