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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Corps of Engineers announces Periodic Inspection results for levee system in Fort Worth

FORT WORTH – U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Fort Worth District recently completed periodic inspections on the Federal levee system in Fort Worth, resulting in eight levees rated unacceptable and two minimally acceptable. This inspection did not identify conditions that would impact performance of the Fort Worth Floodway levee systems during the passage of the current FEMA Base Flood, which is commonly referred to as the 100-year flood. Overall the system remains operational and safe to pass a moderate flood.

The Fort Worth Floodway, which supports protection of the central business district, has three river channel segments and 10 levee systems that reduce the flood risk along the West Fork and Clear Fork of the Trinity River.

Four of the eight levee systems were constructed with levee widths that exceed the minimum design requirements in some areas which may reduce the risks associated with vegetation and encroachments. Tarrant Regional Water District is preparing an evaluation of these areas to demonstrate that there is sufficient resiliency in these levee embankments as constructed. The Fort Worth District is in support of these efforts.

In 2008, the USACE implemented a new inspection process, based upon a new national policy guidance letter that tightened the standards and changed the assessment methodology. This new process better identifies nonconforming components that potentially could compromise the integrity and viability of levees by using a systems approach that incorporates risk-based concepts with a focus on sustainability. Nonconforming components are identified during the periodic inspection for further engineering review and studies to determine if they may or may not induce unacceptable risk.

An USACE team from the Fort Worth District performed a regular, periodic inspection of the Fort Worth Floodway in November using the new inspection template. Such inspections are conducted every five years. Although this is the Fort Worth Floodway's 10th periodic inspection, it is the first one conducted under the more rigorous inspection methodology that involves engineering review of the potential effects of nonconforming components on the system's performance during a major flood event (floodwater that reaches the design flood height of the levee).

TRWD is a cooperative public sponsor that has a strong sense of responsibility and strong track record for maintaining the floodway in accordance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulations. In the months following the November inspection, TRWD proactively collaborated with the Corps to implement corrective action on over 165 items to improve many individual component ratings. Several of the non-conforming components contributing to the comprehensive system ratings are systemic issues that require a more in-depth evaluation and mitigation solution. The TRWD and the Corps will continue their collaborative partnership to resolve the remaining issues to bring the entire project back to an *Acceptable* condition.

The executive summary of the inspection is available at <http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/>.

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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