



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

February 16, 2007

CESWF-PER

**DRAFT SUPPLEMENT NO. 1 TO THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
UPPER TRINITY RIVER, CENTRAL CITY  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (Corps), is preparing a Draft Supplement No. 1 to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Central City Project on the Upper Trinity River in Fort Worth, Texas. The purpose of this notice is to inform you of potential changes in the project and to solicit your comments on issues that should be considered as the study continues. The Corps of Engineers intends to investigate alternative valley storage mitigation areas along the West Fork of the Trinity River including areas within the Riverside Oxbow project area and alternate locations for the Samuels Avenue Dam. We hope you will participate in this process.

**Statutory Authority.** This public notice is being issued to known interested parties in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law 91-190, as amended. Ongoing Corps investigations in the Upper Trinity River Basin were authorized by the United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Resolution dated April 22, 1988. Section 116 of Public Law 108-447 dated December 8, 2004 authorized the Corps participation in construction of the Central City Project. The FEIS was completed in January 2006 and the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on April 7, 2006 by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)). The ROD recommended implementation of the Community-Based Alternative and was endorsed as being technically sound and environmentally acceptable.

**Purpose and Background.** The Central City project as authorized includes a flood bypass channel and flood gates to divert flood flows around a segment of the existing Trinity River channel adjacent to downtown Fort Worth, Samuels Avenue Dam to create an interior water feature, and hydraulic mitigation and ecological restoration areas. The bypass channel is approximately 8,400 feet long, 300-400 feet wide, and would be approximately 30 feet below the existing grade. The bypass channel would begin at the Clear Fork downstream of West Seventh Street, intersect the West Fork approximately 2,600 feet upstream of the existing confluence with the Clear Fork, and continue to the northeast terminating at the West Fork upstream of the existing Marine Creek confluence. Samuels Avenue Dam as approved would be located downstream of Samuels Avenue on the West Fork and would raise the normal water surface elevation to 524.5 feet msl. This would create a lake extending up the West Fork to approximately Rockwood Park and up Marine Creek to the Stockyard area. The project, as currently formulated, requires creation of about 5,250 acre-feet of valley storage to compensate for the loss of valley storage caused by the bypass channel's increased hydraulic capacity during flood events. As approved, the majority of this compensatory valley storage would be located in the Riverbend area upstream of Rockwood Park

By letter dated June 22, 2006, the City of Fort Worth requested that the Corps of Engineers conduct an evaluation to consider the potential benefits of merging the Central City Project with the Riverside Oxbow Ecosystem Restoration project. The City's request recognized that these projects are being

planned as individual projects but they are located adjacent to one another. The City and the Tarrant Regional Water District, both non-Federal sponsors for these two projects, indicated their opinion that based on their adjacency, there might be merit in combining the two projects. In their letter, the City of Fort Worth identified potential benefits of combining the projects that included greater flexibility in selecting sites for the required valley storage mitigation, opportunity to increase restoration benefits with additional recreational improvements, and cost savings.

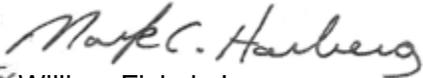
The Riverside Oxbow project area is located just east of downtown Fort Worth on the West Fork of the Trinity River from Riverside Drive (downstream end of the Fort Worth Floodway) downstream to the East 1st Street Bridge. The area is located between Interstate Highway 30 on the south and the 100-year floodplain boundary on the north. Corps participation in the Riverside Oxbow Project consists of reestablishment of flows through the old river channel including replacement of the Beach Street bridge; creation of emergent wetlands, open water, and vegetative fringe habitat; habitat improvement on existing forest tracks including establishment of a riparian buffer along the West Fork from Riverside Drive to East 1<sup>st</sup> Street; and various other ecosystem restoration and recreation features. An Interim Feasibility Report with Integrated Environmental Assessment (and Finding of No Significant Impact) with Addendum dated April 2005 were prepared and approved by the Chief of Engineers. While some design funds have been approved, construction authority has not been provided by Congress and authorization of the Riverside Oxbow project remains uncertain. Details of the previously approved Central City and Riverside Oxbow projects are available on the Fort Worth District Internet Web Page at [www.swf.usace.army.mil](http://www.swf.usace.army.mil).

In response to the City's letter request, the Corps performed an initial evaluation and determined that alternative areas along the West Fork of the Trinity River including areas within the Riverside Oxbow project had the potential to provide the required valley storage mitigation, provide comparable ecosystem restoration outputs, reduce habitat mitigation requirements, and lower project costs. As a result of this initial evaluation, the Fort Worth District intends to proceed with more detailed investigations into alternative valley storage mitigation areas. Information related to this initial evaluation including a map showing the location of these areas can be accessed from the Fort Worth District Internet Web Page at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil>.

During ongoing detailed analysis it has been determined that based upon geotechnical considerations, it may be beneficial to relocate Samuels Avenue Dam. Alternative dam site locations will also be analyzed in the supplemental EIS.

**Public Involvement.** We are soliciting information to guide the Corps in determining those factors and types of effects that should be addressed during more detailed analysis and preparation of the Supplement to the FEIS. The Draft Supplemental EIS is currently scheduled for release in August 2007. Please visit the Fort Worth District Internet Web Page for additional information that may be made available during the course of the study.

Scoping comments and suggestions may be sent directly to the Project Manager, Mr. Saji Puthenpurayel, CESWF-EC-D, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300, telephone (817) 886-1764. Written scoping comments will be accepted throughout the time period leading to the draft Supplemental EIS; however, comments provided during the first 30 days from the date of this Public Notice can be more effectively incorporated into our study process.

  
William Fickel, Jr.  
Chief, Planning, Environmental,  
and Regulatory Division  
Fort Worth District, Corps of Engineers