

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE
BAKER PUMPING PLANT
DALLAS, TEXAS**

Description of Action. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to assess the potential environmental consequences resulting from implementation of proposed improvements to the Baker Pumping Plant in the City of Dallas, Texas. 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 Baker Pumping Plant would be implemented in compliance with 33 United States Code § 408. The City of Dallas (“the City”) is the action proponent

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide 100-year, 24-hour storm event flood risk management for the area served by the Baker Pumping Plant. The City needs to implement Baker Pumping Plant improvements because people and property in the Hampton – Oak Lawn Basin (which is drained by the Baker Pumping Plant) are currently subject to stormwater flooding impacts. By improving the Baker Pumping Plant, the City would be able to provide improved flood risk management to people and property in the Hampton – Oak Lawn Basin.

Under the Proposed Action, the City would construct a new approximately 13,000-square foot (ft) pump station (Baker No. 3) consisting of four, 175,000-gallons per minute (gpm) pumps, and one, 6,000-gpm low-flow pump. Discharge from the new pumps would flow through four 84-inch diameter pipes to the existing six 10 ft by 10 ft culverts under the levee and into the Trinity River. The existing New Baker Pump Station would operate in concert with the proposed new Baker No. 3 Pump Station. The Old Baker Pump Station would be decommissioned and its connections to the stormwater drainage system closed.

The City would also temporarily remove sections of the existing sump liner in the area immediately adjacent to the proposed Baker No. 3 Pump Station to improve drainage underneath the sump and allow for utility line maintenance and relocation. Additionally, the City would improve the existing New Baker Pump Station to increase the service life and minimize future maintenance. The improvements would include repairs to trash racks, handrails, stairs, service bridge, and surface erosion.

Anticipated Environmental Effects. Through the planning process, the City identified four feasible alternatives to address flood risk management needs within the project area and the no action alternative. Under the no action alternative, no flood risk management measures would be implemented. If no action were taken, current flood risk would likely continue and gradually worsen. The lack of protection from a 100-year, 24-hour storm event would likely result in loss of property and threat to human life. Other alternatives addressed various options for sump expansion, use of pressure sewers, and increasing pumping capacity by constructing new pumps and potentially demolishing the existing pump station. Three of the four remaining alternatives were eliminated from further consideration because either they did not meet flood risk management objectives of the proposed project or had potential for significant impacts if implemented.

The Proposed Action would not have any significant impacts on the social, economic, or human and natural environments. No adverse impact on any species, which 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. The existing Old Baker Pump Station is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Consultation with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer determined the proposed action would have no adverse effect on the Old Baker Pump Station. Contractors would be required to have erosion control, traffic control, and hazardous spill prevention plans in place. Proposed construction measures and operation and maintenance features of the project would meet the criteria for Nationwide Permit 13 - “Bank Stabilization.”

Facts and Conclusions. Based on a review of the information contained in this EA, it is concluded that the implementation of the Baker Pumping Plant improvements in Dallas, Texas is not a major federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

Richard J. Muraski, Jr.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander

Date