

News Release

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seeks public comment on environmental document for the Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project at Spring Lake, San Marcos, Texas

FORT WORTH, Texas -- The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently accepting comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA), a National Environmental Policy Act document, for the alternatives pertaining to the Spring Lake Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project.

The proposed project area contains approximately ten acres of floodplain habitat on the Aquarena Center peninsula, nine acres of riparian corridor habitat along the shoreline of Spring Lake, and 22 acres of lacustrine habitat within the headwaters of the San Marcos River. The proposed alternative would consist of the removal of Aquarena Center structures located on the peninsula, grassland restoration of the peninsula, removal of exotic vegetation, establishment of a vegetated buffer zone between Spring Lake and the golf course, and removal of submerged structures in Spring Lake.

The proposed action would likely be authorized by a general permit, such as Nationwide Permit 27 (Stream and Wetland Restoration Activities) for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States. Section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation determined that with reasonable and prudent measures, construction related activities would not result in the incidental take of more than 732 San Marcos salamanders and 965 fountain darters. Potential impacts to cultural resources and mitigation/avoidance requirements will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800 prior to any groundbreaking activities.

Written comments on the EA will be accepted through Jan. 31, 2006 by sending them directly to Jeffry A. Tripe, CESWF-PER-EE, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102-0300, or by e-mail at Jeffry.A.Tripe@swf02.usace.army.mil. Copies of the EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact may be requested in writing at the above address, by telephone at (817) 886-1716, or visit the Fort Worth District website at www.swf.usace.army.mil.