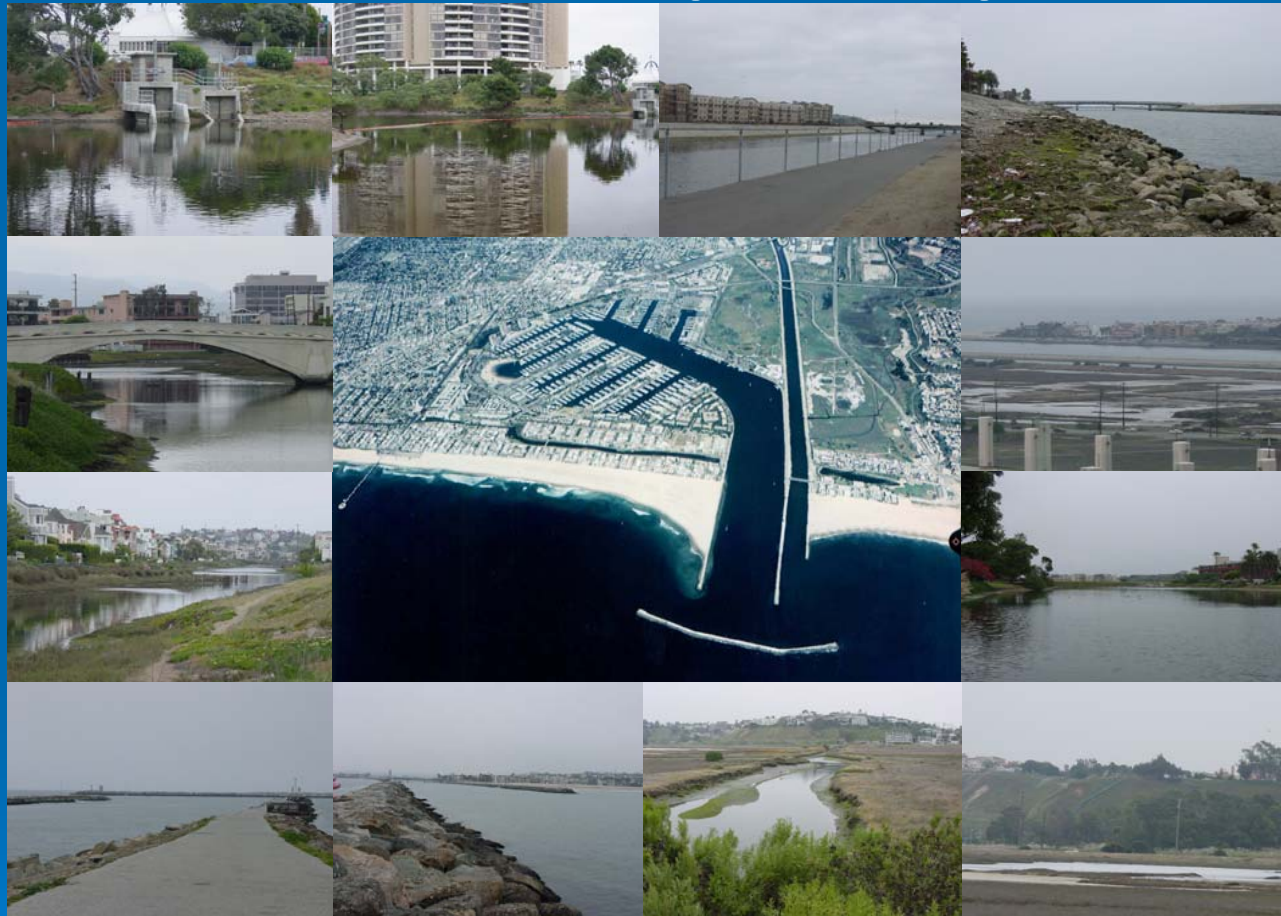



Ballona Creek Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study



Public Meeting
Thursday, September 29, 2005
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission



