

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release: NR 17-0XX July 6, 2017

Contact: Clay Church, 817-886-1314 clayton.a.church@usace.army.mil

USACE announces public comment period for Aquilla Lake Reallocation Study and EA

FORT WORTH, Texas – Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives announced today the Draft Reallocation Report with Integrated Environmental Assessment and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for the Middle Brazos System Assessment: Phase II Aquilla Water Supply in Hill County, Texas.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District prepared the draft report with integrated EA to identify, evaluate, and disclose all impacts that would result from the implementation of proposed alternatives to address projected future water supply needs in Central Texas.

Increasing demand due to population growth, which is driving the need for additional water, is projected to result in water supply shortages of 2,800 to 3,700 acre-feet per year beginning as early as 2020 with the shortage in 2070 forecasted to be approximately 7,500 to 30,000 acre-feet. The water storage in Aquilla Lake is covered under a Water Supply Agreement, dated April 5, 1976, between the U.S. Government and the Brazos River Authority.

Alternatives evaluated in the reallocation study include 2.5-foot, 4.5-foot, and 6.5-foot raises of the conservation pool at Aquilla Lake, a "no action" alternative, and a pipeline alternative that would divert water supply from Whitney Lake to an existing pipeline that runs from Aquilla Lake to Pat Cleburne Lake near Cleburne, Texas.

The draft Reallocation Report with integrated EA and draft FONSI is available for review at:

Hillsboro Library	Cleburne Public Library	West Public Library
118 South Waco Street	302 W. Henderson Street	209 Tokio Road
Hillsboro, Texas 76645	Cleburne, Texas 76033	West, Texas 76691

The document can also be viewed on the Fort Worth District website at: <u>http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Aquilla/</u> or on the Brazos River Authority website at: <u>http://www.brazos.org/Lake-Aquilla-Reallocation</u>.

A 30-day public comment period will close on August 7. Please address any comments to Ms. Marcia Hackett, Environmental Compliance Branch, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, 819 Taylor Street, Room 3A12, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 or at the following email: <u>marcia.r.hackett@usace.army.mil</u>

-30-

<u>About the Fort Worth District</u>: The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was established in 1950. The District is responsible for water resources development in two-thirds of Texas, and design and construction at military installations in Texas and parts of Louisiana and New Mexico. Visit the Fort Worth District Web site at: www.swf.usace.army.mil and SWF Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/usacefortworth/.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – FORT WORTH DISTRICT 819 TAYLOR STREET FORT WORTH, TX 76102 WWW.SWF.USACE.ARMY.MIL



Regional Planning and Environmental Center

6 July 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Draft Middle Brazos Systems Assessment, Phase II: Aquilla Water Supply Reallocation Report and Environmental Assessment

- 1. Enclosed is the draft Reallocation Report and integrated Environmental Assessment (EA) in electronic format (CD) for your agency or organization to review. Also enclosed within this package is:
 - a. A copy of the Notice of Availability (NOA) disclosing release of the document for a 30day agency and public review period.
 - b. A copy of the draft Finding of No Significant Impact.
- 2. This package if for your review and to solicit any comments or concerns that your agency or organization may have regarding this action. We will consider any comments we receive from your office by the close of the comment period, August 7, 2017.
- 3. Please address any requests or comments using the contact information indicated in the NOA. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

1. <u>A</u>

Douglas Sims, RPA Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Encls



July 6, 2017

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT REALLOCATION REPORT WITH INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE MIDDLE BRAZOS SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT, PHASE II: AQUILLA WATER SUPPLY

The public is hereby notified of the availability of the Draft Reallocation Report with Integrated Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Middle Brazos System Assessment: Phase II Aquilla Water Supply in Hill County, Texas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District prepared the draft report with integrated EA to identify, evaluate, and disclose all impacts that would result from the implementation of proposed alternatives to address projected future water supply needs in portions of Hill and Johnson counties in North Central Texas.

