



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Release

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Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration Project in San Antonio becomes reality with award of \$23,448,135 million contract

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, has awarded a \$23,448,135 million contract for the first phase of the ecosystem restoration of the Mission Reach of the San Antonio River. Funding for this contract was provided by the federal government, in the amount of \$9,100,000, and by the San Antonio River Authority and funding partners, the City of San Antonio and Bexar County, in the amount of \$14,348,135. The contract was awarded to Laughlin-Thyssen, Inc. of Houston through a best value process, using the following selection factors: past construction experience, relevant specialized experience, management effectiveness, construction duration, and small and disadvantaged business utilization. Price was approximately equal to all technical factors.

The San Antonio Channel Improvement Project, Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation project is a four-phase, multi-year channel reconstruction project. In addition to maintaining the flood risk mitigation purpose and adding a habitat restoration purpose, the project will enhance cultural context and reinforce the connections between the four historic missions situated along this reach of the river. The \$126.6 million project is part of an on-going investment by the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the San Antonio River Foundation to provide flood risk management, ecosystem restoration and recreational improvements and amenities. The San Antonio River Authority serves as the local sponsor of the project. The Mission Reach makes up the southern eight mile portion of the overall San Antonio River Improvements Project which is part of a larger effort to re-establish ecological, cultural and recreational connections along the San Antonio River through the heart of San Antonio from Hildebrandt Ave. south to Loop 410 South. The total cost of the 13-mile SARIP in federal, local and private contributions is approximately \$220.4 million.

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Phase 1 begins at Lone Star Boulevard and continues downstream 1.2 miles to just below the San Antonio River confluence with San Pedro Creek. Restoration and recreation features included in this phase of the project are: construction of a pilot channel, boulder weir/grade control structures, riffle structures, embayments, approximately 35-acres of native riparian vegetation, pedestrian trail along the entire 1.2 miles, in-stream pedestrian footbridges (capable of carrying emergency equipment), picnic tables, benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, and trail signage. Many in-stream structures of Phase 1 will include accommodations for canoe passage through the structure. Habitat restoration measures such as stone spur dikes are included for aquatic restoration, erosion control and habitat, but will also serve a recreational function as canoe take-out and portage points.

A great deal of care and thought has been put into the design for the construction of this aquatic ecosystem restoration project, including measures to ensure the successful establishment of the vegetation component such as invasive vegetation removal and control, sub-surface and surface soil preparation, seed handling, and seeding operations, including proper controls for non-native plant contamination of equipment. The sustainability of the river channel is improved through careful design using the principles of fluvial geomorphology. This technique, based on natural river forming processes, allows for a more natural replication of the original river, reducing erosion, balancing sedimentation, and restoring a more natural environment for wildlife and enjoyable recreational experience.

A ground breaking ceremony will be held at Roosevelt Park (near Lone Star Blvd.) at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, June 2nd to celebrate the commencement of construction on the Mission Reach project.

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About the Fort Worth District : The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was established in 1950. The District is responsible for water resources development in two-thirds of Texas, and military design and construction in Texas and parts of Louisiana and New Mexico. Visit the Fort Worth District web site at: www.swf.usace.army.mil. For more information regarding SARIP, please visit www.sanantonioriver.org.