AGENDA

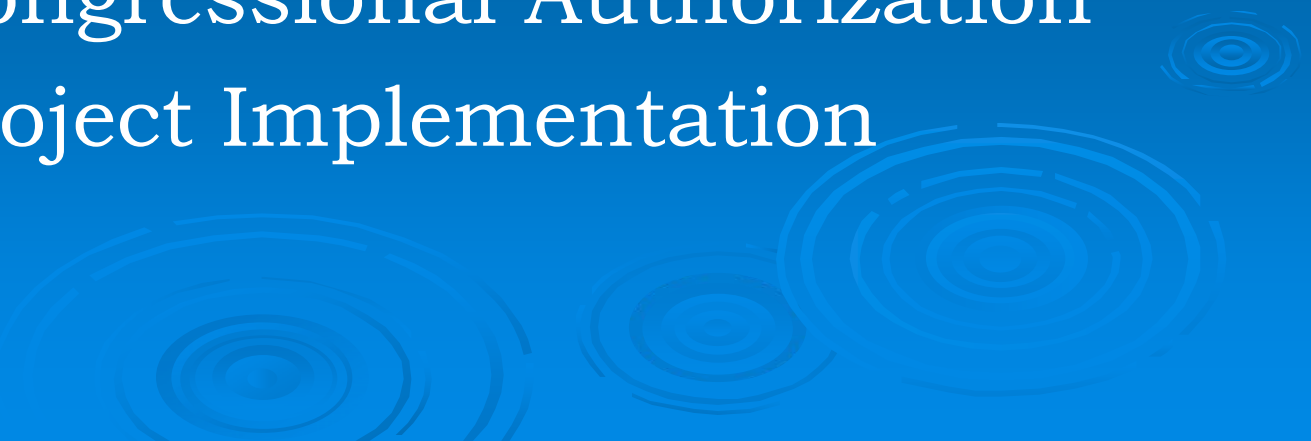
- Initial Public Meeting Purpose
 - Civil Works Process
 - Feasibility Study
 - Public Input
- 

- Discuss the proposed Ballona Creek Ecosystem Restoration Study
- Provide an opportunity for participants to state issues and concerns regarding the proposed project
- Address those issues and concerns, if possible
- Gather information to assist in the development of the Ballona Creek study

Welcome!



SIX STEP PLANNING PROCESS

- Step 1 Problem Perception
 - Step 2 Request for Federal Action
 - Step 3 Study Problem and Report Preparation
 - Step 4 Report Review and Approval
 - Step 5 Congressional Authorization
 - Step 6 Project Implementation
- 

STUDY AUTHORITY

This 905(b) Analysis was prepared in response to Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 which states:

“The Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, is authorized to review the operation of projects the construction of which has been completed and which were constructed by the Corps of Engineers in the interest of navigation, flood control, water supply, and related purposes, when found advisable due the significantly changed physical or economic conditions, and to report thereon to Congress with recommendations on the advisability of modifying the structures or their operation, and for improving the quality of the environment in the overall public interest.”

Supplemented by House Resolution on Public Works and Transportation dated September 28, 1994 which states:

“The Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on Playa del Rey Inlet and Basin, Venice, California, published as House Document 389, Eighty-third Congress, Second Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at present time, in the interest of navigation, hurricane and storm damage reduction, environmental restoration, and other purposes at Marina del Rey Harbor, Los Angeles, California, with consideration given to disposal of contaminated sediments from the entrance channel required under the existing operation and maintenance program at Marina del Rey.

Ballona Creek Watershed

329 sq. km (81,300 acres)

Cochran Ave.