Increasing demand due to population growth, which is driving the need for additional water, is projected to result in water supply shortages of 2,800 to 3,700 acre-feet per year beginning as early as 2020 with the shortage in 2070 forecasted to be approximately 7,500 to 30,000 acre-feet. The water storage in Aquilla Lake is covered under a Water Supply Agreement, dated April 5, 1976, between the U.S. Government and the Brazos River Authority.

Alternatives evaluated in the reallocation study include 2.5-foot, 4.5-foot, and 6.5-foot increases in the elevation of the top of the conservation pool at Aquilla Lake, a "no action" alternative, and a pipeline alternative that would divert water supply from Whitney Lake to an existing pipeline that extends from Aquilla Lake to Pat Cleburne Lake near Cleburne, Texas.

The draft Reallocation Report with integrated EA and draft FONSI will be available for review at the following locations:

Hillsboro Library 118 South Waco Street Hillsboro, Texas 76645 Cleburne Public Library 302 W. Henderson Street Cleburne, Texas 76033 West Public Library 209 Tokio Road West, Texas 76691

The document can also be viewed on the Fort Worth District's website at the following address:

http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Aquilla/

A 30-day public comment period begins with the date indicated on this Notice of Availability. Please address any comments to Ms. Marcia Hackett, Environmental Compliance Branch, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, 819 Taylor Street, Room 3A12, Fort Worth, Texas 76102 or at the following email: <u>marcia.r.hackett@usace.army.mil.</u>

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Sims, RPA Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch Regional Planning and Environmental Center

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

real places telling real stories

March 6, 2012

Rob Newman Chief, Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Division CESWF-EV-EC Dept. of the Army Fort Worth District, Corps of Engineers P.O. Box 17300 Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300

Attention: Jay Newman

Re: Review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act Draft Report: Archaeological Site Assessments and Survey at Aquilla Lake, Hill County, Texas. (COE-FWD)

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you for allowing us to review the report referenced above. This letter serves as comment on the document from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

The review staff, led by Bill Martin, has examined the document. Overall, we find the report to be well written, succinct and to the point. We concur with almost all of the authors' recommendations. However, there are a few issues that require clarification in the final report. For example, the text notes that 10 areas were surveyed and Figure 2 illustrates those areas, but nowhere does the report state how much acreage was surveyed. This information needs to be added to the Introduction, perhaps as a table listing the acreage of each area and the overall total acreage. This office also requests shape files of the surveyed areas so that we can update the Archeological Sites Atlas.

Regarding the evaluation of the newly recorded sites, this office concurs that sites 41HI310 and 41HI311 do not retain integrity and are ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. We cannot concur that site 41HI312 is ineligible because no archival research was conducted to determine the age of the site or who may have occupied it, and also because no shovel tests were dug. The surface artifacts observed, including sheet metal and dimensional lumber, are likely to be more recent than the stone-lined well. Additional research is needed to complete the evaluation process.

Regarding the evaluation of the previously recorded sites, we concur that further investigations are unlikely to yield important information at the following sites and that they are ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places: 41HI75, 41HI77, 41HI107/108, 41HI109/110, 41HI111, 41HI131, 41HI135, 41HI136, 41HI148, 41HI149, 41HI150-153, 41HI154, 41HI156, 41HI159, 41HI160, 41HI162, 41HI163, 41HI164, 41HI170, 41HI171, 41HI172, 41HI173, 41HI174, 41HI175, 41HI180, 41HI181, 41HI184, 41HI188, 41HI189, 41HI199, and 41HI260.

Rob Newman Page -2-

We concur with the authors' conclusions that sites 41HI174/114, 41HI128, 41HI134, 41HI146, and 41HI169 will require test excavations to complete their evaluation for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. We also concur that if the sites can be protected from damage and will suffer no adverse effects, no further investigations will be necessary. However, on the basis of the information presented in this report, we cannot concur with the conclusion that sites 41HI128 and 41HI169 are unlikely to suffer adverse effects. If the pool raise will increase public accessibility to these locations, the sites could be susceptible to looting. Therefore, if access is increased, this office considers it to be an adverse effect that would require mitigation. Simply because the sites will not be affected by shoreline erosion does not mean that they will not be adversely affected. It is difficult to determine how much closer the lakeshore will be to these sites, but from examining Figure 2, it looks like it will be significantly closer to site 41HI169. Please address this issue in a revised report.

