

News Release

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Corps of Engineers releases final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for lower Colorado River basin, Colorado River, Texas

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, has released a final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) addressing proposed activities to provide flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration within the lower Colorado River basin, Colorado River, Texas. No public meetings will be held during the final comment period.

The PEIS focuses on various potential Corps projects that could be initiated within the basin under studies like the Lower Colorado River Basin Feasibility Study. Reasonably foreseeable projects being pursued within the study area by other entities are also identified and the potential direct and cumulative impacts resulting from the implementation of the potential Corps and other entities' projects on the human and natural environment are assessed. The document examines past actions of the Corps of Engineers and other entities within the study area, defines the baseline conditions within the basin, and then examines alternatives of the Corps and others that might affect water and related land resources.

General flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration measures are addressed in the PEIS. Structural measures include but are not limited to: multipurpose reservoirs, dry detention basins, levees, flood walls, relief channels, diversion channels, channel improvements, and tunnels. Non-structural measures include but are not limited to: flood warning systems, evacuation of the floodplains, and flood proofing. Ecosystem restoration measures include but are not limited to: preservation, removal of invasive or undesirable terrestrial or aquatic vegetation and restoration of native species, and physical alteration of degraded or severely altered properties to restore preexisting ecosystems.

Copies of the final PEIS are available for review at the USACE, P.O. Box 17300, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. Copies have also been distributed to the main libraries in Marble Falls, Austin, Bastrop, Wharton, and Bay City Texas. The main text of the final PEIS is also available for review on the Fort Worth District website, www.swf.usace.army.mil.

Comments on the PEIS must be received within 30 days of the Federal Register Notice of Availability, which is anticipated to be on or about Aug. 12, 2005. Comments on the final PEIS should be addressed to: Mr. Rob Newman, Environmental Planner, CESWF-PER-EE, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102; or call (817) 886-1762.

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Visit the Fort Worth website at: www.swf.usace.army.mil .