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CONTESTING RECORD PROCEDURES:

The Army's rules for accessing records, and for contesting contents and appealing initial agency determinations are contained in Army Regulation 340-21; 32 CFR part 505; or may be obtained from the system manager.

RECORD SOURCE CATEGORIES:

Enlistment, appointment, or commission related forms pertaining to individual's military status; academic, training, or qualifications records acquired prior to or during military service; correspondence, forms, records, documents and other relevant papers in Department of the Army, other Federal agencies, or state and local governmental entities; civilian education and training institutions; and members of the public when information is relevant to the Service Member.

EXEMPTIONS CLAIMED FOR THE SYSTEM:

None.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Joint Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report/ Feasibility Study (EIS/EIR/FS) for Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Project, Marin County, CA

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Department of the Army and Marin County hereby give notice of intent to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report/ Feasibility Study (EIS/EIR/FS) for the Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Project, Marin County, California. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes to restore the ecosystem by increasing the tidal prism (volume of water exchanged on tidal cycles) or by other feasible alternatives. In accomplishing this project, the Corps could dredge up to four million cubic yards (MCY) of

sediment. Ocean disposal as well as other dredged material disposal options are under consideration.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Written comments and questions regarding the scoping process or preparation of the EIS/EIR/FS may be directed to Craig Vassel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, 333 Market Street, 717P, Seventh Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105-2102, (415) 977-8546, Fax: 415-977-8695, Email: cvassel@smtp.spd.usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Marin County will be the lead agencies in preparing the combined EIS/EIR/FS. The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Golden Gate National Recreation Area will be cooperating agencies. The EIS/EIR/FS will provide an analysis supporting both the requirements of NEPA and CEQA in addressing impacts to the environment which may result from dredging the lagoon and disposing of dredged sediments.

1. Proposed Action.

The Corps will study alternatives for restoring the ecosystem of Bolinas Lagoon with emphasis on increasing tidal exchange.

2. Project Alternatives.

The Corps Reconnaissance Report (2/98) identified four possible actions to restore lost tidal and subtidal habitat through increasing tidal prism and improving circulation within the lagoon:

- a. Removing the deltaic formation (accumulated sediment) at the mouth of Pine Gulch Creek
- b. Reestablishing the North Channel (between Kent Island and Bolinas) and its tributaries.
- c. Opening the Seadrift Lagoon to unrestricted tidal exchange with Bolinas Lagoon.
- d. Removing fill material on the east side of the Seadrift Spit.

3. Availability of EIS/EIR/FS.

The Draft EIS/EIR/FS should be available for public review in Fall 2000.

4. Purpose and Need for Project.

Bolinas Lagoon is the centerpiece of an estuary system that is considered to be an ecological treasure due to the diversity of species that either inhabit or use the area for migration purposes. Bolinas Lagoon provides productive and diverse coastal open water, mudflat, and marsh environment for fish, waterbirds, and marine mammals. Several types of

habitat are found in the lagoon: subtidal, intertidal, marsh, riparian, sand bar, and beach.

5. Study Area Description.

Located on the Pacific coast of Marin County, the study area includes all of Bolinas Lagoon (1100 acres, 445 hectares, 1.7 square miles) and its watershed (17 square miles). Triangle-shaped Bolinas Lagoon is located on the Pacific coast of Marin County. Bolinas Ridge forms one side and the sand spit of Stinson Beach forms another. The watershed includes several creeks, including several that descend steeply from Bolinas Ridge. Half of the watershed is drained by the longest creek, Pine Gulch Creek, which follows the San Andreas Rift Valley and forms a delta in Bolinas Lagoon.

6. Larger Habitat Complex.

The Lagoon is part of a much larger protected natural habitat complex including Pt. Reyes National Seashore, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Central California Coast Biosphere Reserve, Mount Tamalpais State Park, and Audubon Canyon Ranch and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFMNS). The Lagoon tidelands are owned by Marin County and managed as the Bolinas Lagoon Open Space Preserve by the Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD).