We look forward to receiving a revised report that addresses our comments. Thank you for your cooperation in this federal review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Bill Martin at 512/463-5867.

Sincerely,

William U. Mart for

Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer

MW/wam

cc: Aaron R. Norment, Prewitt & Associates, Inc.



REPLY TO ATTENTION OF

January 27, 2012

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

Mr. Mark S. Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer Texas Historical Commission 1511 Colorado Street Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr.Wolfe:

Enclosed is the draft cultural resources survey report for the Aquilla Lake pool raise project initially coordinated with your office by letter dated 25 August 2008. The field investigations by our contractor, Prewitt & Associates, reevaluated 41 previously recorded sites & surveyed 10 previously unsurveyed areas within the confines of the proposed 6.5 foot conservation pool raise.

The investigations consolidated 8 of the 41 sites previously recorded into 3 sites, therefore reassessments are given for 36 sites. In addition, 3 new sites were recorded within the 10 previously unsurveyed areas. Of the 39 sites assessed for the project, 5 (41HI174/114, 41HI 128, 41HI134, 41HI146, & 41HI169) are determined to be potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D pending additional investigations. Of these 5 sites, only sites 41HI174/114, 41HI134, & 41HI146 will be adversely affected by the 6.5 foot pool raise and therefore warrant additional investigations during the next phase of this project.

Please reply with your concurrence or comments regarding these determinations within 30 days to facilitate the project schedule. If you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Dr. Jay R. Newman at (817) 886-1721 or by mail at CESWF-PER-EC, PO Box 17300, 819 Taylor St, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rob Newman Chief, Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

Enclosures

Branded 1867 re-established daily.



Mayor Ted Reynolds

November 9, 2009

Mayor Pro-Tem CESWF-PER-EE John Warren U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District Councilmembers P. O. Box 17300 Dr. Robert O. Kelly Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300 Gayle White Re: BRAZOS SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT PHASE II AQUILLA REALLOCATION STUDY

City Manager

Chester R. Nolen

Gentlemen:

The City of Cleburne desires to express its support for raising the Aquilla Lake conservation pool elevation for the purposes of increasing available storage and yield in the lake.

In 1997, Cleburne entered into a contract with the Brazos River authority (BRA) to divert up to 5,300 acre-feet per year from Lake Aquilla in Hill County. To deliver this water to Cleburne, the City constructed a pump station at Lake Aquilla and the 32-mile, 24-inch Barkman pipeline. These facilities can deliver at a peak rate of 7 mgd from Lake Aquilla to Cleburne, either directly to Cleburne's existing water treatment plant or to Lake Pat Cleburne for rediversion and treatment.

According to the 2006 Brazos G *Regional Water Plan*, the BRA has contracts totaling 11,403 acre-feet per year from Lake Aquilla. Recent yield computations by the BRA indicate that the firm yield of Lake Aquilla is estimated to be 13,746 acre-feet per year in the year 2000 and a year 2060 yield of 9,490 acre-feet per year. This represents a 31 percent decrease in available yield in the year 2060.

The reason for the significant decline in yield forecast for Lake Aquilla is the rapid rate of sedimentation in the reservoir estimated based on the three previous surveys (1995, 2002 and 2008) of the lake by the Texas Water Development Board.

If the yield of Lake Aquilla decreases as indicated by the BRA analysis, Cleburne (and other holders of contracts for water from the lake) will not be able to divert the full contracted amount as a reliable supply.

The rate of decrease in the yield of Lake Aquilla depends on the rate of sedimentation in the lake, which is uncertain. The BRA is taking measures to reduce sedimentation, which would increase the estimated future yield. Other factors that could increase the yield of the lake include the use of return flows of treated wastewater in the watershed and the conversion of flood control storage in the lake to water supply storage.

Aquilla Lake is an essential component of the City of Cleburne's integrated water supply management system to meet the water demands for residential, commercial and industrial growth.