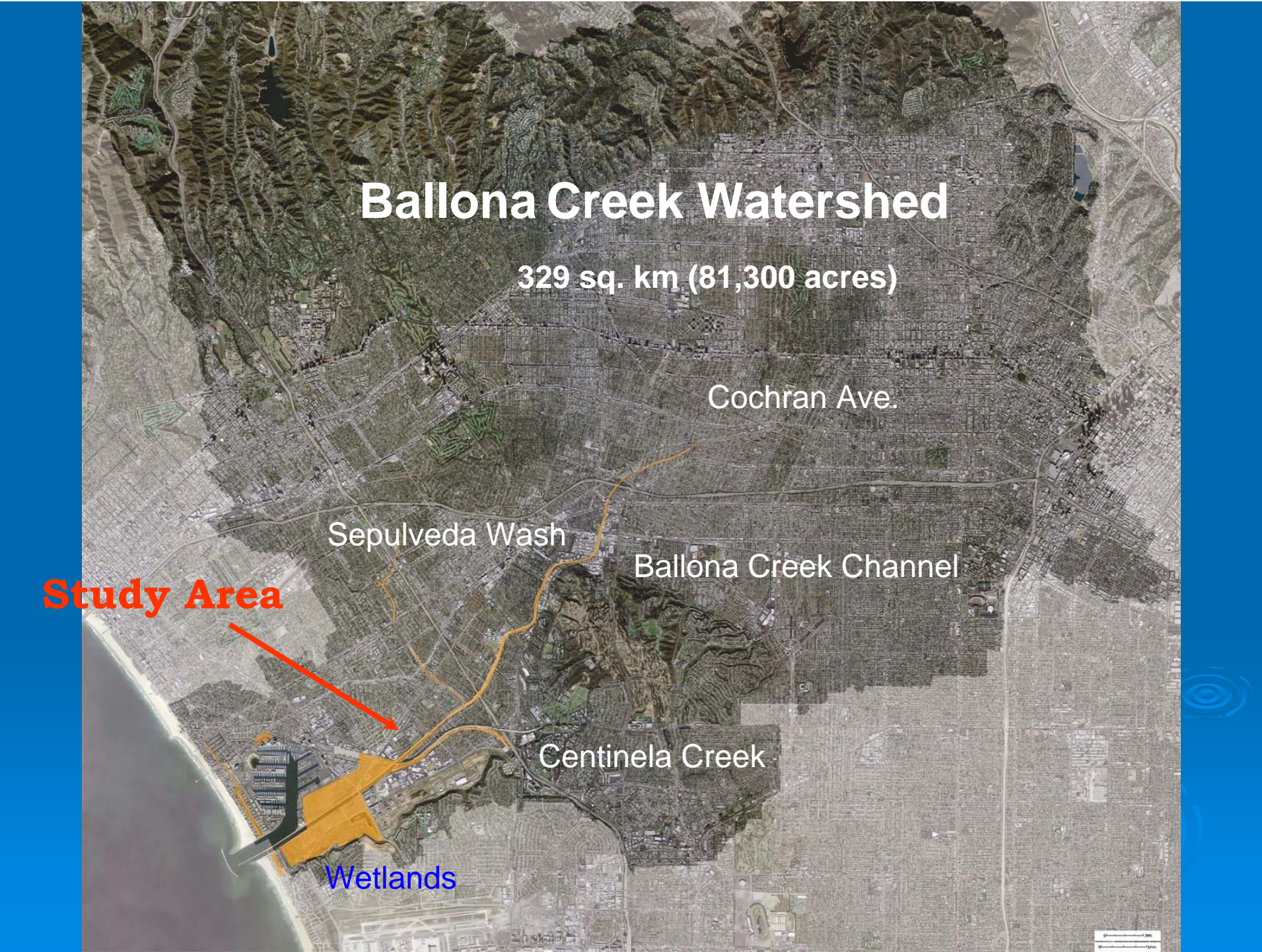
Sepulveda Wash

Ballona Creek Channel

Study Area

Centinela Creek

Wetlands





Management Units

1. Area A
2. Area B
3. Area C
4. Del Rey Lagoon
5. Ballona Lagoon and Canals
6. Oxford Basin
7. Tributaries, Centinela, and Sepulveda
8. Ballona Creek

STUDY PURPOSE

- Habitat Restoration
- Water Quality Improvement
- Trash Mitigation
- Recreation



PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



- Degraded wetland and riparian habitats
- Improve hydrologic/hydraulic processes and connectivity
- Enhance tidal prism
- Limited recreational and educational opportunities

PROBLEMS/OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)



- Degraded water quality
- Enhance endangered species habitat
- Create recreational and educational opportunities
- Public Outreach

CONSTRAINT

- Fully developed watershed crossing many through many communities and jurisdictions

