

962). The proposed Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) will evaluate alternatives in the Raymondville Drain Project watershed to identify the most acceptable alternative to reduce and control flooding in Willacy and Hidalgo Counties, Texas. Alternatives are intended to provide flood protection and drainage to a watershed area of approximately 322 square miles including the City of Raymondville and surrounding rural and agricultural areas of Hidalgo and Willacy Counties. The local sponsor for the project is Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and DSEIS can be answered by: Ms. Kristy Morten, Environmental Lead, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, TX 77553-1229; fax: (409) 766-3064; e-mail: kristy.l.morten@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Proposed Action.* The DSEIS will be an integral part of a General Reevaluation Report (GRR) that will present the results of a new plan to provide flood control and agricultural drainage improvements to the City of Raymondville and Willacy and Hidalgo Counties, as authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (WRDA 86). The Raymondville Drain is one of three elements of the authorized Lower Rio Grande Basin Project. The Phase 1 General Design Memorandum (GDM) and Programmatic EIS were completed in August 1982 and approved in the September 1982.

A Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) completed in 1997 concluded that the Federal project for flood control and major drainage at Raymondville was still economically and environmentally feasible. However, Willacy County, the local sponsor, could not support the project because of financial reasons. Hidalgo and Willacy Counties have again expressed an interest in pursuing a flood control project under this authorization. Given the last LRR completion nearly 7 years ago, a GRR and SEIS will be completed by the Corps of Engineers in partnership with Hidalgo County Drainage District #1 as the Lead Sponsor to assure that the project recommended will be safe, functional, economically justified, and environmentally acceptable and that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) have been met.

2. *Alternatives.* The alternatives that will be evaluated in the GRR and SEIS include: (1) Non-structural measures that would include acquisition and removal, flood proofing, or raising of

existing structures; (2) Channelization along the Raymondville Drain; (3) Earthen levees of various heights and lengths; (4) Combinations of the above measures; and (5) No action.

3. *Scoping.* The scoping process will involve Federal, State, and local agencies and other interested persons and organizations. A series of scoping meetings and workshops will be conducted in Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, Texas to discuss various issues associated with proposed flood protection and drainage measures. Initial Public Scoping Meetings will be held July 21, 2004 at the UTPA Center for Border Economic Study (IT2 Building) in Edinburg, TX from 7 pm–8:30 pm and July 22, 2004 at the Raymondville Public Library in Raymondville, TX from 7 pm–8:30 pm.

If you cannot attend the public meetings and have information or questions concerning the study, written comments will be accepted for 30 days following the meetings or until August 22, 2004.

4. *Coordination.* Further coordination with environmental agencies will be conducted under NEPA, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Essential Fish Habitat), Farmland Protection Policy Act and the Coastal Zone Management Act under the Texas Coastal Management Program.

5. *DSEIS Preparation.* It is estimated that the DEIS will be available to the public for review and comment in November 2007.

Carolyn E. Murphy,

Chief, Environmental Section.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System Project, Buffalo Cove Management Unit, Located in Both St. Martin and Iberia Parishes, LA

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN), intends to evaluate water management features to improve water