We support this effort to provide a more reliable and sustainable water supply for the future needs of this region.

Sincerely,

3

Chester Nolen City Manager

Aquilla Water Supply District

P.O. Box 959 Hillsboro, Texas 76645

November 9, 2009

Mr. Rob Newman CESWF-PER-EE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District P. O. Box 17300 Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300

Re: BRAZOS SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT PHASE II AQUILLA REALLOCATION STUDY

Dear Mr. Newman:

The Aquilla Water Supply District ("District") was created by the Texas Legislature in 1977. The purpose of the District is to treat water from Lake Aquilla and deliver the water to wholesale customers.

The City of Hillsboro (the "City") was the primary sponsor of Lake Aquilla. The City and the Brazos River Authority (BRA) were successful in persuading the United States Congress to pass the legislation authorizing Lake Aquilla in the late 1960s and in persuading Congress to appropriate money for its construction.

Lake Aquilla was constructed and is operated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (the "Corps"). It was one of the last lakes in the country that was constructed under a federal program that built lakes and then recovered a part of the construction cost over a period of fifty (50) years from local users. Approximately 25 percent of the \$56,000,000 cost of Lake Aquilla was assigned to water conservation. In this context, "water conservation" means local water supply. The remaining 75 percent of the cost was assigned to flood control and was borne by the federal government.

Construction of Lake Aquilla started in 1976 and was completed in 1983. Sufficient water was impounded by August, 1984 so that the District could begin taking water from the lake.

The Corps rents storage space in Lake Aquilla to the Brazos River Authority (the "BRA") under a fifty (50) year contract. The BRA is a state agency that is charged with developing the water resources of the Brazos River basin. The water conservation part of the initial cost of the lake and part of the lake's annual operation and maintenance cost is paid by the BRA to the Corps in annual rental payments. Those costs and operating costs of the BRA are passed along to the customers that buy raw (untreated) water from the BRA. The District is one of those customers.

The District has a contract with the BRA and a permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (formerly, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission) to take an average 5.315 million gallons per day ("MGD") (5,953 acre-feet per year) from Lake Aquilla. The District can take up to five times the average daily amount when more water is required to meet peak-use demand.

Mr. Rob Newman CESWF-PER-EE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers November 9, 2009 Page 2

At the present time, all District customers except Menlow WSC take water from the District. The City and Files Valley WSC use water purchased from the District to meet all their needs. Other customers use wells to supply only part of their needs. Brandon-Irene WSC sells water to the town of Bynum and Files Valley WSC sells water to the town of Milford and to Parker WSC.

The future of the region is dependent upon a reliable and adequate supply of water from Aquilla Lake.

In a letter from the BRA, dated September 28, 2009, the District was advised that the BRA estimates that the Lake Aquilla yield in the year 2000 was 13,746 acre-feet per year, but that the yield would only be 9,490 acre-feet per year in 2060 because of the rate of sedimentation. The sum of all present water contracts for Aquilla Lake water is 11,403 acre-feet per year. The BRA advised that all contracts would share proportionately in the reduction from 11,403 acre-feet per year to 9,490 acre-feet per year.

This reduction would not meet the long-term water demands for the region.

The District supports the efforts of the BRA and the Corps of Engineers to raise the conservation pool elevation in Aquilla Lake and thus to increase the yield of the Lake as much as possible.

This effort is critical for a reliable long-term water supply for the region.

Very Truly Yours,

Aquilla Water Supply District

Joe R. Cunningham, President Board of Directors

SIMS MOORE HILL GANNON & CRAIN, L.L.P.

Attorneys at Law 211 E. Franklin Street P.O. Box 1096 Hillsboro, Texas 76645

Jack Sims (1917-2006) Henry Moore Gregg Hill Jack Gannon Matt Crain Telephone (254) 582-5346 Facsimile (254) 582-7667

November 12, 2009

Mr. Rob Newman CESWF-PER-EE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District P. O. Box 17300 Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300

Re: BRAZOS SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT PHASE II AQUILLA REALLOCATION STUDY

Dear Mr. Newman:

Enclosed is a copy of a statement I had planned to make at the public hearing on November 9. Because we were told that the meeting was primarily for information purposes, I decided to send the statement to you instead of making it at the meeting. The statement is enclosed.

