

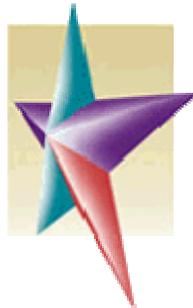
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
MODIFICATION TO THE FEDERAL FORT WORTH FLOODWAY PROJECT FOR
TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT'S DOWNTOWN CAMPUS BRIDGE
TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

APPENDIX C – AGENCY COORDINATION

PREPARED FOR
UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FORT WORTH DISTRICT

BY

TARRANT COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT





REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

November 1, 2007

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

Mr. Marcus Redford, P.E.
Chief, Bridge Administration Branch
United States Coast Guard
500 Poydras Street, Room 1313
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Dear Mr. Redford:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the modification of Federal levees along the north and south banks of the Trinity River adjacent to the Main Street Viaduct Bridge in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. These modifications are in conjunction with the proposed construction of a new college campus by the Tarrant County College District (TCCD). A location map of the general project area is enclosed for your reference.

As outlined in the preferred TCCD design, a pedestrian bridge would be constructed spanning the West Fork of the Trinity River along with two proposed buildings that would extend over the existing levee into the West Fork of the Trinity River floodway. The construction would include piers within the floodway, a levee template to support the pedestrian bridge and building structures, and a 400-foot diaphragm wall to ensure the integrity of the flood reduction project. Design alternatives for the proposed levee modifications have been evaluated to minimize the impacts to the flood damage reduction project.

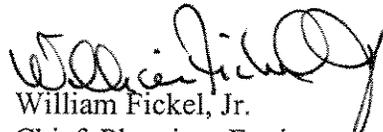
The implementation of the bridge and the proposed layout of the campus are such that the bridge would require modifications to the existing levee system located on the north side of the river. These modifications require approval under 33 USC 408. Under this title, temporary or permanent alteration, occupation, or use of any public works, including levees, for any purpose is strictly prohibited without the permission of the Secretary of the Army. Under the terms of 33 USC 408, any proposed levee modification requires a determination by the Secretary that the proposed alteration, permanent occupation, or use of a federal project is not injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the levee. The authority to make this determination and approve modifications to federal works under 33 USC 408 has been delegated to the Chief of Engineers, USACE.

Construction of the bridge may occur over navigable water of the United States, and thus may require a Coast Guard Permit. As part of our coordination efforts we are requesting your agency's assistance in determining if a permit is required. We would appreciate your assistance and input by December 03, 2007.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, a Public Scoping Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 9, 2007, at the Rose Marine Theater in Fort Worth, Texas. Initial public comments and input were received on the proposed project and NEPA process. It is anticipated that a Draft EA will be available for public review later this fall.

We appreciate your assistance in meeting the regulatory obligations for this proposed project. Should you have any questions, comments or require additional information, please feel free to contact Mr. Jerry Smiley at (214) 672-2842; Address: Lopez/Garcia Group, 1950 North Stemmons Freeway, Suite 6000, Dallas, Texas 75207 or Mr. Heath McLane of my staff at (817) 886-1849; Address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CESWF-PER-R (Heath McLane), P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300.

Sincerely,



William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental, and
Regulatory Division

