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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Files Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
Upper Trinity River Central City Project

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, announced today, pursuant to publication in the Federal Register, its intent to prepare a supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Upper Trinity River, Central City Project, Fort Worth, Texas, completed in January 2006. The supplement will analyze the effects of alternative locations for the required hydraulic mitigation and the Samuels Avenue Dam.

The need to prepare a supplement to the FEIS and conduct further analysis is in response to a request made by the City of Fort Worth in June 2006 to evaluate potential benefits of merging the Central City and Riverside Oxbow projects. They identified potential benefits including greater flexibility for valley storage requirements, increased opportunity for ecosystem restoration, and cost savings. After an initial evaluation, the Corps of Engineers determined that alternative areas along the West Fork of the Trinity River including areas within the Riverside Oxbow area had the potential of providing the required hydraulic mitigation and comparable ecosystem restoration outputs, reducing habitat mitigation requirements, and lowering overall project costs. In addition, it has been recently determined that alternative locations of the proposed Samuels Avenue Dam should be evaluated. The amount of aquatic habitat impacted in Marine and Lebow Creeks is affected by the location of the Samuels Avenue Dam and will be considered during further site analysis.

Trinity River Vision Authority staff has been actively seeking neighborhood input from residents of neighborhoods around Gateway Park who would be affected by this project. The City of Fort Worth held a community meeting at the East Regional Library on February 1, 2007, to discuss proposed changes to Gateway Park Master Plan in connection with the TRV project. The proposed plan presented to the large crowd of mostly east Fort Worth residents consists of over \$10 million in recreational improvements and \$24 million for ecosystem restoration.

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“The inclusion of the Riverside Oxbow Project in the TRV Central City Project provides the most benefit to the citizens of Fort Worth and Tarrant County,” commented J.D. Granger, Executive Director of the Trinity River Vision Authority. “This allows for greatly improved recreation facilities in the Riverside Oxbow area as well as the opportunity to keep the costs lower due to the fact that most all of the land is publicly owned by one of the partners. This truly is a win-win for all involved in the TRV Project.”

The Corps of Engineers has begun further engineering and environmental studies and will assess impacts as the supplement is prepared. The studies are expected to be completed late this summer. The Corps is soliciting information to guide the determination of factors and type of impacts which should be addressed during plan formulation and preparation of the Draft Supplement to the FEIS for the Central City project. Comments and suggestions pertaining to this analysis and Draft Supplement to the EIS should be directed to Mr. Saji Puthenpurayel, Project Manager, CESWF-EC-D, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300, (817) 886-1764.

The Trinity River Vision project is a partnership of the Tarrant Regional Water District, the City of Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Streams and Valleys, Inc., and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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For further information, contact Clay Church, Fort Worth District public affairs at 817-886-1310 or visit the Fort Worth District website at www.swf.usace.army.mil .

For more information on the overall Trinity River Project, go to www.trinityrivervision.org.