



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

March 14, 2008

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:  
Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**  
**U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT**  
**Final Supplement No. 1 to the Final Environmental Impact Statement**  
**UPPER TRINITY RIVER CENTRAL CITY**  
**FORT WORTH, TEXAS**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, has prepared Final Supplement No. 1 to the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Central City Project on the Upper Trinity River in Fort Worth, Texas (FSEIS). The FSEIS addresses proposed modifications to the authorized project which provides flood damage reduction, habitat improvement, recreation, and urban revitalization.

**Authority.** This Notice of Availability is being issued to interested parties in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law 91-190, as amended and the implementing regulations in Engineering Regulation 200-2-2.

**Purpose and Background.** An Environmental Impact Statement for the authorized Central City project was finalized in January 2006 and a Record of Decision was signed on April 7, 2006 by the Assistant Secretary of Army. The project included construction of a flood bypass channel and flood gates to divert flood flows around a segment of the existing Trinity River channel adjacent to downtown Fort Worth; Samuels Avenue Dam to create an interior water feature; and hydraulic and habitat mitigation and habitat development principally located within the Riverbend area adjacent to the West Fork in west Fort Worth. As identified within the Final EIS, Samuels Avenue Dam would be located downstream of Marine Creek on the West Fork and would raise the normal water surface elevation of the West Fork and Marine Creek to 524.5 feet msl. This would create a lake extending up the West Fork to approximately Rockwood Park and up Marine Creek to the Stockyard area. The project required creation of about 5,250 acre-feet of valley storage to compensate for the loss of valley storage caused by the bypass channel's increased hydraulic capacity during flood events. Stream habitat mitigation was provided by modification of stream flows and provision of additional stream habitat within Lebow Creek and by development of riparian vegetation and riffle pool complexes within Ham Branch.

The Riverside Oxbow Restoration Project area is located just east of downtown Fort Worth on the West Fork of the Trinity River from Riverside Drive (downstream end of the Fort Worth Floodway) downstream to the East 1st Street Bridge. The area is located between Interstate Highway 30 on the south and the 100-year floodplain boundary on the north. As currently approved, USACE participation in the Riverside Oxbow Project consists of reconnecting the old river channel to the West Fork; replacement of the Beach Street bridge; creation of emergent wetlands, open water, and vegetative fringe habitat; habitat improvement on existing forest tracks including establishment of a riparian buffer along the West Fork from Riverside Drive to East 1<sup>st</sup> Street; and various other ecosystem restoration and recreation features. An Interim Feasibility Report with Integrated Environmental Assessment (and Finding of No Significant Impact) and an Addendum dated April 2005 were prepared and approved by the Assistant Secretary Army for Civil Works. Details of the previously approved Central City and Riverside Oxbow projects are available on the Fort Worth District Internet Web Page at [www.swf.usace.army.mil](http://www.swf.usace.army.mil).

**Proposed Actions and Alternatives.** By letter dated June 22, 2006, the City of Fort Worth requested that the Corps conduct an evaluation of the potential benefits of modifying the Central City Project to incorporate the Riverside Oxbow project area to accommodate valley storage requirements. Alternatives considered include the No Action Plan, which assumes that each project would proceed separately as currently approved, and a modified Central City Project alternative. This alternative has been formulated to integrate features of the Riverside Oxbow project and includes areas within the Riverside Oxbow project area for replacement valley storage. This analysis also considers contingency valley storage sites

that could be used if hydraulic analyses conducted during more detailed design indicate that the primary storage sites are not available or sufficient to achieve the required storage. The Modified Central City Project alternative would also involve relocation of the Samuels Avenue dam to a location slightly upstream of Marine Creek. The preferred alternative in this FSEIS is the Modified Central City alternative. The Modified Central City alternative provides required hydraulic and habitat mitigation in addition to achieving the independent project goals.

**Previous Coordination.** The Draft SEIS was filed with EPA and Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on January 4, 2008. Additionally, a Joint Public Notice (US Army Corps of Engineers Notice of Availability for the Draft SEIS and Water Quality Certification notice for Texas Commission on Environmental Quality) dated December 21, 2007 was mailed to a list of known interested individuals and a press release was issued to news media on January 3, 2008.

A public meeting to receive comments on the Draft SEIS was held at 6:00 pm on January 24, 2008 in the Horizon Room of the Inn Suites Hotel, Trinity Suites and Resort, 2000 Beach Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76103. A total of 252 persons registered at the meeting and twenty six offered verbal comments. Ninety three persons filled out cards available at the meeting offering comments of support, opposition or more detailed written comments. Eighty two indicated support for the Modified Central City alternative and nine opposed it. The majority of speakers and those who offered written comments were in favor of the modified alternative because of the opportunities to provide multi-objective benefits within the Central City and Riverside-Gateway areas. Several expressed concern related to ongoing natural gas exploration within the Trinity floodplain and how some existing sites near the Gateway Park and other parks might impact natural resources and adversely impact plans to provide improved habitat and park amenities. Two commenters expressed concern related to proposed construction of the Central City project while other nearby areas were more in need of flood damage reduction projects. Two other commenters suggested that the project lacked economic justification or that the sponsors should not support expenditure of local tax dollars for the project.

Letters of comment were also received from 18 Federal, State, local agencies and groups, and individuals. No agency comments were received in opposition to the project. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality provided comments recommending additional consideration to further minimizing impacts that will be considered during final design of the project. All comments received during the public meeting and during the public review period are published in Appendix H of the FSEIS with appropriate responses. Changes have also been made in the text of the FSEIS to clarify areas of concern in response to comments received. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality received no comments relative to water quality certification; however, the agency provided comments requesting additional clarification of proposed aquatic mitigation plans. USACE and the project sponsors have agreed to proceed with Ham Branch aquatic mitigation as shown in the original Central City EIS as well as develop additional stream mitigation within the reconnected Sycamore Creek and Riverside Oxbow as outlined in the FSEIS.

The wait period for the Final SEIS will extend 30 days from the date on which the Notice of Availability appears in the *Federal Register*, which is anticipated to be on or about March 21, 2008. The FSEIS will be available for public review at the offices of the USACE, Tarrant Regional Water District and the Downtown City of Fort Worth Public Library. The FSEIS is also available for review on the Fort Worth District Internet Web Page at [www.swf.usace.army.mil](http://www.swf.usace.army.mil). For further information contact: Mr. Saji Alummuttil, Project Manager, CESWF-EC-D, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300, telephone (817) 886-1764.



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