

the 30-day public comment period. The final step involves, for the Federal EIS, preparing a Record of Decision (ROD) and, for the state EIR, certifying the EIR and adopting a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan. The ROD is a concise summary of the decisions made by the Corps from among the alternatives presented in the FEIS/EIR. The ROD can be published immediately after the FEIS public comment period ends. A certified EIR indicates that the environmental document adequately assesses the environmental impacts of the proposed project with respect to CEQA. A formal scoping meeting to solicit public comment and concerns on the proposed action and alternatives will be held on January 10, 2002 at 7 p.m., in the Multipurpose Room (1 & 2) in the San Clemente Senior Center, 242 Avenue Del Mar, San Clemente, California.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, Ventura County, CA

AGENCY: Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Los Angeles District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will prepare a DEIS to support the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, Ventura County, California. The study area is the Matilija Dam area and downstream to the Ventura River Estuary. This study will investigate feasible alternatives to restore the Matilija Creek riverine ecosystem, primarily by removing Matilija Dam. Also, feasible alternatives for the removal of sediment behind the dam and the beneficial use of that sediment will be investigated.

The DEIS will analyze the potential impacts (beneficial and adverse) on the environment of a range of alternatives, including the proposed action and the no action alternative. The Los Angeles District and the Ventura County Flood Control District will cooperate in conducting this feasibility study.

ADDRESSES: District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, ATTN: CESPL-PD-RQ (R.

Farve), P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, California 90053-2325.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rey Farve, Environmental Coordinator, telephone (213) 452-3864, or Mr. Jonathan Vivanti, Study Manager, telephone (213) 452-3809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Authorization

This feasibility study was authorized by U.S. House of Representatives Committee Resolution on Transportation and Infrastructure (Docket 2593), dated April 15, 1999, which states, in part: "that the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Ventura River, Ventura County, California, published as House Document 323, 77th Congress, 1st Session, and other pertinent reports, with a view to determining whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at this time, in the interest of environmental restoration and protection, and related purposes, with particular attention to restoring anadromous fish populations on Matilija Creek and returning natural sand replenishment to Ventura and other Southern California beaches."

2. Background

Matilija Dam is located on Matilija Creek, a tributary of the Ventura River, approximately 16 miles upstream from the Pacific Ocean. The dam is located in Ventura County California, approximately 7 miles and 25 miles from the Cities of Ojai and Ventura, California, respectively. The feasibility study area currently includes the Matilija Dam and the area immediately upstream, and downstream of the dam to the Ventura River Estuary. The non-federal sponsor of the feasibility study is the Ventura County Flood Control District.

Matilija Dam was constructed in the late 1940's by Ventura County Flood Control to provide water storage for agricultural needs. Matilija Dam is a concrete arch structure 190 feet in height with an arc length of 620 feet at its crest. Sediment carried by Matilija Creek has deposited behind the dam and filled the reservoir, rendering the structure useless as a water storage facility. It is estimated that 6,000,000 cubic yards of sediment lies trapped behind the dam.

The dam no longer provides any flood control protection due to sedimentation behind the dam. There is some continued water supply use. The Casitas Municipal Water District currently operates the dam under a lease

agreement from the County of Ventura, which expires in 2009. The operation is an integral part of the Robles/Casitas Reservoir water supply facilities and is estimated to currently contribute approximately 400 acre-feet of water per year. This water function, however, is projected to diminish rapidly as the reservoir continues to fill with sediments, and is expected to effectively cease by 2010 after the reservoir fills completely with sediment.

Presently, the dam is considered to be a major contributor to the declining numbers of steelhead trout in Matilija Creek. If no action is taken to secure passage for the steelhead trout to reach the upper watershed and its tributaries, the dam will continue to obstruct this endangered species, thereby limiting the amount of spawning and rearing habitat. In addition, the dam would continue to act as a barrier for wildlife movement for other terrestrial and aquatic species.

3. Alternatives

The feasibility study will focus on addressing the problems and needs caused by Matilija Dam with the primary objective of the feasibility study being to restore the Matilija Creek riverine ecosystem. Other objectives that are considered appropriate may involve possible beneficial use of the sediment behind the dam for beach nourishment or other environmental restoration.

In general, alternative plans will investigate reasonable alternatives to restore Matilija Creek, primarily by removing Matilija Dam. Feasible alternatives for the removal of sediment behind the dam and the beneficial use of that sediment will also be investigated. Significant beneficial impacts to the riverine ecosystem (especially to steelhead trout) are expected from restoration alternatives identified in the feasibility study.

4. Scoping Process

Participation of all interested Federal, State, and County agencies, groups with environmental interests, and any interested individuals are encouraged. Public involvement will be most beneficial and worthwhile in identifying the scope of pertinent, significant environmental issues to be addressed, identifying and eliminating from detailed study issues that are not significant, offering useful information such as published or unpublished data, providing direct personal experience or knowledge which informs decision making, and recommending suitable mitigation measures to offset potential impacts from the proposed action or alternatives.

