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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Corps of Engineers supports City of Dallas update to Trinity River Corridor Project Committee

FORT WORTH, Texas –The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District provided support to the City of Dallas in an update briefing to the Trinity River Corridor Project Committee today. The briefing focused on the status of the 100-year Levee Remediation Plan, which is a part of the overall work on which the Corps is collaborating with the City on the Trinity River Corridor Project.

Currently, the Corps is completing critical soils 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., and are on schedule to be completed by the end of March. To date, the Corps has provided approximately one-third of the total test results to the City. Based on initial tests results and intensive collaboration with the City and their consultants, an appropriate design approach for the 100-year Levee Remediation Plan has been identified.

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 Southern Dallas not currently protected against such events. The Corps continues its work to complete these projects as quickly as possible, while ensuring their long-term stability and integrity.

Improvements to the existing Dallas Floodway, as identified by the City's Balanced Vision Plan and Interior Drainage Plan, were authorized by Congress in 2007, pending a determination that the plans for improvement are technically sound and environmentally acceptable. This determination is the basis for the ongoing Dallas Floodway Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement between the Corps and the City. Also included in this study is a comprehensive analysis of other projects proposed within the Dallas Floodway, including transportation elements and additional recreation features, to ensure all of these separate projects can be constructed without adversely impacting the integrity and performance of the system's flood protection purpose.

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.

"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 ensuring the integrity of the levees to support the Corps' and City's number one priority of public safety," stated Kevin Craig, the Corps' Director for the Trinity River Corridor Project.

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – FORT WORTH DISTRICT

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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 design and construction at military installations in Texas and parts of Louisiana and New Mexico. Visit the Fort Worth District Web site at: www.swf.usace.army.mil and SWF Face book at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fort-Worth-District-US-Army-Corps-of-Engineers/188083711219308>

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