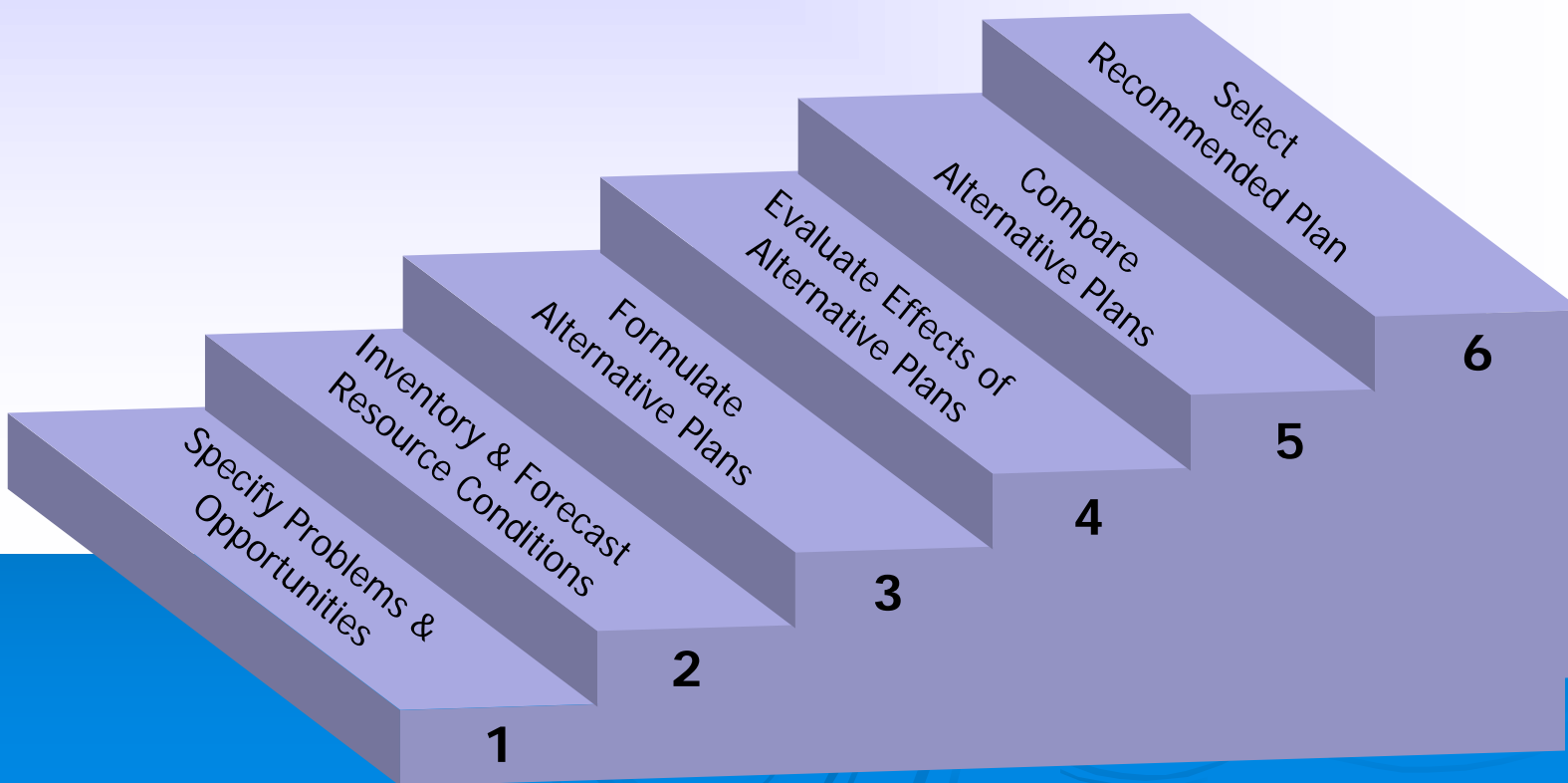




U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers

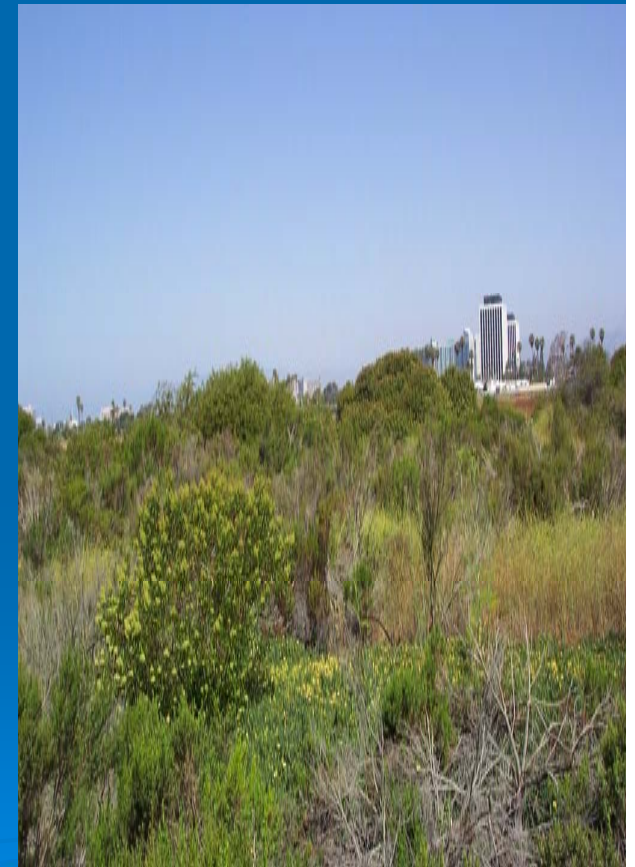
Corps Six Step Feasibility Planning Process