Please add this to the letter from Joe Cunningham on behalf of the Aquilla Water Supply District that was delivered to you at the meeting.

Thank you for an informative public meeting.

Very truly yours,

Sims Moore Hill Gannon & Crain, L.L.P.

Henry Moore

HM:jj Enclosure

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Aquilla Water Supply District

P.O. Box 959 Hillsboro, Texas 76645

November 9, 2009

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF FEASIBILITY STUDY BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEER CONCERNING AQUILLA LAKE POOL RISE

Projections by the Texas Water Development Board and others indicate that the population of Texas will more than double between the years 2010 and 2060. The population is expected to increase from approximately 21 million to approximately 46 million.

The demand for water in Texas is expected to increase by about 27% during that time.

Existing water supplies - the amount of water than can be produced with current permits, contracts and existing infrastructure during drought - are projected to decrease by about 18%. The decrease is primarily due to the accumulation of sediment in reservoirs and the depletion of aquifers.

If new water supplies are not developed, Texas will be about 8.8 million acre feet of water short of meeting the 2060 water needs.

The Texas Water Plan has identified some 4,500 water management strategies and projects that are estimated to generate an addition 9 million acre feet of water supply. The cost of implementing these strategies and projects is estimated to be about 30 billion dollars.

The studies show that if Texas does not implement the Water Plan, about 85% of the state's projected population will not have enough water by 2060 in drought conditions.

The Aquilla Water Supply District believes that increasing the conservation storage capacity of Aquilla Lake is an important strategy to meet local and regional needs and thus can play an important role in meeting the water needs of future generations of Texans.

We encourage the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Brazos River Authority to continue the feasibility study. We hope that the study will conclude that an Aquilla Lake pool rise is a cost-efficient way of adding to available water supply.

November 9, 2009 Page 2

We hope that when the feasibility study is concluded that Congress will appropriate funds to accomplish it.

Aquilla Water Supply District

Mm rlej.

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Henry Moore, Secretary of Board of Directors and Attorney

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FILES VALLEY WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION, INC.

254-687-2331 P O Box 127 Fax: 254-687-2428 Itasca, TX 76055

November 10, 2009

Rob Newman CESWF-PER-PP P O Box 17300 Fort Worth, TX 76102

Dear Mr. Newman:

I was in attendance for the meeting with The Brazos River Authority (BRA) and the Army Corp of Engineers (Corp) held on Monday November 9, 2009 in reference to the water level study of Lake Aquilla.

As President of the board for Files Valley Water Supply Corporation (FVWSC) we are most interested in the availability of more water through Aquilla Water Supply Corporation (AWSC). FVWSC has made several attempts to secure more water through AWSC, only to be informed there is no more water currently available for contract. It was very disappointing to FVWSC to be turned down for an increased amount of water being told there was no additional water available. Small rural water supplies have very few options for obtaining additional water sources at a reasonable cost. Aquilla Water Supply Corporation has proven to be an asset and efficient source of water for FVWSC, and we hope to continue a long and harmonious work relationship.

I look forward to future information concerning Lake Aquilla, and if FVWSC can do anything to help accomplish the goal of additional water supply, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards, Paul Reur

Paul Reece Board President

Cc: Brad Brunett Brazos River Authority

From:	Newman, Rob SWF
To:	kirbyword@hillsboro.net
Cc:	Haferkamp, William W SWF; Brad Brunett (bradb@brazos.org)
Subject:	RE: Lake Aquilla
Date:	Thursday, November 12, 2009 10:26:54 AM
Attachments:	Aquilla Public Meeting 09 Nov 09 v3.pdf

Mr. Word,

Thank you for your comments on the Aquilla Reallocation study. I have attached the power point that was given at the meeting for your reference. I regret to say that we will not be evaluating a pool raise quite to the extent that you are wanting, but are exploring minor pool raises at the 2.5, 4.5 and 6.5 feet levels.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Rob Newman Chief, Planning Section CESWF-PER-PP PO BOX 17300 Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300 Office: 817-886-1762 Cell: 817-504-9186 Fax: 817-886-6499

-----Original Message-----From: kirbyword@hillsboro.net [mailto:kirbyword@hillsboro.net] Sent: Sunday, November 08, 2009 6:21 PM To: Newman, Rob SWF Subject: Lake Aquilla

Sir:

I really wish I could be at the meeting in Hillsboro this monday night, but I cannot.