quality and interior water circulation, remove barriers to reestablish north to south water flow; provide input of oxygenated low temperature water; and reduce or manage sediment input into the interior swamp. The action is necessary due to the existing poor water quality resulting from the lack of internal circulation and oxygenated water inputs, and increased sedimentation. In addition if action is not taken, both deep-water and shallow water habitat utilized by fish and wildlife resources will continue to be lost, reduced, or degraded. The intended result of the proposed work is to prolong the life expectancy of the productive habitat (primarily aquatic and cypress tupelo habitats) that would become scarce over time by restricting or redirecting sediments, while simultaneously achieving a healthy water circulation pattern that would maintain or restore water quality and reestablish north to south water movement.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions concerning the DSEIS should be addressed to Mr. Larry Hartzog at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PM-RP, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267, phone (504) 862-2524, fax number (504) 862-2572 or by E-mail at Larry.M.Hartzog@mvn02.usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The CEMVN, is initiating this DSEIS under the authority of the Flood Control Act of May 15, 1928 (Pub. L. 391, 70th Congress), as amended and supplemented. Construction of two pilot management units (Buffalo Cove and Henderson Lake) is authorized by the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1985 (Pub. L. 99-88) and the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-662), with construction of three additional authorized management units (Flat Lake, Beau Bayou, and Cocodrie Swamp) to take place upon approval of the Chief of Engineers after evaluation of the operational success of the initial two pilot management units. WRDA 1986 authorized the USACE to carry out the recommended plan for management units as described in the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System feasibility report and Environmental Impact Statement of 1982 and the subsequent Chief of Engineers Report dated February 28, 1983. Under this authority, an assessment of environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of water management activities in the Buffalo Cove Management Unit will be made.

1. *Proposed Act.* The proposed action will consist of a series of closures and

sediment traps (to reduce sediment influx); construction of new, or improvement of existing inputs for river water; and gap construction in existing embankments. Closures will be placed in areas that have the greatest potential for introduction of sediment. Closure heights will be designed to optimize sediment reduction. Construction of water inputs will be evaluated in areas where sediment-lean, fresh water sources can be easily connected to existing canals or bayous to conduit water into areas of poor water quality. Sediment traps will be designed as necessary in conjunction with the freshwater input sites. Gaps will be sized and placed in both elevated natural banks as well as dredged material embankments that impede water flow or induce stagnation. These gaps are primarily intended to improve drainage and reestablish flow through the interior swamp basin. Excavated material will be either placed in a non-continuous manner in order to not disrupt sheet flow, or if practicable, the material will be used to create closures.

2. Alternatives. The alternative formulation process will include an evaluation of the "no action alternative", a monitored passive management plan, and the original structural alternative plan as proposed in the 1982 Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System Final Environmental Impact Statement which included construction of ring levees and active structures. The current alternative analysis will continue to evolve throughout the development of the DSEIS. Alternatives to be evaluated include different methods of sediment reduction, water input, and improving internal circulation with the management unit. Sediment reduction alternatives will include the use of various sediment trap sizes and placements, construction of sediment traps with and without maintenance, and monitoring the effectiveness of sediment reduction utilizing both partial and complete closures at sites of suspected sediment inputs. Alternative methods will also be evaluated for water introduction and include; diverse configurations of water inputs (sinuous, straight, length and depth), improvements to existing natural and manmade inlets, reopening natural and man-made inputs, and siting of bank shavings to reduce barriers to water input. In addition, various sizes, numbers and placement of gaps in existing canal banks, ridges and other internal circulation impediments will be considered in the alternatives.

3. Scoping Process. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process directs Federal agencies that have made a decision to prepare an environmental impact statement to engage in a public scoping process. The scoping process is designed to provide an early and open means of determining the scope of issues (problems, needs, and opportunities) to be identified and addressed in the draft environmental impact assessment, which in this case is a DSEIS.

Scoping is the process used to: (a) Identify the affected public and agency concerns; (b) facilitate an efficient DSEIS preparation process; (c) define the issues and alternatives that will be examined in detail in the DSEIS; (d) and save time in the overall process by helping to ensure that the draft statements adequately address relevant issues. Scoping is a process, not an event or a meeting. It continues throughout the planning process for a DSEIS and may involve meetings, telephone conversations, and/or written comments. Scoping comments will be compiled, analyzed, and utilized in the plan formulation process. A scoping report, summarizing the comments, will be made available to all scoping participants in the initial scoping meetings and included in the public involvement appendix of the final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS).

a. Public Involvement. Scoping is a critical component of the overall public involvement program. An intensive public involvement program will continue throughout the study to solicit input from affected Federal, state, and local agencies, native American tribes, and other interested parties. This public input will be obtained through a series of scoping meetings open to the general public. In addition to these meetings there will be additional continual public involvement through the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Division's Atchafalaya Basin Advisory Committee meetings on Water Management. CEMVN personnel actively participate, contribute, and utilize information obtained from these meetings. CEMVN personnel will be available for additional informational meetings if needed or requested by various interested and or affected public, private and conservation interests such as: Landowners, oil and gas interests, commercial and recreational hunters and fishers, forestry interests, and the Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society or other conservation organizations.