Enclosure

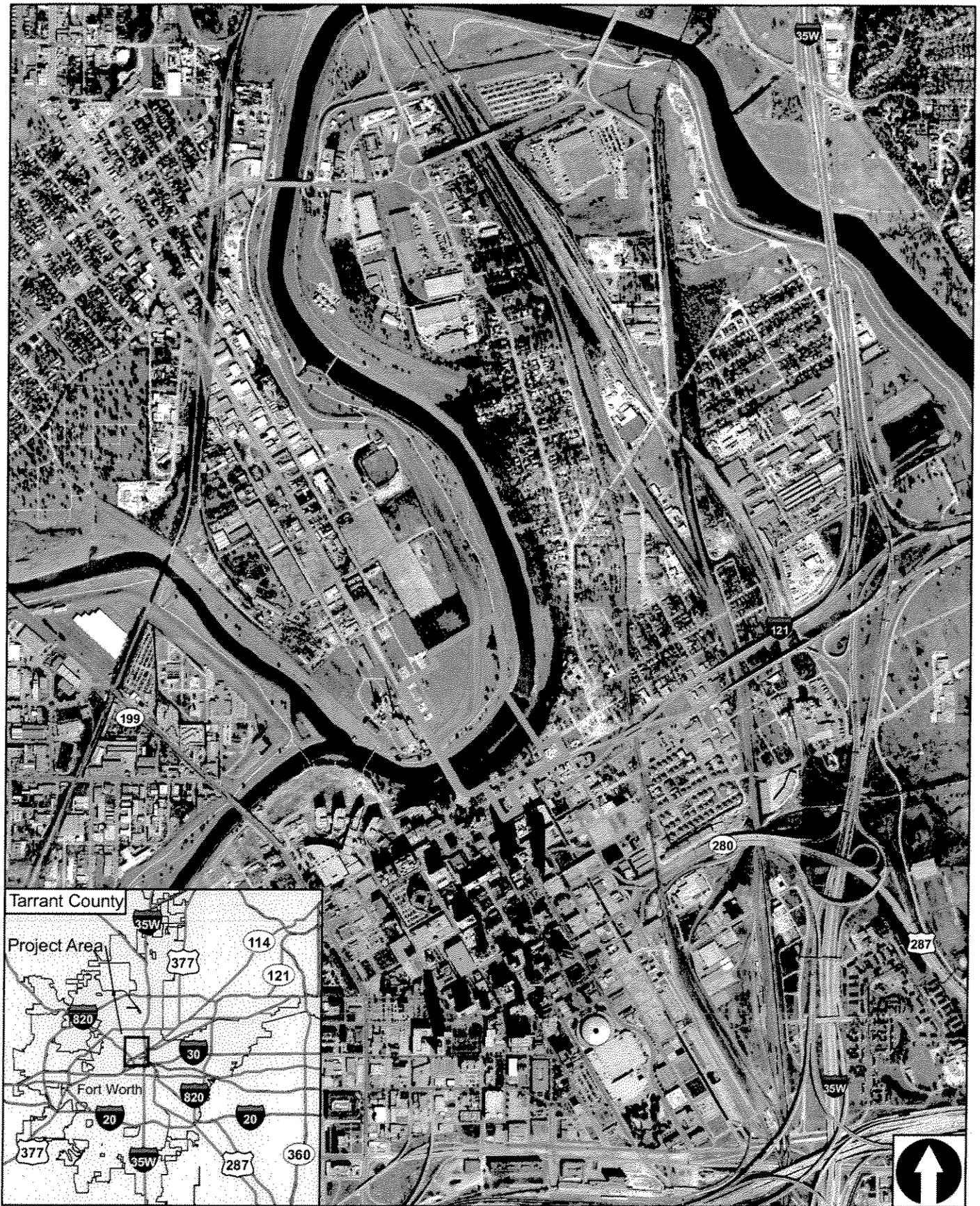


Figure 1 - Project Location Map

TCCD Environmental Assessment

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

Legend

 Project Area



Sources: U.S. Geological Survey, NCTCOG



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

November 1, 2007

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

Ms. Celeste Brancel-Brown
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program -- Threatened and Endangered Species
3000 South IH-35, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78704

Dear Ms. Brancel-Brown:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the modification of Federal levees along the north and south banks of the Trinity River adjacent to the Main Street Viaduct Bridge in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. These modifications are in conjunction with the proposed construction of a new college campus by the Tarrant County College District (TCCD). A location map of the general project area is enclosed for your reference.

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The implementation of the bridge and the proposed layout of the campus are such that the bridge would require modifications to the existing levee system located on the north side of the river. These modifications require approval under 33 USC 408. Under this title, temporary or permanent alteration, occupation, or use of any public works, including levees, for any purpose is strictly prohibited without the permission of the Secretary of the Army. Under the terms of 33 USC 408, any proposed levee modification requires a determination by the Secretary that the proposed alteration, permanent occupation, or use of a federal project is not injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the levee. The authority to make this determination and approve modifications to federal works under 33 USC 408 has been delegated to the Chief of Engineers, USACE.

Field work is being conducted to identify habitat for threatened and endangered species and to determine potential project impacts to identified resources. As part of the impact evaluation, we are requesting information on parkland resources, listed or potential species, and critical habitat in the project vicinity. A formal request for Rare Resource Review has been submitted, but we would appreciate your input by December 3, 2007 to complement our efforts during this phase of work.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, a Public Scoping Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 9, 2007, at the Rose Marine Theater in Fort Worth, Texas. Initial public comments and input were received on the proposed project and NEPA process. It is anticipated that a Draft EA will be available for public review later this fall.

