

## **Public Notice**

Date issued: May 31, 2022

Close of comment period: June 15, 2022

USACE Point of Contact: <u>Justyss Watson</u>

PUBLIC NOTICE UNDER SECTION 401 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TWO TEMPORARY LOW WATER CROSSINGS FOR THE CENTRAL CITY PORTION OF THE TRINITY RIVER VISION MASTER PLAN, FORT WORTH, TEXAS (CERTIFICATION)

**TITLE:** Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Request Regarding Two Temporary Low Water Crossings for the Central City Portion of the Trinity River Vision Master Plan

REQUESTER AND NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Tarrant Regional Water District

**LOCATION:** The project is located along the Trinity River in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas.

**BACKGROUND:** The Central City Project for flood control, ecosystem restoration, and recreation was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1965, Public Law 89-298; as modified by Section 116 of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2005, Division C, Public Law 108-447; and as further modified by Section 1401 (9) and Section 1402(c) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN)/Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, Public Law 114-332, authorized the Secretary to undertake the Central City Project as generally described in the Trinity River Master Plan, dated April, 2003, as amended. As a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized Civil Works project, the Central City project is subject to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Previous compliance with Section 401 of the CWA for the planned construction of the Central City project resulted in a Section 401 CWA water quality certification dated July 11, 2008. Expansion of the original project scope necessitates an update to the water quality certification to address current project conditions.

The focus of this update is regarding the Riverside Oxbow Site E project which is among several valley storage mitigation sites located in the Riverside Oxbow/Gateway Park project area in Fort Worth, Texas. The site will provide a valley storage mitigation benefit. The combined work zone for the excavation (Site E), fill site (Site I), and haul routes comprise an overall footprint of approximately 50 acres. Site E is approximately 26 acres, south of the Trinity River (centroid latitude/longitude: 32°45'5.19"N and 97°17'11.69"W), and east of Beach Street. Site I comprises an overall footprint of

approximately 16 acres, north of the Trinity River (centroid latitude/longitude: 32°45'18.84"N and 97°16'42.74"W), and east of Beach Street. The project will include approximately 200,916 bank cubic yards (BCY) of earthwork on Site E, site restoration using a native seed mix intended to create a diversity of plantings, construction and restoration of two (2) low water crossings for the haul route, and protection of existing site utilities. Site I will be used as the spoils disposal (fill) site and will be restored upon completion of the contract. Special care and coordination with the City of Fort Worth was needed due to the sensitive nature of the spoils disposal and hauling through the existing park.

The Central City CWA Section 401 compliance was obtained in 2008; however, the two (2) temporary low water crossing components were not anticipated in the original environmental compliance documents. This notice is being published to reflect the addition of the two (2) temporary low water crossings and solicit comments pertaining to the potential effects associated with implementation of the low water crossings. The enclosed maps depict the temporary features that are pending CWA Section 401 compliance.

**SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:** The USACE is soliciting comments from all parties having an interest in the undertaking's potential effect(s) on waters of the U.S. Comments supporting, opposing, or identifying concerns with the documentation provided will be considered by the USACE. This solicitation of comments is specifically requested regarding the implementation of two (2) temporary low water crossings on the Trinity River in Fort Worth, Texas.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: Written comments are requested beginning May 31, 2022 and should be submitted before or on the close of the comment period June 15, 2022. Comments should reference the project name and title. Comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to CESWF-PEE-C, ATTN: Ms. Justyss Watson, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300, or by email to justyss.a.watson@usace.army.mil. Please note that names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice may be made publicly available.