Significant Issues: The tentative list of resources and issues to be evaluated in the EIS includes forested wetlands

(includes cypress/tupelo swamp as well as infrequently inundated areas of ash, oak, elm, hackberry and cypress), water quality, aquatic resources, commercial and recreational fisheries, wildlife resources, essential fish habitat, water quality, air quality, threatened and endangered species, recreation resources, and cultural resources. Socioeconomic items to be evaluated in the EIS include employment, land use, property values, public/community facilities and services, community and regional growth, transportation, housing, community cohesion, and noise.

Ineragency Coordination. The Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), will provide a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report. Coordination will be maintained with the USFWS regarding threatened and endangered species. Coordination will be maintained with the National Resources Conservation Service regarding prime and unique farmlands. Coordination will be maintained with the Advisory Counsel on Historic Preservation and the State Historic Preservation Officer. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources will be consulted regarding consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Act. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will be contacted concerning potential impacts to Natural and Scenic Rivers and Streams. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality will review the action for consistency with applicable laws regarding the discharge of dredged material as it relates to impacting water quality and will provide the State of Louisiana Water Quality Certification.

d. Environmental Consultation and Review. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be assisting in the documentation of existing conditions and assessment of effects of project alternatives through Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act consultation procedures. The USFWS will provide a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act report. Consultation will be accomplished with the USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concerning threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat. The NMFS will be consulted on the effects of this proposed action on Essential Fish Habitat. The DSEIS or a notice of its availability will be distributed to all interested agencies, organizations, and individuals.

4. Three public scoping meetings are to be scheduled in 2004. Based on available funding the tentative meeting locations will be Baton Rouge, Lafayette and St. Martinville, LA. Exact dates and

meeting facility will be announced by public notice at a later date. The purpose of the scoping meeting is to provide the agencies and the interested public with the initial conceptual designs, preliminary designs known and designs under consideration for the proposed water management project for the Buffalo Cove Management Unit and issues concerning its construction and operation.

5. *Estimated Date of Availability.* Funding levels will dictate the date when the DEIS is available. The earliest that the DEIS is expected to be available is in the fall of 2006.

Dated: July 4, 2004.

Peter J. Rowan,

Colonel, U.S. Army, District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 04-16229 Filed 7-15-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, 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 September 14, 2004.

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 Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that 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. 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 Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: July 12, 2004.

Angela C. Arrington,

Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Projects with Industry Compliance Indicator Form and Annual Evaluation Plan.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:

Responses: 350.

Burden Hours: 13,500.

Abstract: The Projects with Industry compliance indicators are based on program regulations. The regulations: (1) Require that each grant application include a projected average cost per placement for the project (Section 379.21(c)); (2) designate two compliance indicators as "primary" and three compliance indicators as "secondary" (379.51(b) and (c)); (3) require a project to pass the two "primary" compliance indicators and any two of the three "secondary" compliance indicators to receive a continuation award (§ 379.50); and (4) change the minimum performance levels for three of the compliance indicators (§ 379.53(a)(1)—Placement Rate; § 379.53(a)(2)—Average Change in Earnings; and § 379.53(b)(3)—Average Cost per Placement). Section 379.21 of the program regulations contains the specific information the applicant must include in its grant application.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2588. When you access the information collection, click on

"Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202-4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the Internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to 202-245-6621. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be directed to Sheila Carey at her e-mail address Sheila.Carey@ed.gov.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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