



General Investigations Program

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

How it differs from the Continuing Authorities Program

Studies under the General Investigations Program also address water resources issues, but differ in two significant respects from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Continuing Authorities Program (CAP).

- CAP supports smaller and mid-sized projects, with the federal cost share capped at \$10 million (or less).
- CAP programs are authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Although the nationwide program is funded each year by Congress, each project does not require a separate congressional authorization.

General Investigations Program projects are authorized by Congress and generally anticipate a greater federal commitment, should they prove through study to be feasible. Like CAP, General Investigations also addresses flood risk management, navigation, water supply, recreation, and other needs and opportunities.

Through General Investigations Program studies, alternative plans are compared, and favorable and unfavorable characteristics are determined. Costs and benefits of alternative plans are identified, and a specific course of action is recommended to Congress. Congress may then authorize and fund a project for construction. There is no designated limit to the scale, extent or cost of development that can be proposed as a result of the study.

When local interests believe a need exists for construction or improvement of a water resource project, they contact their congressional representative. The senator or representative then



Trinity River flooding on Lamar Street in Dallas, circa 1990, prior to Dallas Floodway Extension Project.

requests the appropriate congressional committee to direct the Corps to study the problem and furnish a recommendation.

General Criteria for General Investigations Project Development

The project must be in the federal interest. The Corps usually cannot study a project unless flood control or navigation is the major need. If that requirement is satisfied, other project purposes may also be considered.

The project must be economically justified. Project benefits must exceed project costs.

It must be environmentally acceptable. The preservation of environmental resources is an integral part of the planning process for any project. For all projects, an assessment of the potential environmental effects is prepared and coordinated with the concerned public and Federal, state and local agencies. For projects with

significant effects, or where controversial matters are involved, a more detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) may be required.

There must be a local sponsor willing to provide the types and levels of assistance required for each different project. Usually that assistance will include the following:

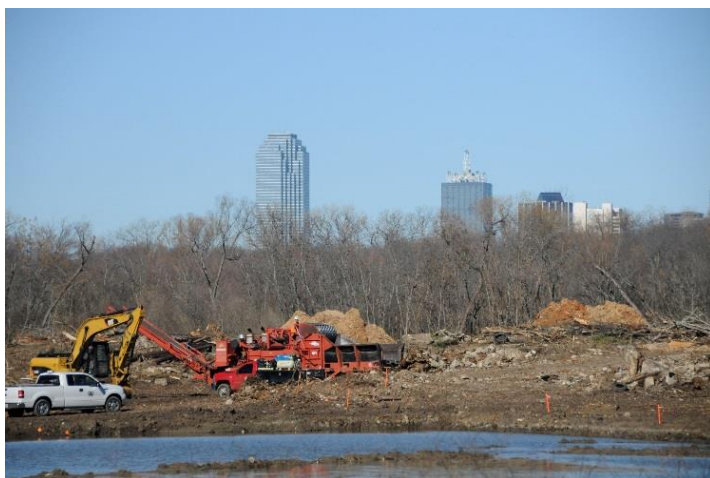
- Providing certain project requirements (*i.e.*, lands, Easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas necessary for the construction, operation and maintenance of the project.
- Sharing costs for project studies and construction, depending on the project purpose.
- Operating and maintaining the project after completion.

Only a phone call is necessary for us to advise you on whether a potential project or study would fall into the General Investigations Program or the Continuing Authorities Program category.

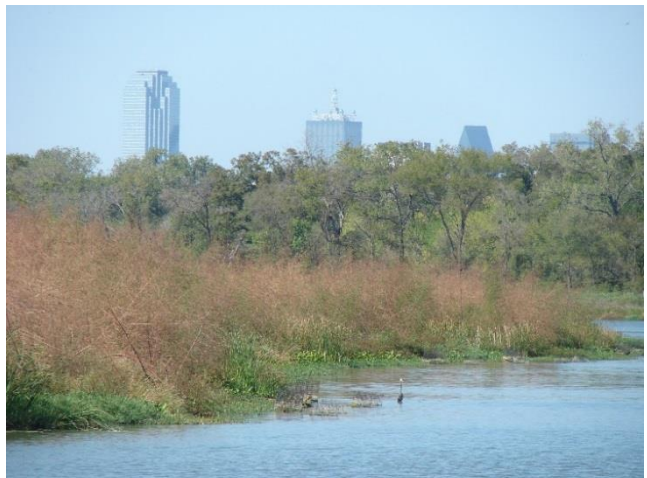
Point of contact: Elston Eckhardt
Fort Worth District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
817-886-1378



Taking soil borings for future Lamar Levee connection to the East Levee, Dallas Floodway Extension Project, Dallas.



Dallas Floodway Extension Project wetlands construction in 2014. Flood risk mitigation was combined with ecosystem restoration and recreation in the project that resulted from the General Investigations Program study.



Wetlands section completed earlier as part of the Dallas Floodway Extension Project in Dallas.