I own approx 1 1/2 mile of frontage with the corp off of HCR 2445LP.

My land is probably closer to the actual water than anyone else.

To me, it looks silly that when the lake is at capacity, it barely touches the dam. I would like for you to raise the water level 15 feet.

I would give up a few acres to make this happen. I know that with a hard rain, it might raise 25 feet which would flood a few acres of mine, but that would be ok,,,,its all coastal bermudagrass.

thanks

Kirby Word,,,,,817-994-6241

Newman, Rob SWF

Al Vanek [alrvanek@yahoo.com]
Monday, March 15, 2010 12:00 PM
Newman, Rob SWF
Lake Aquilla

In November of 2009, I read an article about the Corp and BRA evaluating the possibility of raising the level of Lake Aquilla in Hill County, Texas. I fish Lake Aquilla on a regular basis, therefore, am very interested in the status of your review. My main interest is will the level change and to what level. Just FYI, I am 100% in favor of raising the level.



























Top of Conservation Pool Alternative	pp of Elevation at ervation Top of 'ool Conservation	Conservation Pool Capacity	Dep	endable /ield
	(feet)	(acre-feet)	WAM (ac-ft/yr)	RiverWare (ac-ft/yr)
Existing	537.50	44,577	13,680	16,445
Alt # 1	540.00	52,659	15,050	17,749 (+1,304)
Alt # 2	542.00	59,650	16,370	18,908 (+2,463)
Alt # 3	544.00	68,144	16,620	20,213 (+3,768)

Туре	Lake Surface	Disturbed Areas	Riparian Woodland	Upland Forest	Herbaceous Wetland	Grassland	Deciduous Shrubland	Savanna
Acres	3,164	231	334	2,802	113	1,199	2,042	36
Percent of Total Area	30.9%	2.3%	3.3%	27.3%	1.1%	11.7%	19.9%	3.69

























26 October 2009

BRAZOS SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT PHASE II AQUILLA REALLOCATION STUDY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, in cooperation with the Brazos River Authority, is conducting a feasibility study for Phase II of the Brazos Systems Assessment, Aquilla Lake Pool Rise. The purpose of this notice is to inform you of a public scoping meeting as part of the feasibility study on this project.

In order to comply with National Environmental Policy Act requirements, this meeting will be held on November 9, 2009 to discuss the study and to solicit your comments on plan formulation and factors affecting the cumulative impacts of other similar projects in the geographic area of the Brazos River basin, Texas. The Brazos River Authority is the non-federal sponsor for this study and is contributing 50 percent of the total study cost.

Purpose and Background. The purpose of this interim feasibility study is to perform a detailed investigation of the reallocation of storage within Aquilla Lake in the Brazos River basin and prepare an Integrated Interim Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment that meets the requirements of ER 1105-2-100. Reallocation of storage in Aquilla Lake would result in a higher normal operating reservoir elevation. Several alternative elevations are being evaluated as part of the study.

The study area will encompass the floodplain surrounding Aquilla Lake, upstream of Aquilla on Aquilla and Hackberry Creeks and downstream of Aquilla Dam on Aquilla Creek to the confluence with the Brazos River.

Meeting Location. The Public Meeting is scheduled for November 9th and will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Hill College Performing Arts Center, 112 Lamar Drive, in Hillsboro, Texas. For directions or additional information please call Mr. Rob Newman at the number listed below.

Public Input. Active participation in this meeting by all interested parties is important. We are soliciting information to guide the Corps in determining those factors and type of impacts which should be addressed during plan formulation and preparation of the environmental assessment.

