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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

June 24, 2014

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ABLE PUMPING PLANT DALLAS, TEXAS

Description. Interested parties are hereby notified that the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) regarding proposed improvements to the Able Pumping Plant in the City of Dallas, Dallas County, Texas.

Statutory Authority. This notice is being issued to all interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and USACE regulations found in 33 CFR Part 230. Section 5141 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114; 121 Stat.1041) provides authorization for improvements to interior drainage for the Dallas Floodway. The proposed improvements to the Able Pumping Plant would be implemented in compliance with 33 United States Code § 408.

Background. The Able Pumping Plant is located adjacent to the east levee of the Dallas Floodway, between Houston Street Viaduct and the Jefferson Boulevard Viaduct. Constructed in 1932, the original pump station (Small Able) consists of two, 40,000-gallons per minute (gpm) pumps. In 1953, the City of Dallas constructed another pump station at Able Pumping Plant (Large Able) consisting of three, 46,667-gpm pumps, and one, 6,000-gpm pump. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide 100-year, 24-hour storm event flood risk management for the area served by the Able Pumping Plant. The City of Dallas ("the City") needs to implement Able Pumping Plant improvements because people and property in the Able Basin are currently subject to storm water flooding impacts from the 100-year, 24-hour storm event. During substantial rainfall, localized flooding in the Able drainage area occurs regularly. By improving the Able Pumping Plant, the City would be able to provide improved flood risk management to people and property in the Able Basin.

Proposed Action. Under the Proposed Action, the City would construct a new pump station (Able No. 3) along Riverfront Boulevard, on the north side of the sump basin. Two new service driveway access points would connect the east and west sides of the station site from Riverfront Boulevard and pass beneath the Jefferson Boulevard and Houston Street Viaducts. The new pump station would house four, concrete volute pumps, each rated at 218,750-gpm, and two low flow pumps, each rated at 6,000-gpm. Nominal pumping capacity would be 876,000-gpm, with discharge pipes directed beneath the sump, over the levee, and into a new stilling basin and discharge channel

in the Dallas Floodway. The discharge pipes from each pump would be 108-inches in diameter and would be welded steel pipe that is supported on drilled shafts when crossing the sump area or when in areas of deep fill. A 4:1 earthen berm would span through both the upstream and downstream bridges for an approximate longitudinal length of 350-feet and would provide cover for the new Able Pump Station discharge pipes.

The proposed new Able No. 3 Pump Station would be constructed to approximately 50 percent of total design capacity, or two of the new pumps, providing 440,000-gpm of capacity, tested, approved, and functional prior to the demolition of the Large Able and Small Able pump stations. Then the remainder of the pumps would be constructed and brought on-line. This phased approach would ensure continuity of flood protection throughout the construction period. Work is proposed to begin in late 2014 and last approximately 30 months.

The Proposed Action alternative has been determined to be the least environmentally damaging alternative that would meet the project purpose. Implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts on the social, economic, or human and natural environment. No adverse impact on any species that are proposed or listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act is expected. No significant transportation, noise, land use, environmental justice, or hazardous waste concerns were identified within the project area. Long-term effects of the Proposed Action would be beneficial. Implementation of the Proposed Action will have an adverse impact to cultural resources under CEQ regulations Part 1502.16 due to the demolition of the Small Able and Large Able pump stations. USACE has determined the mitigation for the significant impact of the demolition will be black and white digital images and a written narrative to the standards of HABS Level II, distributed to stakeholders, local libraries and the Texas Historical Commission. Once the mitigation is completed, the impacts of the Proposed Action on a historic and cultural resource would be adverse, but less than significant.

The Proposed Action would permanently impact 3.0 acres, and temporarily impact 0.7 acres of jurisdictional waters of the United States (U.S.). All the impacted waters are considered open waters and there are no wetland impacts. The loss of these waters of the U.S. acres would be mitigated by the City of Dallas' purchasing credits at an approved mitigation bank in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex region. Mitigation credit calculations will have to be verified and approved by USACE Regulatory personnel prior to execution of this FONSI and the banking credits purchased prior to any work activities being initiated within the project area. In addition, based on hydrologic and hydraulic evaluations, implementation of the proposed action meets the 1988 Record of Decision criteria for water surface rise and valley storage. The Proposed Action appears to meet the conditions of Regional General Permit (RGP) 12, which

authorizes the discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the U.S. and work-in, or affecting navigable waters of the U.S., associated with modification and alteration of USACE projects that receive approval under Section 408.

Prior to beginning construction, contractors would be required to have erosion control, traffic control, and hazardous spill prevention plans in place. The potential adverse and beneficial cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action and other proposed projects within the study area were assessed for human and natural resources and are documented in the EA.

Public Meeting. A public meeting has not been scheduled for the Proposed Action. Prior to the close of the comment period, any person may make a written request for a public meeting, setting forth the particular reasons for the request. The District Engineer will then determine whether the issues raised are substantial and should be considered. If a public meeting is warranted, all known interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location of such a meeting.

Public Review. Pursuant to the regulations implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as amended in 1975 (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508), the U.S. Department of the Army gives notice that it has prepared the required environmental documentation for the proposed improvements to the Able Pumping Plant in Dallas, Texas. The EA and draft FONSI are available for review at the project public website (http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/WaterSustainment/DallasFloodway.aspx) and the following addresses:

Dallas Public Library
Government Information Center, 6th Floor
1515 Young Street
Dallas, Texas 75201
(214) 670-1482

Oak Lawn Branch Library
4100 Cedar Springs Road
Dallas, Texas 75219
(214) 670-1359

Comment Period. The comment period for this action is 30 days from the date of this Public Notice; the comment period ends on July 24, 2014. Please address any comments to Ms. Marcia R. Hackett, CESWF-PEC-TN, Post Office Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300, or Marcia.R.Hackett@usace.army.mil. Copies of the EA and draft FONSI may be requested in writing at the above address or 817-886-1373.

This project would results in the cumulative loss of greater than 0.5 acres of waters of the United States. Therefore, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) 401 water quality certification is required. Concurrent with USACE processing of this Department of the Army application, the TCEQ is reviewing this application under

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, and Title 30, Texas Administrative Code Section 279.1-13 to determine if the work would comply with State water quality standards. By virtue of an agreement between the USACE and the TCEQ, this public notice is also issued for the purpose of advising all known interested persons that there is pending before the TCEQ a decision on water quality certification under such act.

Any comments concerning the TCEQ application may be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 401 Coordinator, MSC-150, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. The public comment period extends 30 days from the date of this notice, until July 24, 2014. A copy of the public notice with a description of the work has been made available for review in the TCEQ's Austin Office. If requested, the TCEQ may conduct a public meeting to consider all comments concerning water quality if requested in writing. A request for a public meeting must contain the following information: the name, mailing address, application number, or other recognizable reference to the application; a brief description of the interest of the requestor, or of persons represented by the requestor; and a brief description of how the application, if granted, would adversely affect such interest.

Rob Newman
Director, Trinity River Corridor
Project Office