We appreciate your assistance in meeting the regulatory obligations for this proposed project. Should you have any questions, comments or require additional information, please feel free to contact Mr. Jerry Smiley at (214) 672-2842; Address: Lopez/Garcia Group, 1950 North Stemmons Freeway, Suite 6000, Dallas, Texas 75207 or Mr. Heath McLane of my staff at (817) 886-1849; Address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CESWF-PER-R, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300.

Sincerely,



William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental, and
Regulatory Division

Enclosure

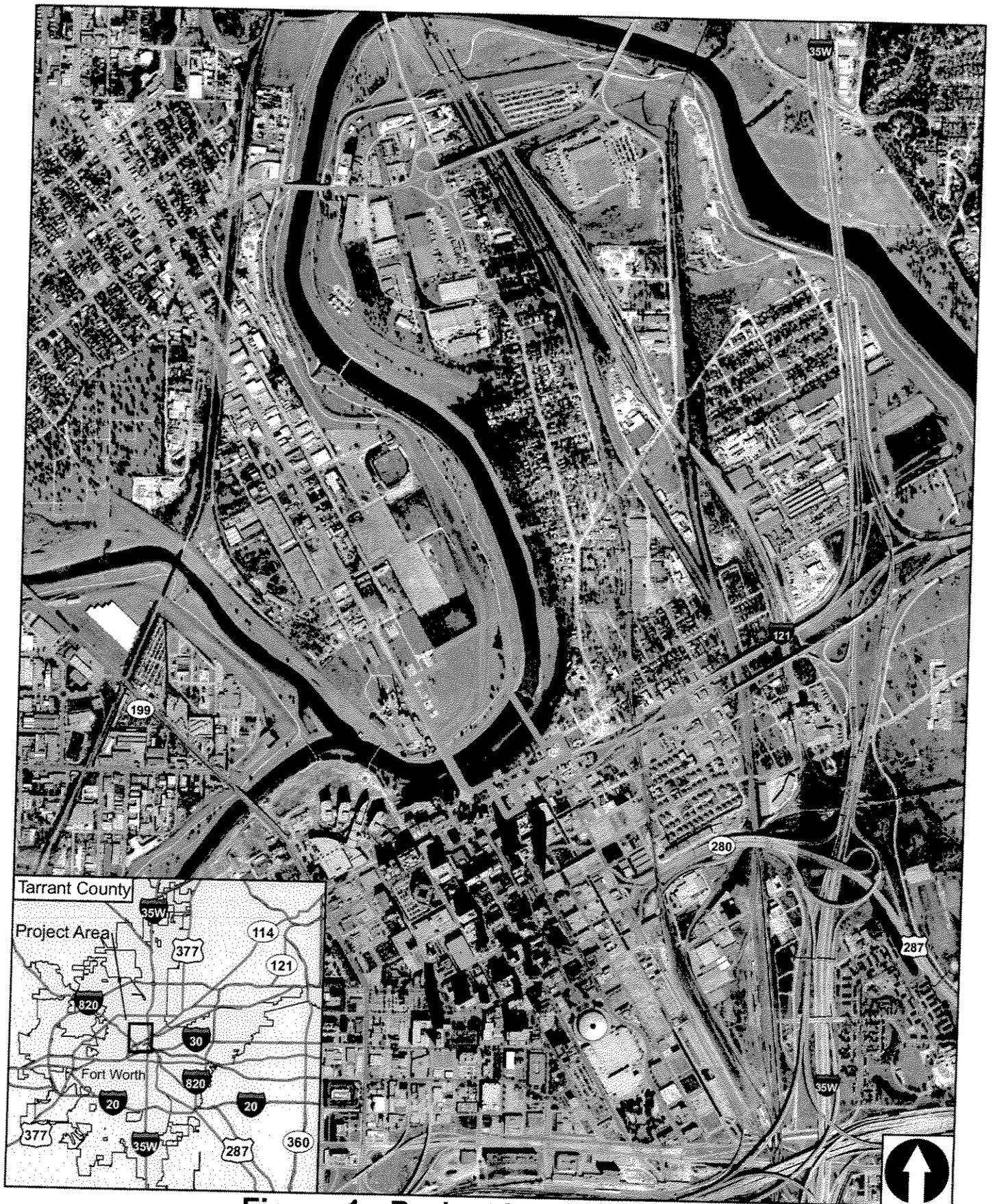


Figure 1 - Project Location Map

TCCD Environmental Assessment

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

Legend

 Project Area



Sources: U.S. Geological Survey, NCTCOG



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300
November 1, 2007

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

Mr. Thomas Cloud, Jr.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arlington Ecological Service Office
Winsystems Center Building
711 Stadium Drive, Suite 252
Arlington, Texas 76011-6247

Dear Mr. Cloud:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the modification of Federal levees along the north and south banks of the Trinity River adjacent to the Main Street Viaduct Bridge in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. These modifications are in conjunction with the proposed construction of a new college campus by the Tarrant County College District (TCCD). A location map of the general project area is enclosed for your reference.