Meeting Format. The meeting is designed to receive comments from the public and agencies. The format of the meeting will be open house with a brief presentation at the beginning. Information tables will be located in the meeting room for informal discussion of technical issues. Participants may ask questions for clarification and/or present a written statement.

Statutory Authority. This public notice is being issued to known interested parties in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Pubic Law 91-190, as amended. The Brazos Systems Assessment, Phase II Aquilla Pool Rise Study is pursued under authority of House and Senate resolutions by the committee on Public Works, United States Senate, 83rd Congress, adopted August 12, 1954, as quoted below:

"Resolved by the Committee on Public Works of the United States Senate, That the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, created under Section 3 of the River and Harbor Act, approved June 13, 1902, be and is hereby requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers printed in House Document Numbered 181, Seventy-second Congress, first session, and other reports on the Brazos River and tributaries, Texas, with a view to determining whether any modification of the recommendations contained therein should be made at this time."

The authority granted by the resolution is known as a basin-wide authority. All studies conducted under this authority serve as an interim response to the basin-wide authority, and do not close out the granted authority.

Comments and suggestions may also be sent directly to Mr. Rob Newman, CESWF-PER-EE, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth Texas 76102-0300; telephone (817) 886-1762; or email rob.newman@usace.army.mil

Sincerely,

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



August 14, 2008

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

Mr. Mark Fisher Texas Commission on Environmental Quality 12100 Park Circle 35, Building F MC-150 Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Fisher:

This letter is to officially inform you that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting Phase II, Aquilla Lake Storage Reallocation, of the Brazos Systems Assessment Interim Feasibility Study. The main focus of the investigation will be to perform a detailed investigation of the reallocation of storage capacity within Aquilla Lake in the Brazos River basin and prepare an Integrated Interim Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment. The non-Federal sponsor for the study is the Brazos River Authority (BRA).

The reallocation study being conducted on Aquilla Lake was initiated due to the findings in Phase I of the Brazos Systems Assessment which is a basin-wide study focusing on the portion of the basin which includes, or is impacted by the nine Federal reservoirs owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Aquilla was determined to be most suitable for a reallocation study at this time. Subsequent reallocation studies at the other Federal reservoirs may be considered during subsequent phases of the basin-wide study. The basin-wide study was initiated as a partial response to House and Senate resolutions by the committee on Public Works, United States Senate, 83rd Congress, adopted August 12, 1954, as quoted below:

"Resolved by the Committee on Public Works of the United States Senate, That the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, created under Section 3 of the River and Harbor Act, approved June 13, 1902, be and is hereby requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers printed in House Document Numbered 181, Seventy-second Congress, first session, and other reports on the Brazos River and tributaries, Texas, with a view to determining whether any modification of the recommendations contained therein should be made at this time."

A full suite of alternatives will be considered during the reallocation study to address the aquatic resource problems, opportunities and needs and several different reallocation scenarios. Three sets of public meetings are anticipated during the duration of this project. The first meeting will be held during the development of alternatives and is tentatively scheduled for January 2009. A second meeting is expected to be held in December 2009 after the recommended plan is selected. A third and final meeting will be held after the Draft Feasibility Report and Integrated Environmental Assessment is released for public review which is scheduled for February 2011.

We are asking that you assign a technical point of contact in order to continue the coordination for the National Environmental Policy Act process. In addition, if your agency has any information that may be pertinent to the study we ask that you provide it at this time. If you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Mr. Billy Haferkamp at (817) 886-1713 or by mail at CESWF-PER-EE, PO Box 17300, 819 Taylor St, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

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

> Haferkamp/1713 GODFREY, CESWF-PER-EE HARBERG, CESWF-PER-E FICKEL, CESWF-PER



August 14, 2008

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

Mr. Tom Cloud U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 711 Stadium Dr,. Suite 252 Arlington, TX 76011

Dear Mr. Cloud:

This letter is to officially inform you that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting Phase II, Aquilla Lake Storage Reallocation, of the Brazos Systems Assessment Interim Feasibility Study. The main focus of the investigation will be to perform a detailed investigation of the reallocation of storage capacity within Aquilla Lake in the Brazos River basin and prepare an Integrated Interim Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment. The non-Federal sponsor for the study is the Brazos River Authority (BRA).

