January 8, 2015

Trinity River Corridor Project Office

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY EXTENSION

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, DALLAS FLOODWAY PROJECT
CITY OF DALLAS, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District has prepared and is currently seeking comments on a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) that analyzes the potential effects of implementing proposed flood risk management elements, ecosystem restoration features, recreation enhancement features, interior drainage plan improvements, and other proposed projects in and around the Dallas Floodway, in the City of Dallas, Dallas County, Texas. The public and resource agencies are hereby notified that the comment period for the FEIS for the Dallas Floodway Project is extended to February 2, 2015.

The City of Dallas proposes to implement flood risk management elements, Balanced Vision Plan (BVP) ecosystem and recreation features, and Interior Drainage Plan (IDP) improvements within the Dallas Floodway. The project area is located along the Trinity River from the abandoned Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe bridge upstream to the confluence of the West and Elm Forks, then upstream along the West Fork for approximately 2.2 miles, and upstream along the Elm Fork for about 4 miles.

Section 5141 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114; 121 Stat. 1041), as amended in 2014, provides authorization for implementation of the City of Dallas BVP study and IDP improvements following preparation of required NEPA documentation. This action is in accordance with Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Section 325.2(a)(4), which discusses NEPA procedures and documentation. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to reduce flood risk through flood risk management, enhance ecosystems, and provide greater recreation opportunities within the Dallas Floodway, Dallas, Texas. Flooding events on the Trinity River have historically caused loss of lives and damage to property and structures. Urbanization and past channelization and clearing have significantly degraded the natural terrestrial and aquatic habitat of the Dallas Floodway. Furthermore, the City of Dallas lacks sufficient recreational opportunities for citizens and visitors. Implementation of the Proposed Action is needed to comply with Section 5141 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, as amended.

In addition to the Federal project described above, the City of Dallas has submitted an application for approval of the entire project (BVP and IDP) as a locally sponsored action under the provisions of 33 United States Code Section 408 (Section 408), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA). The Permit Number for this action is SWF-2014-00151.

The proposal will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-332, the Regulatory Program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other pertinent laws, regulations, and executive orders. The evaluation will also follow the guidelines published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section
404(b)(1) of the CWA. The decision whether to approve the project will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposal on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concerns for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered.

The USACE is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposal associated with a potential permit decision. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE in determining whether to issue, issue with conditions, or deny the permit. The extended comment period will also apply to provisions of 33 United States Code Section 408 (Section 408), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA).

Copies of the FEIS may be reviewed at the following locations: 1) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District Website: http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/WaterSustainment/DallasFloodway.aspx.

All written comments must be postmarked on or before February 2, 2015. Comments may be submitted in writing to: Marcia Hackett, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300, or via e-mail to marcia.r.hackett@usace.army.mil.

This project would result in a direct impact of greater than three acres of waters of the state or 1,500 linear feet of streams (or a combination of the two), and as such would not fulfill Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Tier I criteria for the project. Therefore, TCEQ certification is required, and was received on September 22, 2014.

Rob Newman
Director, Trinity River Corridor Project Office