Overview of the Civil Works Process

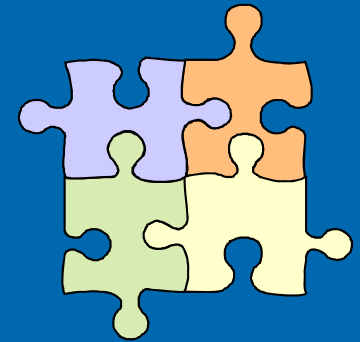


MAJOR MILESTONES FOR FEASIBILITY PHASE

- F1- Initiate Study
- F2- Public Workshop/Scoping
- F3-Scoping Meeting – establish baseline conditions and future without project, focus alternatives
- F4- Alternative Review Conference - preliminary recommendations
- F5- Draft Feasibility Report
- F6- Final Public Meeting
- F7- Optional IRC
- F8- Final Report to South Pacific Division



SPONSORS



➤ Lead Sponsor

- Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority


➤ Sub-Sponsors

- California Coastal Conservancy
- City of Los Angeles Public Works
- County of Los Angeles Public Works
- County of Los Angeles Beaches and Harbors
- Baldwin Hills Conservancy
- Culver City
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

SPONSOR AND SUB-SPONSOR ROLES

- Provide 50% of study costs per the FCSA
- CEQA Compliance
- Lead Sponsor to coordinate with sub-sponsors
- Sponsors will be actively engaged throughout the decision process and the review of documents

COASTAL CONSERVANCY AND CORPS COLLOBORATION

- Wetlands study of parcels A, B, and C
 - Joint effort between the Corps, the Conservancy, and the Sponsor in study development
 - Final Alternative incorporated into Feasibility Study
 - Pooling resources
- 

WHAT IS NEPA?

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- NEPA was established in 1969 and became Public Law (91-190), 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, January 1, 1970.
- NEPA requires full disclosure of possible impacts, alternatives, and mitigation measures. This information goes to both agency decision makers and to the public.

NEPA PROCESS

1. Requirement to Prepare an EIS: Federal Agency Determines Impacts of an Action may be significant
2. Notice of Intent (NOI)
3. Scoping
4. Environmental Analysis
5. Draft EIS (w/Feasibility Report), Notice of Availability (NOA)
6. Comment Period (45 days) and Public Meeting
7. Final EIS (w/Feasibility Report)
8. Comment Period (30 days)
9. Record of Decision (ROD)

EIS Content

- Statement of Purpose and Need
- Description of the affected environment
- Impact analysis of alternatives including Recommended Plan and No Action
- Mitigation measures where needed
- Compliance with other Environmental Laws and Regulations
- Public Involvement

RESOURCES THAT MAY BE ADDRESSED IN THE EIS

- Geology and Soils
- Water Resources
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Biological Resources including Threatened and Endangered Species
- Cultural Resources
- Esthetics
- Land Use
- Recreation
- Traffic and Transportation
- Utilities
- Hazardous and Toxic Materials
- Public Safety

FEASIBILITY SCHEDULE

- F1- Initiate Study -- June 30, 2005
- F2- Public Meeting -- September 2005
- F3- Baseline Conditions -- November 2006
- F4- Alternative Review -- June 2006
- F4A- Alternative Formulation Briefing--
December 2006
- F5- Draft Feasibility Report -- May 2007
- F6- Final Public Meeting -- July 2007
- F7- Issue Resolution Conference--
September 2007
- F8- Final Report to SPD -- December 2008

FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS

- Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) – date signed 30 June 2005
- Cost: \$4.6 million
- Cost shared:
 - Sponsor 50%
 - In-kind services (may be up to 100%)
 - \$800K in cash
 - Corps 50%
- Optimum Funding
 - Study should take 3 years
 - Time to construction 6-7 years depending on authorization and appropriations
- Federal cost share for construction of ecosystem restoration projects:
 - Sponsor 35%
 - Federal 65%

Questions and Comments ?



CONTACT INFORMATION

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