The reallocation study being conducted on Aquilla Lake was initiated due to the findings in Phase I of the Brazos Systems Assessment which is a basin-wide study focusing on the portion of the basin which includes, or is impacted by the nine Federal reservoirs owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Aquilla was determined to be most suitable for a reallocation study at this time. Subsequent reallocation studies at the other Federal reservoirs may be considered during subsequent phases of the basin-wide study. The basin-wide study was initiated as a partial response to House and Senate resolutions by the committee on Public Works, United States Senate, 83rd Congress, adopted August 12, 1954, as quoted below:

"Resolved by the Committee on Public Works of the United States Senate, That the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, created under Section 3 of the River and Harbor Act, approved June 13, 1902, be and is hereby requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers printed in House Document Numbered 181, Seventy-second Congress, first session, and other reports on the Brazos River and tributaries, Texas, with a view to determining whether any modification of the recommendations contained therein should be made at this time."

A full suite of alternatives will be considered during the reallocation study to address the aquatic resource problems, opportunities and needs and several different reallocation scenarios. Three sets of public meetings are anticipated during the duration of this project. The first meeting will be held during the development of alternatives and is tentatively scheduled for January 2009. A second meeting is expected to be held in December 2009 after the recommended plan is selected. A third and final meeting will be held after the Draft Feasibility

Report and Integrated Environmental Assessment is released for public review which is scheduled for February 2011.

Your agency has provided technical support during Phase I of the Systems Assessment by attending team meetings and so far in Phase II by participating in field trips to Aquilla to determine existing conditions. We are asking that your agency continue to provide technical support in order to continue coordination for the National Environmental Policy Act process. In addition, if your agency has any additional information that may be pertinent to the study we ask that you provide it at this time. If you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact Mr. Billy Haferkamp at (817) 886-1713, or by mail at CESWF-PER-EE, PO Box 17300, 819 Taylor St, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

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> Haferkamp/1713 GODFREY, CESWF-PER-EE HARBERG, CESWF-PER-E FICKEL, CESWF-PER



August 14, 2008

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

Ms. Ronda Smith Office of Planning and Coordination U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 1445 Ross Avenue, Mail Stop 6ENXP Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Ms. Smith:

This letter is to officially inform you that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting Phase II, Aquilla Lake Storage Reallocation, of the Brazos Systems Assessment Interim Feasibility Study. The main focus of the investigation will be to perform a detailed investigation of the reallocation of storage capacity within Aquilla Lake in the Brazos River basin and prepare an Integrated Interim Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment. The non-Federal sponsor for the study is the Brazos River Authority (BRA).

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

> Haferkamp/1713 GODFREY, CESWF-PER-EE HARBERG, CESWF-PER-E FICKEL, CESWF-PER



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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

August 14, 2008

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

Rollin MacRae Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 4200 Smith School Road Austin, Texas 78744

Dear Mr. MacRae:

REPLY TO

ATTENTION OF:

This letter is to officially inform you that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting Phase II, Aquilla Lake Storage Reallocation, of the Brazos Systems Assessment Interim Feasibility Study. The main focus of the investigation will be to perform a detailed investigation of the reallocation of storage capacity within Aquilla Lake in the Brazos River basin and prepare an Integrated Interim Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment. The non-Federal sponsor for the study is the Brazos River Authority (BRA).

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recommended plan is selected. A third and final meeting will be held after the Draft Feasibility Report and Integrated Environmental Assessment is released for public review which is scheduled for February 2011.

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Sincerely,

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

Copies of this letter sent to:

Kathy Boydston, Julie Wicker, and Tom Heger Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 4200 Smith School Road Austin, Texas 78744

> Haferkamp/1713 GODFREY, CESWF-PER-EE HARBERG, CESWF-PER-E FICKEL, CESWF-PER