

## DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY SAN ANTONIO RIVER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT SECTION 408

Description of Action. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is evaluating a proposed 33 USC Section 408 action for the construction of the San Antonio River Improvements Project by the San Antonio River Authority. The Section 408 process includes preparing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Document. The San Antonio River Improvements Project proposes to construct new footpaths and recreation features, improve existing footpaths, reconstruct existing storm water outfalls, and plant additional native vegetation adjacent to the San Antonio River. The San Antonio River and associated floodway is part of the San Antonio Floodway, a completed Fort Worth District (USACE) public works project. Additionally, Eagleland Reach is an ongoing USACE public works ecosystem restoration project located within the proposed San Antonio River Improvements Project construction area. Proposed modifications of a USACE project by non-federal entities must adhere to 33 USC Section 408. The purpose of the San Antonio River Improvements Project is to provide safer, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant footpaths, improve traffic safety and commuter access on the existing South Alamo Street, improve storm water outfalls, and continue restoration efforts through native vegetation plantings.

Anticipated Environmental Effects. The Environmental Assessment (EA) considers three alternatives, including the no action. The proposed action includes improvements and reconstruction of several existing trails, as well as new trail construction providing access to existing trails, existing features, and proposed features. A proposed picnic area and overlook site would be constructed. Outfalls and drainage areas would be reconstructed throughout to improve storm water filtration and reduce erosion within project area. Roadway improvements to South Alamo Street would incorporate widening activities on the bridge surface. Additional native vegetation plantings shall be incorporated throughout the proposed project. The proposed project area would be located south of downtown San Antonio along the San Antonio River from South Alamo Street to Lone Star Boulevard. The preferred alternative was selected because it provides improvements to the existing footpaths, vegetation plantings, and storm water outfalls of the ongoing Eagleland Reach ecosystem restoration project, while meeting the needs of the San Antonio River Authority's Amenities Master Plan purposes. Additionally, the preferred alternative would not significantly impact the San Antonio River, as would implementation of Alternative Action 1.

No significant adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to the human and natural environment associated with implementation of the proposed action are identified. There are no known cultural resources within the project area; however, given the number of discovered sites on a nearby USACE public works project, an archaeological monitor will be present during construction activities reaching 75 cm or greater below the ground surface. Impacts to protected species in the project vicinity are considered unlikely, and are not likely to have an adverse effect on the species. Impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands, shall be minor and are permitted under a currently approved Nationwide Permit 39 (Project Number SWF-2009-00477).

Conclusions. Based on a review of the information contained in this EA, it is determined that the implementation of the proposed action is not a major federal action, which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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