



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Environmental Section

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

April 29, 2005

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT
AND
TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. GB-P-1

GREENS BAYOU GENERAL REEVALUATION REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

PURPOSE

This public notice is to inform interested parties that the US Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), Public Law 91-190, and regulations for implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA, 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508. The EA is integrated with the General Reevaluation Report (GRR) for the construction of a detention basin and channel modifications to Greens Bayou, Harris County, Texas.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project site is located on Greens Bayou between Veteran's Memorial Parkway and Cutten Road in an unincorporated area of north central Harris County in close proximity to the city limits of Houston and the North Sam Houston Parkway (Enclosure 1).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project consists of excavation within the Greens Bayou channel upstream from Veterans Memorial Drive to just downstream of Cutten Road, a distance of about 19,100 linear feet, or 3.7 miles. The proposed channel section would have a bottom width of 60-feet and side slopes of 1 vertical (V) on 3 horizontal (H) except for a segment from Bammel N. Houston Street downstream 2900 feet. In this segment the channel dimensions include a 60-foot bottom width with 1V:4H side slopes. The modified channel would follow the existing alignment of the bayou. The project also includes the construction of a 108-acre stormwater detention basin at the intersection of Antoine Road and West Greens Road.

Environmental features include planting 3,000 native trees and shrubs along the banks of the channel and in the detention basin, and grading the perimeter of the detention basin in a curvilinear fashion emulating a more natural landscape. The centerline of the channel will be constructed slightly recessed establishing a pilot channel that will meander within the 60-foot bottom template of the channel. The side slopes of the channel will be enhanced through the addition of flood benches, flat areas where trees can be planted, in the normal 3 to 1 sloped channel sides. Environmental preservation techniques such as preserving stands of mature existing pine trees and native shrubs within the detention basin footprint will aid in the recovery of the existing habitat that was displaced from the construction of the basin. In addition, mature oak trees along the channels ROW will be preserved through alignment modifications.

Wetland mitigation will be constructed along the pilot channel and in the detention basin cells totaling 16.3 acres to compensate for the loss of 14.72 acres of wetlands present at the site of the detention basin.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This proposed project has been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and other Federal, State, and local agencies. Consultation procedures also have been completed with the USFWS in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, as amended. Our initial determination is that the proposed project will not have any adverse impacts on threatened or endangered species.

The proposed activity has been coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The SHPO concurred with our determination that the proposed action will not have any adverse impacts on historic or cultural resources.

The following is a list of Federal, State, and local agencies with which these activities are being coordinated:

Federal:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

State:

Budget and Planning Office, Office of the Governor of Texas
The Texas Office of State-Federal Relations
Texas Historical Commission
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Texas General Land Office
Texas Water Development Board

Local:
Harris County Flood Control District
City of Houston
Harris County

STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

The proposed project will be evaluated with regard to the requirements of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is reviewing the proposed project under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and in accordance with Title 31, Texas Administrative Code, Section 279.1-13 to determine if the work will comply with State water quality standards. By virtue of an agreement between USACE and the TCEQ, this public notice is also issued for the purpose of advising all known interested persons that there is pending before the TCEQ a decision on water quality certification under such act. Any comments concerning this work may be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Attention: 401 Coordinator (MC-150), P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087. The public comment period extends 30 days from the publication of this public notice. A copy of the public notice, with a description of the project is made available for review in the TCEQ's Austin office.

The TCEQ may conduct a public meeting to consider all comments concerning water quality if requested in writing. A request for a public meeting must contain the following information: the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the person making the request; a brief description of the interest of the requester, or of persons represented by the requester; and a brief description of how the project would adversely affect such interest.

EVALUATION FACTORS

The decision whether to proceed with the proposed action will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources as well as public environmental safety and economic concerns.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The project described in this notice represents a change to the existing authorized project. A preliminary review of the proposed plan indicated that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. Based on this determination the integrated GRR/EA was prepared as a final response to the study authorization contained in PL 101-640, dated November 28, 1990, of the Water Resource Development Act of 1990 (WRDA 1990). This preliminary determination of EIS requirement will be changed if information brought forth in the coordination process is of a significant nature.

The Greens Bayou project was developed as part of the comprehensive flood control plan for Buffalo Bayou and Tributaries, Texas. This integrated GRR/EA presents the results of the reevaluation study and describes the study activities that have occurred since project authorization in 1990. The EA portions were prepared to assess potential project impacts to the human and natural environment resulting from the Greens Bayou project. Copies of the GRR/EA are available by written request to the address below. The document is also available online at: <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil>.

As documented in the EA the project avoids impacts to significant resources with the exception of the destruction of 14.72 acres of low value wetlands, that will be mitigated on-site by the construction of 16.3 acres of improved wetlands.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons desiring to provide comments on the project are requested to mail their comments within 30 days of the date of this notice to:

District Engineer
US Army Engineer District, Galveston
ATTN: Shane Hunt CESWG-PE-PR
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553

or E-mail to: shane.d.hunt@swg02.usace.army.mil

The comments should make reference to Public Notice No. GB-P-1.

Any person who has an interest which may be affected by this project, may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the date of this notice and clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this project.

Any questions concerning this proposed project may be directed to Mr. Shane Hunt at 409-766-6390.


Lloyd H. Saunders, Ph.D.
Chief, Planning, Environmental,
and Regulatory Division

Enclosure