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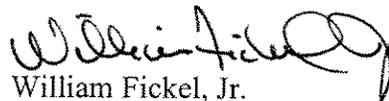
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project vicinity. We would appreciate your input by December 03, 2007 to complement our efforts during this phase of work..

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Sincerely,



William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental, and
Regulatory Division

Enclosure

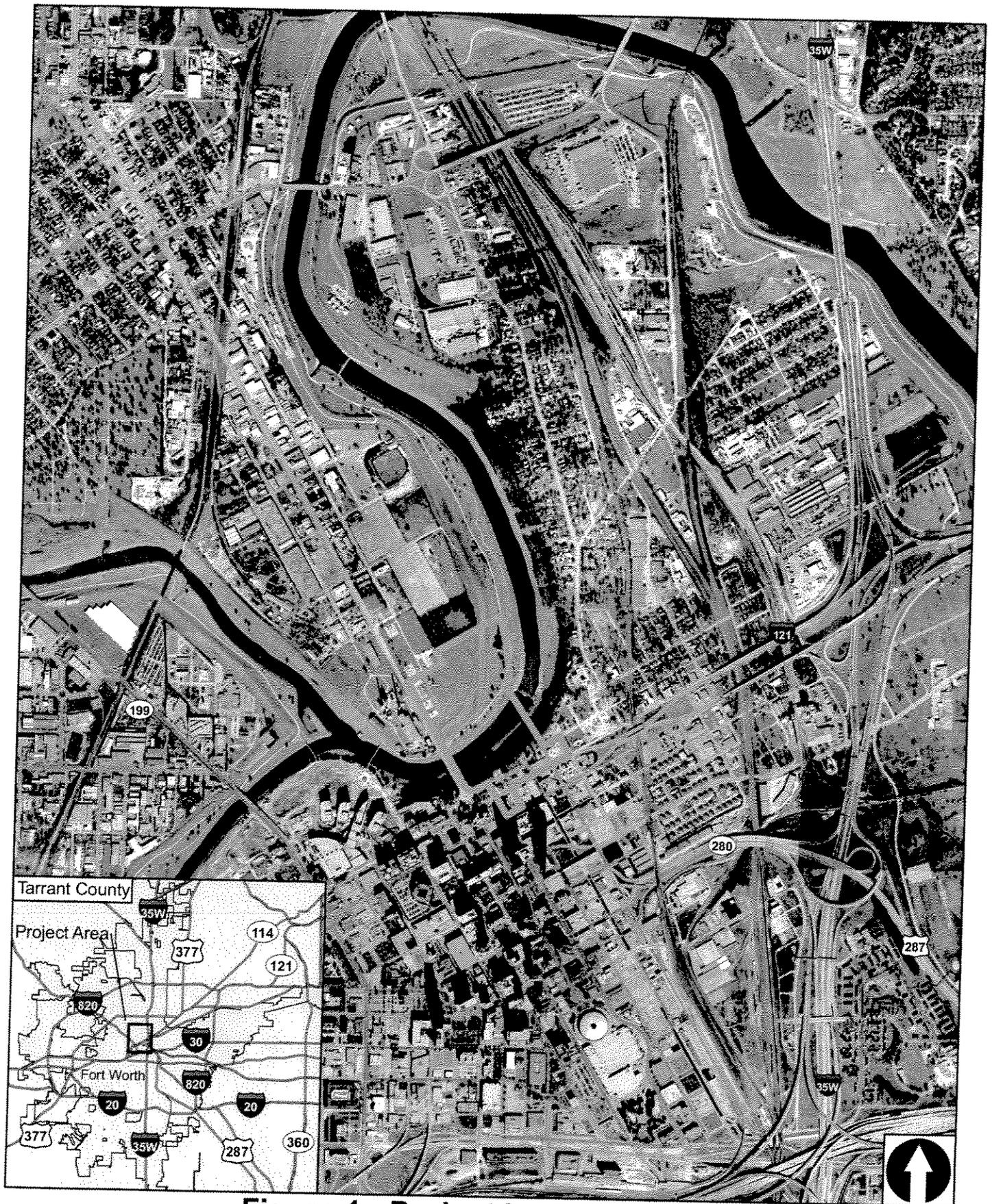


Figure 1 - Project Location Map

TCCD Environmental Assessment

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

Legend

 Project Area



Sources: U.S. Geological Survey, NCTCOG

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Eighth Coast Guard District
Hale Boggs Federal Building

