

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army****Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a Proposed Storm Damage Reduction and Beach Erosion Control Project Between Barnegat Inlet and Little Egg Inlet, Ocean County, New Jersey**

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The action being taken is an evaluation of the alternatives for storm damage reduction and the control of further erosion on the barrier island known as Long Beach Island located between Barnegat Inlet and Little Egg Inlet, New Jersey. The purpose of any consequent work would be to provide shore property protection and to stabilize the shoreline at a predetermined width.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions regarding the DEIS should be addressed to Mr. Nathan Dayan, (215) 656-6562, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CENAP-PL-E, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390 or by E-mail Nathan=S=Dayan%pl-e%nap@vines.nap.usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**1. Proposed Action**

a. The proposed document evaluates a study area approximately 18.3 miles in length and includes the land between Barnegat Inlet and Little Egg Inlet (Long Beach Island). This area is subject to storm wave action which creates severe beach erosion problems. Four potential offshore sand borrow sources situated approximately between 1.0 and 4.0 miles east of Long Beach Island will be investigated in this study.

b. The authority for the proposed project is a resolution adopted by the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works dated December 1987.

2. Alternatives

In addition to the no action alternative, the alternatives considered for storm damage reduction and erosion control will fall into structural and non-structural categories. The structural measures to correct the beach erosion include bulkheads, seawalls, revetments, offshore, breakwaters, groins, beach restoration/nourishment, and beach sills. Non-structural measures are flood insurance, development regulations, and land acquisition.

3. Scoping

a. Numerous studies and reports addressing beach erosion along the New Jersey Coast were conducted by the Corps of Engineers. The most recent study assessing Long Beach Island is a Reconnaissance Report: New Jersey Shore Protection Study, Barnegat Inlet to Little Egg Inlet (March 1995), which has identified a number of problem areas where erosion was negatively impacting the adjacent shorelines. This study identified Long Beach Island as an area to be recommended for further study in the feasibility phase.

b. The scoping process is on-going and has involved the preliminary coordination with Federal, state, and local agencies. Participation of the general public and other interested parties and organizations will be by means of a public notice. Based on the input of these agencies and interested public, a decision to have a formal scoping meeting will be made.

c. The significant issues and concerns that have been identified include the impacts of the project on aquatic biota, water quality, intertidal habitat, shallow water habitat, cultural resources, and socio-economics.

4. Availability

It is estimated the DEIS will be made availability to the public in November 1988.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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BILLING CODE 3710-GR-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Navy****Record of Decision To Implement the Sewage Effluent Compliance Project for the Las Pulgas and San Mateo Basins of Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, CA**

Pursuant to Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy announces its decision to upgrade the wastewater treatment and disposal systems in the Las Pulgas and San Mateo Basins of Marine Corps Base (MCB), Camp Pendleton, California. Upgrades in the Las Pulgas Basin involve the construction of advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) facilities, a pipeline of approximately 19,000 lineal feet, and a field of injection wells downstream near the coastline. The AWT facilities would provide limited

tertiary treatment of the sewage effluent, which would reduce the turbidity and pathogens to decrease the likelihood of clogging during effluent disposal into the injection wells. Upgrades in the San Mateo Basin involve construction of equalization ponds, a pipeline of approximately 12,500 lineal feet, and percolation basins approximately 35 acres in total size located downstream of existing potable water wells. Additionally, a pipeline connector of approximately 5,100 feet will be constructed to convey to the San Mateo Basin excess sewage effluent from the pipeline serving sewage treatment plants in the San Onofre Basin.

The existing sewage treatment plants were constructed in the 1940s and discharge secondary-treated effluent to percolation basins upstream of potable water wells that serve developments within the Las Pulgas and San Mateo Basins. These conditions, including plant design, violate the San Diego Water Quality Basin Plan, the State of California Porter Cologne Water Quality Act of 1969, and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972. As a result of these conditions, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board issued Cease and Desist Orders to MCB Camp Pendleton in January 1989. To meet these Cease and Desist Orders, new facilities are required to improve wastewater treatment and disposal and meet the Basin Plan.

