



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**March 17, 2005**

Planning, Environmental, and Regulatory Division

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT**  
**Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement**  
**Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration**  
**Lower Colorado River Basin, Colorado River, Texas**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District has prepared a draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) addressing proposed activities to provide flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration within the lower Colorado River basin, Colorado River, Texas.

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

**Purpose and Background.** The study area, the standard project floodplain of the lower Colorado River and its tributaries, has undergone extensive alterations in the past 50 years due to extensive urbanization, construction of flood control and water supply lakes, channelization/levee projects, and numerous smaller projects which have affected the physical characteristics of the lower Colorado River watershed. Initial investigations during the Lower Colorado River Basinwide Feasibility Studies pursuant to Flood Control Act, Section 6, approved June 22, 1936; Resolution by Committee on Commerce, United States Senate, adopted August 4, 1936; Rivers and Harbors Act, approved August 26, 1937; Rivers and Harbors Act, approved March 2, 1945; Resolution by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, United States House of Representatives, adopted May 6, 1998, focused on determining whether Federal participation in detailed studies to provide flood damage reduction, environmental restoration and protection, and other related purposes are warranted at this time. Various measures emerged as candidates to be considered for continuation into detailed feasibility studies. Although presently not finalized, the level of detail for potential projects is sufficient to address the cumulative impacts within the study area.

This PEIS focuses on various potential Corps projects that could be initiated within the basin under studies like the Lower Colorado River Basin Feasibility Study. Reasonably foreseeable projects being pursued within the study area by other entities are also identified and the potential direct and cumulative impacts resulting from the implementation of the potential Corps and other entities' projects on the human and natural environment are assessed. The document examines past actions of the Corps of Engineers and other entities within the study area, defines the baseline conditions within the basin, and then examines reasonably foreseeable alternatives of the Corps and others that might affect water and related land resources.

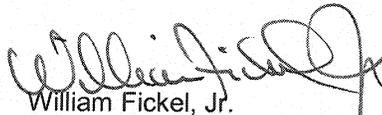
**Proposed Actions.** Currently there are five potential Corps of Engineers Projects with local sponsors identified within the lower Colorado River basin. Three potential Corps of Engineers projects have been carried into detailed feasibility studies but are not yet finished. These include the Highland Lakes, Wharton, and Onion Creek Interim Feasibility Studies. Two additional projects have identified sponsors and have not yet begun but will begin in the near future. These include Shoal and Walnut Creek Interim

Feasibility Studies. Other potential Corps of Engineers projects could come forward at a later date as non-Federal sponsors are identified; therefore, general Corps of Engineers Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Measures are addressed in this Programmatic EIS. Structural measures include but are not limited to: multipurpose reservoirs, dry detention basins, detention basins, levees, flood walls, relief channels, diversion channels, channel improvements, and tunnels. Non-structural measures include but are not limited to: flood warning systems, evacuation of the floodplains (Buyouts), and flood proofing. Ecosystem restoration measures include but are not limited to: preservation, removal of invasive or undesirable terrestrial or aquatic vegetation and restoration of native species, and physical alteration of degraded or severely altered properties to restore preexisting ecosystems.

**Public Meeting.** Public Meetings will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> at McKinney Roughs, 1884 HWY 71 West, Cedar Creek, Texas 78612; April 13<sup>th</sup> at the LCRA Western District Complex, 8347 Ranch Road 1431 West, Buchanan Dam, Texas 78609; and April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Best Western Matagorda Hotel, Matagorda Ballroom 2&3, 407 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Bay City, Texas 77414. Information related to the projects addressed in the PEIS will be available as well as personnel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss various aspects of the proposed projects beginning at 6:00 p.m. From 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., after a brief overview, the public and agencies will be afforded the opportunity to formally comment on the draft PEIS.

The official closing date for the receipt of comments is 45 days from the date on which the Notice of Availability of the draft PEIS appears in the *Federal Register*, which is anticipated to be on or about March 25, 2005.

Copies of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement are available for review at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 17300, 819 Taylor Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300. Copies have also been distributed to the main libraries in Marble Falls, Austin, Bastrop, Wharton, and Bay City Texas. The main text of the draft PEIS is also available for review on the Fort Worth District Internet Home Page at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/>. For further information, contact Mr. Rob Newman, Environmental Planner, at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, CESWF-PER-EE, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300 or call at (817) 886-1762.



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