500 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130-3310
Staff Symbol: (dpp)
Phone: (504) 671-2128
Fax: (504) 671-2133

16591C
November 20, 2007

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DIST., CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ATTN CESWF-PER-P (HEATH MCLANE)
PO BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

Dear Mr. McLane:

We have received a letter dated November 1, 2007 concerning a pedestrian bridge spanning the West Fork of the Trinity River, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas.

At the site of the proposed project, West Fork of the Trinity River is not influenced by tidal action. It is not used for commercial navigation nor is it susceptible to use for commercial navigation by reasonable improvement. No commercial facilities exist along the waterway, nor is there a likelihood that future commercial development will occur. Therefore, the waterway, at the proposed project site, meets the criteria for the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1982, Public Law 97-322 for the construction of bridges. Accordingly, specific Coast Guard Bridge Permits for this crossing will not be required. Furthermore, since no significant nighttime navigation occurs at this location, the structure is exempt from Coast Guard navigational lighting requirements pursuant to Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 118.

Prior to construction of this project, you should check with your local Floodplain Administrator and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure that the proposed project is at an appropriate elevation to pass floodwaters. The bridge shall be maintained free and clear of debris at all times.

Upon construction of this project, maintenance of this bridge is the responsibility of the present or future owner or owners. If the bridge falls into disrepair or if it is no longer used for the intended purpose, it must be removed by and at the expense of the owner in its entirety.

This bridge is subject to future review by the Coast Guard to ensure that conditions do not change which may render this determination invalid. Should construction of this bridge not be commenced within one year and completed within two years from the date of this letter, you must reapply for Coast Guard approval.

16591C
November 20, 2007

This determination does not relieve you of your responsibility to obtain appropriate permits from any other federal or state and local agencies having jurisdiction in this matter.

Please feel free to contact us if you need any additional information or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David M. Frank".

DAVID M. FRANK
Bridge Administrator
U. S. Coast Guard
By direction of the District Commander



November 28, 2007

RECEIVED
DEC 03 2007

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FORT WORTH

ROBERT L. COOK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Heath McLane
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CESWF-PER-R
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300

RE: Levee Modification for Tarrant County College District (Tarrant County)

Dear Mr. McLane:

At the request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA), the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has reviewed the project referenced above for potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources including rare, threatened, and endangered species and their habitat. The project involves levee modifications along the north and south banks of the West Fork Trinity River floodway and would include piers within the floodway, a levee template to support a pedestrian bridge and 2 buildings, and a 400-foot diaphragm wall.

TPWD provides the following recommendations to strengthen the avoidance and minimization actions of the proposed project on natural resources:

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Resources

Determining the actual presence of a species in a given area depends on many variables including daily and seasonal activity cycles, environmental activity cues, preferred habitat, transiency and population density (both wildlife and human). The absence of a species can be demonstrated only with great difficulty and then only with repeated negative observations, taking into account all the variable factors contributing to the lack of detectable presence. If encountered during construction, measures should be taken to avoid impacting wildlife.

The Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD) is intended to assist users in avoiding harm to rare species or significant ecological features. Given the small proportion of public versus private land in Texas, the TXNDD does not include a representative inventory of rare resources in the state. Absence of information in the database does not imply that a species is absent from that area. Although it is based on the best data available to TPWD regarding rare species, the data from the TXNDD do not provide a definitive statement as to the presences, absence or



Take a kid
hunting or fishing

* * *

Visit a state park
or historic site

Heath McLane
Page 2
November 28, 2007

condition of special species, natural communities, or other significant features within your project area. These data are not inclusive and **cannot be used as presence/absence data**. They represent species that could potentially be in your project area. This information cannot be substituted for on-the-ground surveys.