A public scoping meeting is scheduled at the Ventura County Hall of Administration, County Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 at 7 pm on January 31, 2002. The purpose of the scoping meeting will be to gather information from the general public or interested organizations about issues and concerns that they would like to see addressed in the DEIS. Comments may be delivered in writing or verbally at the meeting or sent in writing to the Los Angeles District at the address given above. The scoping period will conclude March 12, 2002.

5. Availability of the DEIS

The DEIS is expected to be available to the public for review and comment beginning in the winter of 2004.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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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 for the Ventura Harbor Sand Bypass System and Regional Beneficial Reuse Feasibility Study, Ventura, CA

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Corps and the Ventura Port District propose to evaluate a sand bypassing system and other measures to improve maintenance of Federal harbors in the Ventura/Santa Barbara County area for more efficient operations and beneficial uses of the dredged material for storm damage protection and environmental restoration and enhancement.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions regarding the scoping process or preparation of the EIS/EIR may be directed to Mr. Paul Rose, Chief, Environmental Resources Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, California, 90053-2325, (213) 452-3840.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Proposed Action

For the Sand Bypassing component of the study, the purpose of the report shall focus on the alternatives for the sand bypassing system needed for

accommodating the annual required dredge volume.

For the Regional Beneficial Use component, the purpose is to provide beneficial uses of the material for the Ventura County region for a proposed sand bypassing system at Ventura Harbor, California. The report shall be based on the Ventura Harbor Sand Bypass Regional Beneficial Uses Reconnaissance Report (Los Angeles District, 1997), to modify the existing federal navigation project for the purpose of providing regional uses of the dredged material for storm damage protection, environmental restoration and enhancement, and other beneficial uses.

Ventura Harbor is a small craft commercial and recreational harbor located approximately one hundred (100) kilometers northwest of the City of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles District currently maintains navigable channels by dredging an entrance channel and several sand traps outside of the harbor. The two (2) primary sand traps have a total capacity of approximately 640,000 m³ and are located at the seaward end of the entrance channel and adjacent to the upcoast side of the North Jetty. Presently the Los Angeles District maintenance project is designed to dredge every two (2) years at an estimated dredge quantity of 615,000 m³ per episode. Due to annual budgetary constraints, the Los Angeles District, in practice, maintains the entrance channel and sand traps on a yearly basis, removing on the average approximately 535,000 m³ of sand per dredging episode. Fiscal year 2000 dredging resulted in the removal of approximately 140,000 m³ from the navigation channel and channel trap, and approximately 320,000 m³ from sand trap adjacent to the North Jetty. The dredged sands have historically been placed directly onto McGrath State Beach, in the nearshore environment adjacent to McGrath State Beach, directly onto South Beach, or, on a few occasions, onto the upcoast groin field cell.

2. Alternatives

Alternatives that may be considered include selection of various disposal sites as well as various sites and dredging methodologies for the dredging side of the bypass system, continued use of periodic dredging with beach/nearshore disposal, and no-project.

3. Scoping Process

The Corps and the Ventura Port District are preparing a joint Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR)

to address potential impacts associated with the proposed project. The Corps is the Lead Federal Agency for compliance with NEPA for the project, and the Ventura Port District is the Lead State Agency for compliance with the CEQA for the non-Federal aspects of the project. The Draft EIS/EIR (DEIS/EIR) document will incorporate public concerns in the analysis of impacts associated with the Proposed Action and associated project alternatives. The DEIS/EIR will be sent out for a 45-day public review period, during which time both written and verbal comments will be solicited on the adequacy of the document. The Final EIS/EIR (FEIS/EIR) will address the comments received on the DEIS/EIR during public review, and will be furnished to all who commented on the DEIS/EIR, and is made available to anyone that requests a copy during the 30-day public comment period. The final step involves, for the federal EIS, preparing a Record of Decision (ROD) and, for the state EIR, certifying the EIR and adopting a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan. The ROD is a concise summary of the decisions made by the Corps from among the alternatives presented in the FEIS/EIR. The ROD can be published immediately after the FEIS public comment period ends. A certified EIR indicates that the environmental document adequately assesses the environmental impacts of the proposed project with respect to CEQA. A formal scoping meeting to solicit public comment and concerns on the proposed action and alternatives will be held on January 8, 2002, at 6:00 P.M., in the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center, 1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, California.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB); Open Meeting

AGENCY: Office of The Surgeon General, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 10(a)(2) of Pub. L. 92-463, The Federal Advisory Committee Act, this announces the forthcoming AFEB meeting. This Board will meet from 0730-1630 on Tuesday, 19 February 2002, and 0730-1300 on Wednesday, 20 February 2002. The purpose of the