

Dated: January 31, 2006.

**Susan K. Brown,**

*Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Architecture, Engineering and Technical Services, Data Architecture and Services Division.*

[FR Doc. E6-1560 Filed 2-3-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Armed Forces Epidemiological Board; Meeting

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of partially-closed meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 10(1)(2) of Public Law 92-463. The Federal Advisory Committee Act, announcement is made of the following meeting:

*Name of Committee:* Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB).

*Dates:* March 7, 2006 (Closed meeting). March 8, 2006 (Open meeting).

*Times:* 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (March 7, 2006). 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. (March 8, 2006).

*Location:* U.S. Army Medical Research and Material Command Headquarters Building, Bldg. 810, Room B18, Fort Detrick, MD (March 7, 2006) and U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, 1425 Porter Street, Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5011.

*Agenda:* The purpose of the meeting is to address pending and new board issues, provide briefings for Board members on topics related to ongoing and new Board issues, conduct subcommittee meetings, and conduct an executive working session.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Colonel Roger Gibson, Executive Secretary, Armed Forces Epidemiological Board, Skyline Six, 5109 Leesburg Pike, Room 682, Falls Church, VA 220414-3258, (703) 681-8012/3.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the interest of national security, and in accordance with Title 5, United States Code (U.S.C.) Appendix 2, Section 10(d) and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1), March 7, 2006 may be closed to the public. In addition, any classified portions of the meeting minutes may be withheld from public disclosure in accordance with 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, Section 10(b) and 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(1). The session on March 8, 2006 will be open to the public in accordance with Section 552b(c) of Title 5, U.S.C., specifically subparagraph (1) thereof

and Title 5, U.S.C., appendix 1, subsection 10(d). Open sessions of the meeting will be limited by space accommodations. Any interested person may attend, appear before or file statements with the committee at the time and in the manner permitted by the committee.

**Brenda. S. Bowen,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 06-1053 Filed 2-3-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3710-08-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Intent To Prepare a Programmatic Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report for the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Study, Los Angeles, CA

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The study area is located within the Los Angeles Basin on a broad alluvial plain flanked by the Santa Monica Mountains, to the west, and by the San Gabriel Mountains to the northeast. The Los Angeles River flows from the headwaters of Bell Creek and Calabasas Creek in the San Fernando Valley community of Canoga Park southeast through the San Fernando Valley some 35 miles to downtown Los Angeles. From there it continues in a southerly direction until it empties into the Pacific Ocean at Long Beach. The specific study area comprises the 32 miles of the River within the City of Los Angeles that extends from Owensmouth Avenue, in the upper reaches of northwest San Fernando Valley, to the border of the City of Vernon, at the southern end of Downtown Los Angeles. The study proposes to consider a range of activities to restore riparian and aquatic habitat, and related habitat functions, in and adjacent to the Los Angeles River. Compatible activities to conserve cultural resources, and to provide recreational and interpretive amenities, will also be considered.

*Purpose:* The purpose of this study is to identify a range of opportunities to improve the general environment of the Los Angeles River through ecosystem restoration and related measures. The study area includes several locations where potential exists for restoring a more natural riverine environment along the Los Angeles River, while maintaining and improving levels of flood protection. Creation of treatment

wetlands in and around the river, to treat effluent river flows and to restore missing linkages of fragmented habitat, would also be pursued. Restored areas would provide natural riparian habitat to support indigenous wildlife and avifauna along a corridor transecting most of the San Fernando Valley, and extending into downtown Los Angeles. Other purposes include provision of public access to the river, identification of incidental recreation space, and delineation of trails. Site-specific Environmental Impact Statement-Environment Impact Reports (EIS/EIR) would be prepared in the future to evaluate and document individual projects that may result from this study. **ADDRESSES:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Environmental Resources Branch, CESPL-PD-RN, 915 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90017. Attention to Randy Tabije, Ecosystem Planning.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Randy Tabije, Environmental Coordinator, (213) 452-3871 or e-mail at [Roland.R.Tabije@usace.army.mil](mailto:Roland.R.Tabije@usace.army.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

1. *Authorization.* The proposed feasibility study was authorized under Congressional Resolution, which reads as follows:

Senate Resolution, approved 25 June 1969, reading in part: "Resolved by the Committee on Public Works of the United States Senate, that the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, created under section 3 of the River and Harbor Act, approved June 13, 1902, be, and is hereby requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and Ballona Creek, California, published as House Document Numbered 838, Seventy-sixth Congress, and other pertinent reports, with a view to determining whether any modifications contained herein are advisable at the present time, in the resources in the Los Angeles County Drainage Area."

2. *Background.* The Los Angeles River is subject to serious flooding and experienced two major floods in the 1930's that caused substantial loss of life and substantial property damage. During the late 1930's, in response, the Federal Government constructed the concrete flood control channel in the Los Angeles River. The City of Los Angeles and other local agencies have expressed interest and early support for a feasibility study that would evaluate the potential for restoration of environmental resources on the Los Angeles River.

3. *Proposed Objectives.* The proposed objectives are as follows:

a. Restore a more natural riverine environment along the river.

b. Improve water quality by developing treatment wetlands to treat effluent river flows.

c. Restore and re-connect fragmented wetland habitats.

d. Within the Los Angeles Basin, maintain and improve current levels of flood protection.

e. Protect the community's cultural and historic resources along this reach of the River, while improving connectivity and public access to historical and cultural sites in this area.

f. Visually improve the River's scenic values through environmental restoration.

g. Improve linkages to existing recreational features in the vicinity of the River, and enhance open space along the River.

h. Better manage, optimize and conserve water resources.

i. Restore, protect, and augment habitat quality, quantity, and connectivity. Based on these objectives, the programmatic EIS/EIR would evaluate a range of potential alternative sites as a basis for selecting site specific improvements.

4. *Scoping Process.* a. Potential impacts associated with the proposed action will be evaluated. Resource categories that will be analyzed include: land use, physical environment, geology, biological resources, agricultural resources, air quality, ground water, recreational usage, aesthetics, cultural resources, transportation, communications, hazardous waste, socioeconomics and safety.

b. Participation of affected Federal, State and local resource agencies, native American groups and concerned interest groups/individuals is encouraged in the scoping process. Time and location of the Public Scoping meetings will be announced by means of letters, public announcements and news releases. Public participation will be especially important in defining the scope of analysis in the EIS/EIR, identifying potentially significant environmental issues, and obtaining relevant published and unpublished data, gathering personal input on relevant issues, and identifying acceptable mitigative measures for proposed actions. Those interested in providing information or data relevant to the environmental or social impacts to be included or considered in the environmental analysis can furnish this information by writing to the points of contact indicated above, or by attending a public scoping meeting. A mailing list will also be established so pertinent data may be distributed to interested parties.

Dated: January 27, 2006.

**Mark R. Blackburn,**

*Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Deputy District Engineer.*

[FR Doc. 06-1052 Filed 2-3-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3710-KF-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Estuary Habitat Restoration Council; Open Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of open meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with section 105(h) of the Estuary Restoration Act of 2000, (Title I, Pub. L. 106-457), announcement is made of the forthcoming meeting of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council. The meeting is open to the public.  
**DATES:** The meeting will be held February 21, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be in room 3M60/70 in the GAO building located at 441 G Street, NW., Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Ellen Cummings, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, DC 20314-1000, (202) 761-4750; or Ms. Cynthia Garman-Squier, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), Washington, DC, (703) 695-6791.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Estuary Habitat Restoration Council consists of representatives of five agencies. These are the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Agriculture, and Army. The duties of the Council include soliciting, reviewing, and evaluating project proposals, and submitting to the Secretary of the Army a prioritized list of projects recommended for construction.

Agenda topics will include decisions on recommending additional proposals to the Secretary of the Army for funding, a brief update on projects previously recommended, a discussion of minor changes to be incorporated in the next solicitation for proposals, and a report on the habitat trends report produced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Current security measures require that persons interested in attending the meeting must pre-register with use

before 2 p.m. February 16, 2006. We cannot guarantee access for requests received after that time. Please contact Ellen Cummings to pre-register. When leaving a voice mail message please provide the name of the individual attending, the company or agency represented, and a telephone number, in case there are any questions. The public should enter on the "G" Street side of the GAO building. All attendees are required to show photo identification and must be escorted to the meeting room by Corps personnel. Attendee's bags and other possessions are subject to being searched. All attendees arriving between one-half hour before and one-half hour after 10 a.m. will be escorted to the meeting. Those who are not pre-registered and/or arriving later than the allotted time will be unable to attend the public meeting.

**Brenda S. Bowen,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 06-1050 Filed 2-3-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710-92-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Recognition of Accrediting Agencies, State Agencies for the Approval of Public Postsecondary Vocational Education, and State Agencies for the Approval of Nurse Education

**AGENCY:** National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, Department of Education (The Advisory Committee).

#### What Is the Purpose of This Notice?

The purpose of this notice is to invite written comments on accrediting agencies and State approval agencies whose applications to the Secretary for renewed recognition, requests for an expansion of the scope of recognition, or reports will be reviewed at the Advisory Committee meeting to be held on June 5-7, 2006, at the Hilton Arlington Hotel, 950 North Stafford Street, Arlington, Virginia.

#### Where Should I Submit My Comments?

Please submit your written comments by mail, fax, or e-mail no later than March 8, 2006 to Ms. Robin Greathouse, Accreditation and State Liaison. You may contact her at the U.S. Department of Education, Room 7105, MS 8509, 1990 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006, telephone: (202) 219-7011, fax: (202) 219-7005, or e-mail: [Robin.Greathouse@ed.gov](mailto:Robin.Greathouse@ed.gov). Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.