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

December 27, 2007

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

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

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

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, has prepared Draft Supplement No. 1 to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Central City Project on the Upper Trinity River in Fort Worth, Texas. The DSEIS addresses proposed modifications to the authorized project which provides flood damage reduction, habitat improvement, recreation, and urban revitalization. The USACE is also requesting water quality certification from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

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; with the hydraulic and habitat mitigation and habitat improvement areas 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 Samuels Avenue 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, as then formulated, 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 sequences 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 1st Street; and various other ecosystem restoration and recreation features. An Interim Feasibility Report with Integrated Environmental Assessment (and Finding of No Significant Impact) with Addendum dated April 2005 were prepared and approved by the Chief of Engineers and Department of the Army. 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.

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 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 the approved dam site. The tentatively recommended plan in this Draft Supplement No. 1 to the Final EIS for the Central City Project is the Modified Central City alternative. The Modified Central City alternative provides hydraulic and habitat mitigation in addition to achieving the independent project goals.

Public Meeting. A Public Meeting has been scheduled to provide information to the public and to receive comments relative to the DSEIS. The meeting will be held on January 24, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the Horizon Room of the Inn Suites Hotel, Trinity Suites and Resort at 2000 Beach Street, Fort Worth, Texas, 76103. Comments may be presented at the scheduled public meetings or sent directly to the USACE.

Water Quality Certification. 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 is above the threshold), and as such would not fulfill Tier I criteria for the project. Therefore, TCEQ water quality certification is required. Concurrent with the processing of this Department of the Army project, the TCEQ is reviewing this project 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 person that there is pending before the TCEQ a decision on water quality certification under such act. **Any comments concerning this request for water quality certification may be submitted to TCEQ, 401 Coordinator, MSC-150, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087**. The public comment period for the water quality certification request extends 30 days from the date of publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. A copy of the public notice with a description of the work is available for review in the TCEQ's Austin office and complete project information may be reviewed in the USACE's office. The TCEQ may conduct a public hearing to consider all comments concerning water quality if requested in writing. A request for public hearing must contain the following information: 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.

The DSEIS 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 DSEIS is also available for review on the Fort Worth District Internet Web Page at www.swf.usace.army.mil. Comments or other inquires should be addressed to: Project Manager, Mr. Saji Alummuttil, 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. Written comments should be provided during the 45 day period following publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register which is anticipated to be January 4, 2008.

William Fickel, Jr.
Chief, Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division
Fort Worth District, Corps of Engineers