

**STATEMENT OF FINDINGS
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO THE
LOWER WHITE OAK BAYOU
FEDERAL FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT
GALVESTON, TEXAS**

1. Purpose. This document addresses the proposed repairs to the Lower White Oak Bayou Federal Flood Control Project that was damaged during Hurricane Ike. The project is located in Houston, Harris County, Texas. A section of the Lower White Oak Bayou Federal Flood Control Project suffered damage from scouring resulting from heavy rainfall. The scouring forces created voids behind the existing concrete lining. These voids have resulted in a potential risk of slope failure to both the concrete-lined slope and the uphill earthen slope. This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations to document findings concerning the environmental impacts of the proposed action.

2. Proposed Action. Flooding resulting from intense rains generated by Hurricane Ike caused severe damage to a portion of the canal system of the Lower White Oak Bayou Federal Flood Control Project. Rehabilitation and repairs to the Lower White Oak Bayou Federal Flood Control Project will consist of providing a concrete scour pad across the 10-foot overbank by doweling the new concrete to the existing concrete lining. The scour pad would be protected from rapid drawdown scenarios by providing two weep holes spaced on fifteen foot centers. Excavation would be required for the placement of a sand filter bedding separated from the natural ground surface by geotextile fabric. Coarse gravel (2" x 2") would collect the subsurface drainage at the weep holes to release pressure from under the concrete surface. The limits of the repair would cover an approximate length of 450 feet.

3. Coordination. A Public Notice and Notice of Availability was issued to interested parties including Federal and state agencies on June 1, 2009, which described the proposed action and announced the availability of the Draft EA. Comments on the public notice and Draft EA and the District's responses are included in Appendix A of the Final EA.

4. Environmental Effects. Galveston District has taken every reasonable measure to evaluate the environmental, social and economic impacts of the proposed project. Based on information provided in the EA and coordination with Federal, state, and local agencies, temporary and permanent effects resulting from the proposed project have been identified and can be found in Section 4 of the Final EA. The following resources and the effects of the repairs have been identified: wetlands will not be impacted by this project; wildlife may be temporarily affected by minor impacts during repairs; there would be no effect on federally-listed threatened or endangered species; the proposed repairs have no potential to affect Historic Properties; implementation of the proposed action would result in temporary noise impacts to local residents from construction equipment, however the impacts would not be significant; emissions from the proposed project would not be locally or regionally significant; there would be no long-term impact to water quality from the proposed repairs; there would be no hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste impacts from the proposed project; the repairs would not impact socioeconomic resources either locally or regionally; there are no Environmental Justice issues, there are no prime or unique farmlands in the project area; recreational resources may be temporarily affected by minor noise impacts during repairs; roadways and traffic may be temporarily impacted during repairs; no significant or adverse impacts to environmental resources are expected to occur as a result of implementation of the proposed project. All impacts to resources are expected to recover to pre-project conditions after the work is completed. The proposed project is expected to contribute beneficially to public health and safety and is not expected to contribute negative cumulative impacts to the area. It is the District's conclusion that the proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment or to the surrounding human population.

5. Determinations. The proposed repairs to the Lower White Oak Bayou Federal Flood Control Project were determined to be compliant with the following Federal legislation: the National Environmental Policy Act; Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958, as amended; National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; Clean Air Act of 1972, as amended; Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended; Executive Order 11990 – Protection of Wetlands; Executive Order 12898 – Environmental Justice; CEQ Memorandum Dated August 11, 1980 – Prime or Unique Farmlands; Executive order 11988 – Floodplain Management; and the Memorandum of Agreement with the FAA to Address Aircraft-Wildlife Strikes.

6. Findings. Based on my analysis of the Final EA and other information pertaining to the proposed project, I find that the proposed repairs to the Lower White Oak Bayou Federal Flood Control Project will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. After consideration of the information presented in the Final EA, I have

determined that an environmental impact statement is not required under the provisions of NEPA, Section 102, and other applicable regulations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and that the proposed project may be constructed.

6 July 2009

(date)



David C. Weston
Colonel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
District Engineer