7. The problem: loss of Tidal Prism.

The tidal prism of an estuary or lagoon is the volume of water exchanged between lagoon and ocean during a tidal cycle. For Bolinas Lagoon, high tide (MHHW) is 2.4 feet above the NGVD datum. Low tide (MLLW) is 1.9 feet below the datum. Therefore, the tidal range is 4.3 feet. Tidal prism influences the dynamic equilibrium of the entrance channel and bathymetry (depth contours) of the lagoon. Larger tidal prisms more effectively scour and remove material, leading to deeper and wider channels. As tidal prisms decline within lagoons, sedimentation rates rise and entrance channels begin to experience temporary closure. The lagoon eventually transforms into a salt marsh and eventually a meadow.

8. Risk of Closure.

Estimates are that the natural tidal prism of Bolinas Lagoon is 200 million cubic feet (mcf). Today the tidal prism is about 90 mcf. The tidal prism of Bolinas Lagoon has been reduced by 22% in the 20-year period between 1968 and 1988, a volume of 28 mcf. The rate of decline is about 1.4 mcf per year (52,000 cy). Risk of closure may occur

when the tidal prism is reduced to 25 mcf.

9. Sedimentation History.

Over the last 150 years, much of the lagoon's richest subtidal and intertidal habitat has been lost through sedimentation. There is a growing concern about the long-term health of the lagoon. Past human impacts on the lagoon contributing to the subtidal and intertidal habitat reduction include poor watershed management practices such as logging, fires, agriculture, and grazing. This has resulted in higher than normal sediment loads conveyed into the lagoon. Other factors that may increase sedimentation include placement of fill in the lagoon and the diversion and manipulation of watercourses entering the lagoon and material entering the lagoon through the ocean entrance. It is estimated that from 1968 to 1988 Bolinas Lagoon lost 40% of its subtidal habitat as it was converted to emergent marsh and uplands.

10. 1906 Earthquake

The biggest historic change in tidal prism occurred during the 1906 earthquake, when Bolinas Lagoon subsided one foot over most of its area, increasing the tidal prism by about 50 mcf.

11. Ecosystem Restoration Goal

The goal of ecosystem restoration work performed at Bolinas Lagoon is to restore intertidal and subtidal habitat and stop further loss of these habitats through restoring tidal prism and improving circulation within the basin, while maintaining key mudflats, marsh vegetation, and other areas of biological importance.

12. Feasibility Study

The five-phase Feasibility Study will identify and evaluate measures to restore lost tidal prism and reduce the rate of sedimentation as follows:

a. Define existing conditions and Formulate Alternatives

Phase One will investigate existing physical and environmental conditions restoration needs and constraints of the area. The future without-project conditions in the study area will be projected. Input on the ecosystem will be sought from resource agencies and the public. Public scoping workshops will be held both at the Marin Civic Center and the Stinson Beach Community Center.

b. Alternative Development

During Phase Two, tidal hydraulic modeling of the preliminary alternatives will be completed and economics and environmental impacts studied.

c. Detailed Evaluation

In Phase Three, preliminary alternatives will be evaluated and environmental benefits of the ecosystem restoration alternatives will be qualified. A draft Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report including a Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP) will be prepared to help provide the basis for identifying the most cost-effective alternative acceptable to the agencies and community.

d. Draft Report Preparation

Phase Four involves preparing the draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement/Report (EIS/R). The EIS/R will analyze all reasonable alternatives and evaluate compliance with federal and state environmental requirements. A formal public review and comment period will be started.

e. Final Report Preparation

The last phase of the study includes preparing the final Feasibility Report recommending a preferred alternative and completing the final EIS/R which will respond to all comments on the draft EIS/R. The feasibility study will conclude with the issue of the Division Engineer's Notice. Construction would follow.

13. Workshop/Scoping

Two Workshop/Scoping meetings will be held on Thursday April 16. The first is intended mainly for local, state, and federal agencies and organizations. The second is all interested parties.

Workshop/Scoping meeting locations:
9:00–12:00 Green Room, Marin Veterans' Memorial Auditorium, Marin Civic Center, San Rafael, CA
6:30–9:30 Stinson Beach Community Center, Stinson Beach, CA

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before June 8, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202–4651.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708–8196.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1–800–877–8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g., new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment at the address specified above. Copies of the requests are available from Patrick J. Sherrill at the address specified above.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department, (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner, (3) is the estimate of burden accurate, (4) how might the