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Corps Provides Dallas Floodway Project Update

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District is continuing its strong support of the Dallas Floodway and Floodway Extension projects to reduce the risk of flooding for the residents and businesses in Dallas. The Corps is committed to completing the projects as quickly as possible, while ensuring long-term stability and integrity of the levees.

Currently, the Corps is working diligently to complete critical tests needed to ensure the highest level of confidence and reliability in the design of current and future levee improvements for the Dallas Floodway levee system. These tests, called the Fully Softened Strength Tests, are being conducted by experts from the Corps' Engineering Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Miss. They are the testing center's highest priority. The results will be used in the design of levee improvements by the City of Dallas to obtain re-accreditation by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for flood insurance purposes, and will also be used for the design of future levee improvements as part of the ongoing feasibility study.

The Trinity River Corridor Project includes two major flood damage reduction components – improvements to the existing Dallas Floodway levee system to provide protection against major flood events having approximately one-eighth of one percent chance of occurring in any given year (800-year event), and construction of the Dallas Floodway Extension Project to extend that protection to portions of South Dallas not currently protected against such events.

“While challenges are inevitable on a project of this magnitude and complexity, we have successfully overcome these challenges in the past and will continue to address each one quickly and appropriately as we move toward our common goal of enhancing public safety and implementing the City's world-class vision for the Trinity River,” stated Kevin Craig, the Corps' Director for the Trinity River Corridor Project.

The Dallas Floodway Extension Project, located immediately downstream of the existing Dallas Floodway, is currently under construction. In addition to new levees along Lamar Street and in the Cadillac Heights area, the project consists of a Chain of Wetlands, which carries floodwaters downstream during a flood event and provides ecosystem restoration benefits during non-flood periods, and 31 miles of recreation trails.

To date, four wetland cells have been constructed, reducing flood depths by approximately one foot. Detailed designs are currently underway for the remainder of the Chain of Wetlands, for the new levee along Lamar Street, and for modifications to the existing Rochester Park Levee. Preliminary investigations in advance of detailed design have also been initiated for the Cadillac Heights Levee.

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