Alternatives considered for correcting the conditions cited in the Cease and Desist Orders included no action, water disposal of effluent, and land disposal of effluent. Water disposal alternatives included construction of an ocean outfall, live-stream discharge of either secondary- or tertiary-treated effluent, discharge to an off-base publicly owned treatment works, and a basin plan amendment. Land disposal alternatives included percolation basins, biological ponds, leach fields, and injection wells. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) identified the following preferred alternatives for the Las Pulgas and San Mateo Basins, respectively: construction of eight new injection wells located west of Interstate 5 for discharge of effluent from sewage treatment plant 9, which will be upgraded with new AWT facilities to provide additional filtration required to improve water quality and prevent clogging of the wells; and discharge of secondary-treated effluent from sewage treatment plant 12 to new percolation basins located downstream from existing potable water wells. These alternatives were identified in the Final

Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) as the environmentally preferred alternatives for each respective basin.

A systematic and multidisciplinary approach to identify alternatives was utilized which incorporated criteria based upon technical and functional suitability. Alternatives were evaluated for technical suitability through compatibility with constraints imposed by available land for treatment and disposal facilities, subsurface geological and hydrological conditions, and soil permeability. Technically suitable alternatives were further evaluated for their ability to satisfy the following six functional requirements of the projects: (1) Prevention of degradation of water quality to sustain beneficial uses identified in the San Diego Basin Plan, (2) sustained volume within each water basin, (3) prevention of saltwater intrusion into each water basin, (4) compliance with water quality standards in accordance with Federal and State safe drinking water standards, (5) compliance with water quality standards in accordance with State Groundwater Recharge Guidelines, and (6) compliance with the timelines identified in the Cease and Desist Orders. The analysis determined that the preferred alternative in each basin is the only alternative that meets all criteria. In each basin, the preferred alternative is environmentally preferable to the other alternatives considered because it sustains long-term water quality and meets the San Diego Basin Plan objectives. All practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm have been adopted as identified below and amplified in the Environmental Impact Statement.

For the Las Pulgas facility, construction of the new AWT facilities, equalization pond, pipeline and injection wells will require grading, excavation and soil-boring. For the San Mateo facility, percolation basin construction will involve grading and excavation. A soil erosion control plan will be prepared for construction, and will include restricting grading and excavation during the rainy season, restricting heavy equipment to existing rights-of-way, installing sediment control measures, and providing post-construction revegetation.

To reduce potential significant impacts on paleontological resources to an acceptable level, the Marine Corps will develop an environmental education program, develop an information pamphlet and conduct an environmental education class for all construction project personnel. Additionally, environmental monitors shall be present when construction

activities occur in designated sensitive areas. Environmental monitors shall ensure that paleontological resources are recovered according to approved procedures. If paleontological resources are identified and salvage efforts are required, curation of the materials will be accomplished by the Marine Corps.

The California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica*), a federally listed threatened species, is present near the percolation basin and pipeline sites. The project will result in a temporary impact to 1.35 acres of coastal sage, of which only 0.4 acres are occupied gnatcatcher habitat. In accordance with USFWS Riparian Biological Opinion (BO) of 1995, to mitigate these impacts, the Marine Corps will, to the maximum extent possible, conduct construction operations in coastal sage habitat outside of the gnatcatcher breeding season. Construction that will occur within 500 feet of coastal sage during the breeding season will be surveyed prior to construction to determine the presence of active gnatcatcher nests, and all work within 500 feet of a nest will be completed outside the breeding season. All pipelines will follow existing roads to the maximum extent practical. Temporary impacts to coastal sage will be mitigated through replanting, restoration and subsequent monitoring of the restoration area for a minimum period of 3 years to ensure restoration success and to control invasive exotic vegetation. Permanent impacts to coastal sage not occupied by gnatcatcher shall be mitigated at a ratio of 1:1, and will be accomplished through habitat enhancement and conservation in the more contiguous area of coastal sage on the Base. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concurs with this mitigation scheme.

The southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), a federally listed threatened species, is known to occur in the riparian areas of the Las Flores Creek drainage. The project will result in a permanent loss of 2.28 acres and temporary loss of .07 acres of southern willow scrub which is potential habitat for the willow flycatcher. The USFWS Riparian Biological Opinion (BO) of 1995 indicated the impacts would be significant and require mitigation. As mandated in this BO, permanent impacts to riparian wetland habitat shall be mitigated at a ratio of 1.5:1 by enhancing degraded habitat elsewhere on- or off-base. Mitigation will be achieved through implementation of invasive exotic plant species control, site monitoring, and follow-up retreatment for a period of 5 years. Temporary impacts to riparian wetland habitat will be mitigated by restoring

wetlands to original or better condition and by monitoring the restoration for a minimum of 3 years to control invasive exotic plant species and to ensure restoration effectiveness.

In accordance with the 1995 USFWS Riparian BO, temporary impacts to estuarine wetland habitats will be restored to original or better condition following construction, and will be monitored for a minimum of 3 years to control invasion of invasive exotic plant species to ensure effectiveness of restoration.

To ensure avoidance of temporary impacts to the southwestern arroyo toad (*Bufo macroscephalus*), construction will be scheduled during the period between September 15 and January 15, when toads are hibernating and activity is minimized. For construction that cannot be accomplished between September 15 and January 15, toad-proof fencing will be installed daily at all open trenches and soils stock piles. Additionally, on a daily basis, a biological monitor shall verify the absence of toads in construction areas prior to the commencement of construction. These mitigation measures comply with the 1995 USFWS Riparian BO.

In compliance with the 1995 USFWS Riparian BO, the Marine Corps will conduct monthly surface water quality monitoring for up to 2 years to establish baseline data for areas downstream of the percolation basins. Monitoring data will be collected in accordance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act Section 404 and 401 permit. Should changes in water quality be detected, the Marine Corps will consult with the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) and the USFWS to develop and implement appropriate mitigation measures. Additionally, the Marine Corps will annually monitor ground water quality and levels for 10 years, as stated in the 1995 USFWS Riparian BO. Should changes in ground water quality or level be detected, the Marine Corps will consult with the SDRWQCB and the USFWS to develop and implement appropriate mitigation measures.

The proposed action will affect two archeological sites determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Where feasible, adverse direct and indirect impacts on archeological resources will be avoided through redesign or relocation of facilities to avoid areas of high cultural resource sensitivity. In areas where avoidance is not feasible, the Marine Corps will prepare a data recovery plan and consult with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for concurrence prior to

implementation; provide for monitoring of construction and excavation operations by a qualified archaeologist and a Native American observer; and should archaeological resources be encountered during construction, halt all work until a qualified archaeologist is consulted to determine if the resources are significant and whether excavation or protection of resources is required. The California SHPO concurs with this approach.

Analysis of air emissions that would occur during construction and operation of the percolation ponds determined that these emissions will be below *de minimis* levels and that the project conforms with the State Implementation Plan for air quality.

A Coastal Consistency Negative Determination was prepared for this project and it concluded that the proposed action is being carried out in a manner consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the California Coastal Management Plan. The California Coastal Commission concurs with this determination.

Preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement began with a public scoping process to identify issues that should be addressed in the document. Involvement in scoping was offered through a combination of documented public announcements and meetings with State of California agencies. Public announcements were handled through scoping letters sent to Federal, State, and local governmental agencies, citizen groups and associations, and the general public. Also, a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was published in local newspapers and the **Federal Register**. A public scoping meeting was held on December 17, 1992 in Oceanside, California.

The Notice of Availability of the DEIS appeared in the **Federal Register** on September 6, 1996. The DEIS was distributed to agencies and officials of Federal, State and local governmental agencies, citizens groups and associations, public libraries and other interested parties. The public review period for the DEIS was from September 6, 1996 through October 22, 1996. Comments received on the DEIS focused on alternatives analysis, endangered species and wetlands issues. The FEIS addressed these comments and was distributed to officials of Federal, State and local governmental agencies, citizens groups and associations, public libraries and to other interested parties on February 7, 1997. No comments were received on the FEIS.

The Department of the Navy believes that there are no outstanding issues to be resolved with respect to this project. Questions regarding the Environmental Impact Statement prepared for this action may be directed to Mr. Lupe E. Armas, Assistant Chief of Staff, Environmental Security, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, CA 92055-5008, telephone (619) 725-4512.

Dated: April 17, 1997.

Duncan Holaday,

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy,
(Installations and Facilities).*

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Rocky Flats Field Office; Notice of Intent To Solicit Applications Competitiveness for Financial Assistance

AGENCY: Rocky Flats Field Office (DOE).

ACTION: Notice of intent to solicit competitive applications/proposals for financial assistance.

SUMMARY: The Rocky Flats Field Office (RFFO) of the Department of Energy is entrusted to contribute to the welfare of the nation by providing the scientific foundation, technology, policy and institutional leadership necessary to achieve efficiency in energy use, diversity in energy sources, a more productive and competitive economy, improved environmental quality, and a secure National defense. RFFO intends to fund a series of grants in special emphasis programs to encourage programs to train Native American, African American, Hispanic American, Asian-Pacific American, Women and Disabled students to pursue training in the fields of sciences and engineering; and to fund local community projects contributing to diversity-related programs.

DATES: Applications may be submitted at any time within 30 days from the date of this announcement. Applications received within 30 days from the date of this announcement, will be considered; applications received after that date may or may not be considered depending on the status of proposal review and selection.

ADDRESSES: Department of Energy, Rocky Flats Field Office, Contracts and Assets Division, P.O. Box 928, B460, Golden, Colorado 80402-0928.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shirley Johnson, Department of Energy Rocky Flats Field Office, P.O. Box 928, B460, Golden, Colorado 80402-0928,

(303) 966-9734 for application forms and additional information. Completed applications or proposal must be sent to the addresses heading.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: There has been no previous DOE RFFO solicitation/award made under this program. DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of applications/proposals. DOE reserves the right to fund, in whole or in part, any, all, or none of the applications/proposals submitted in response to this notice.

Availability of Fiscal Year 1997 Funds

With this publication; DOE RFFO is announcing the availability of up to \$500,000 in grant funds for fiscal year 1997. RFFO anticipates that six or less grants will be made for a total not to exceed \$500,000. The awards will be made through a competitive process. Projects may cover a period of up to 3 years.

Restricted Eligibility

Eligible applicants for the purposes of funding under this notice include organizations residing in Colorado proposing to implement minority science and engineering projects in Colorado as described in the summary section of this announcement. Applicants are encouraged to propose project cost-sharing or sharing of in-kind services or resources. The awards will be made through a competitive process to organizations and institutions located in the State of Colorado. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number assigned to this program is 81.502.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by a panel composed of Department of Energy RFFO representatives. Successful proposal(s) will be selected on the opinion of panel members of proposals most able to meet the objectives listed in the summary section of this announcement and best able to meet the needs of this office.

DOE RFFO hereby reserves the right to fund, in part or whole, any, all, or none of the proposals submitted in response to this request. All applicants will be notified in writing of the action taken on their applications. Applicants should allow approximately 90 days for DOE evaluation. The status of any application during the evaluation and selection process will not be discussed with applicants. Unsuccessful applications will not be returned to the applicant.