Review of the TXNDD revealed the following known Element Occurrence (EO ID) record near proposed project site:

Special Features and Natural Communities
Colonial Waterbird Rookery

The proposed project, including the construction of the buildings for the campus, has potential to impact roost trees, nest trees, and foraging habitat for colonial waterbirds. The TxNDD indicates that the documented rookery originally included cattle egret, little blue heron, great egret, black-crowned night heron, and snowy egret. Please refer to the attached printout and map for more detailed information regarding the occurrence. The TXNDD is updated continuously based on new, updated and un-digitized records; for questions regarding a specific record, please contact Dorinda Scott at dorinda.scott@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Recommendation. Because the site is situated very near a known occurrence of a colonial waterbird rookery, a survey of the project site should be conducted by qualified personnel to determine the potential of the site to contain suitable nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat for waterbirds. If rookeries or suitable foraging or roosting habitat are present, the applicant should coordinate with USFWS and/or TPWD personnel, as appropriate, to develop an avoidance or mitigation plan.

The TPWD Annotated County Lists of Rare Species are available at http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/maps/gis/ris/endangered_species.ph tml. To obtain the list of special species and their habitats for this and future projects, please choose the access link for Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species of Texas by County. Rare species could potentially be impacted if suitable habitat is present at or near the project site.

Recommendation. The county list should be used as a reference to determine if suitable habitat occurs within the proposed project ROW and to determine if the project would impact the species or habitats.

Recommendation. If rare species or their habitat would be impacted by the proposed project, TPWD should be contacted to determine avoidance, minimization, and mitigation strategies. Further consultation with TPWD would be warranted upon detection of a Texas listed rare, threatened, or

Heath McLane
Page 3
November 28, 2007

endangered species or tracked vegetative community within or near the ROW at any time prior to or during construction and operation of the facilities.

Recommendation. Construction crews should be informed of the species with special status in the project county and should avoid disturbance to sensitive species if encountered during construction. Only personnel with a TPWD scientific collection permit are allowed to handle and move state listed species. For further information on the required permit please contact Becky Beard at (512) 389-4647.

TPWD advises review and implementation of these recommendations. If you have any questions, please contact me at (903) 675-4447.

Sincerely,



Karen B. Hardin
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Wildlife Division

kbh/12774

Enclosure: Element of Occurrence Record and Map

Rare Resource Occurrences (EO ID)
 Proposed Levee Modifications for Tarrant County College District
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 TPWD Project 12774



1 inch equals 0.64 miles



This map is not guaranteed as accurate and was created by TPWD to assist in avoiding and minimizing impacts to rare resources that may occur within the vicinity of the project.

Legend

EO Type

-  Animal Assemblage
-  Invertebrate Animal
-  Nonvascular Plant
-  Terrestrial Community - Other Classification
-  Vascular Plant
-  Vertebrate Animal

Element Occurrence Record

Scientific Name: *Rookery* Occurrence #: 341 Eo Id: 3282
Common Name: TX Protection Status:
Global Rank: GNR State Rank: SNR

Location Information: Latitude: 324542N Longitude: 0971952W

Watershed Code: Watershed Description:
12030102 Lower West Fork Trinity

County Code: County Name: Mapsheet Code: Mapsheet Name: State:
TXTARR Tarrant 32097-G3 Haltom City TX

Directions:

WOODED LOT NEAR INDUSTRIAL PLANT IN CITY; AT INTERSECTION OF BELKNAP AND MAIN STREETS; ALONG WEST FORK TRINITY RIVER

Survey Information:

First Observation: 1974 Survey Date: Last Observation: 1981
Eo Type: EO Rank: EO Rank Date:
Observed Area (acres):

Comments:

General Description: HACKBERRY TREES, 5 METERS

Comments: COLONY NUMBER 555-001

Protection Comments:

Management Comments:

Data:

EO Data: NESTING COLONY OF THE CATTLE EGRET, LITTLE BLUE HERON, GREAT EGRET, BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON, SNOWY EGRET

Site:

Managed Area:

Managed Area Name: Managed Area Type:

Element Occurrence Record

Reference:

Full Citation:

TEXAS COLONIAL WATERBIRD SOCIETY AND TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT. 1981-1985. TEXAS COLONIAL WATERBIRD CENSUS SUMAMRY.

MULLINS, L.M. ET.AL. 1982. ET.SEQ. ATLAS & CENSUS OF TEXAS WATERBIRD COLONIES, 1973-1980. TX COLONIAL WATERBIRD SOCIETY.

WAHL, C. R. ET AL. 1986. SURVEY OF COASTAL WATERBIRD COLONIES ON NATURAL AND MAN-MADE ISLANDS IN THE S. LAGUNA MADRE, TEXAS. 2-6 JUNE 1986.

Specimen:
