



# SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT**

**BUILDING STRONG®**

Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District  
In-Lieu Fee Program, Amendment 5  
Western Riverside County, CA

**Public Notice/Application No.:** SPL-2009-00143-JEM

**Comment Period:** August 17, 2016 through September 16, 2016 [30-day comment period]

**Project Manager:** James Mace; 951.276.6624x263; [James.E.Mace@usace.army.mil](mailto:James.E.Mace@usace.army.mil)

---

**Applicant**

Shelli Lamb  
RCRCD  
4500 Glenwood Drive  
Riverside, California 92501-3042

**Contact**

Shelli Lamb  
RCRCD  
4500 Glenwood Drive  
Riverside, California 92501-3042

**Location**

The proposed Fifth Amendment to the In-Lieu Fee Enabling Instrument (Instrument) for the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD) In-Lieu Fee Program (Program) would be located within the geographic area(s) within which impacts to Waters of the United States occur that may be compensated through Credits from the Program. A map detailing the Program area is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

**Activity**

The Instrument would be amended to add the Southwest Resource Management Association (SRMA) as a Program sponsor. For more information, please see page 3 of this notice.

---

Interested parties are hereby notified that the proposed Fifth Amendment to the Instrument has been received to establish SRMA as a Program sponsor. The purpose of this notice is to comply with the framework of the established Program. Interested parties are invited to provide their views on the proposed Fifth Amendment, which will become a part of the record and will be considered in the decision to authorize or not authorize the Amendment. Comments should be mailed to:

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
RIVERSIDE REGULATORY FIELD OFFICE  
ATTN: JAMES MACE  
1451 RESEARCH PARK DRIVE, SUITE 100  
RIVERSIDE, CA 92507-2154

Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: [James.E.Mace@usace.army.mil](mailto:James.E.Mace@usace.army.mil)

## **Evaluation Factors**

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this Fifth Amendment. The District Engineer (DE) will review the comments received in response to this notice and make a written initial evaluation as to the potential of the proposed Fifth Amendment to help provide compensatory mitigation opportunities within the Santa Ana River Watershed. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. In addition, all comments will be distributed to the members of the Interagency Review Team (IRT) and the RCRCD within 15 days of the close of the comment period. The DE and the IRT members will also have the opportunity to comment to the RCRCD. After considering comments from the DE, the IRT, and the public, if the RCRCD chooses to proceed with the Fifth Amendment, the RCRCD will submit the Amendment to the DE.

## **Background**

On April 10, 2008, the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency published the Final Rule on Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources ("Mitigation Rule"), which went into effect June 9, 2008. The rule replaced most previous guidance concerning compensatory mitigation, including the previous ILF guidance of 2000. The new rule includes requirements that prospective ILF program providers meet substantially the same standards as mitigation banks and undergo the same IRT review and approval process as mitigation banks.

The RCRCD, a public agency special district formed under the Public Resources Code of the State of California to provide soil, water, and wildlife resource management, wishes to amend the definition of "Program Sponsor" within the existing Instrument, previously reviewed under the Mitigation Rule. The Mitigation Rule allows ILF Projects associated with approved ILF programs and Instruments to provide compensatory mitigation for Department of the Army permits. If SRMA is added to the Instrument as a Program sponsor, this will facilitate the purchase and sale of In-Lieu Fee Credits and mitigation for Projects within the Santa Ana Watershed, an area for which there is a great demand for In-Lieu Fee Credits. The Corps seeks comments from interested parties on the ILF Project Plans.

This public notice provides a summary of the Fifth Amendment proposed by RCRCD. The full proposed Fifth Amendment may be obtained from the Corps by contacting James Mace at (951) 276-6624 x263, or by contacting Ward Simmons at (951) 826-8366.

## **Objectives of the Project and Location**

The Fifth Amendment to the Instrument has been proposed to add SRMA as a Program sponsor. SRMA is a California non-profit public benefit corporation established for the purposes of: (1) preservation, protection and enhancement of land in its natural, scenic, historical, agricultural, forested, or open-space condition or use; (2) promoting the economically and ecologically sustainable use and development of natural resources; (3) educating the public regarding the sustainable use of natural resources; and (4) obtaining, purchasing, and/or holding land and conservation easements for the above listed purposes. SRMA is authorized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to manage mitigation lands and endowment funds for the long-term stewardship of mitigation properties in California, and has substantial access to mitigation lands within the Santa Ana River Watershed.

The purpose of adding SRMA as a Program sponsor is to address the great demand for In-Lieu Fee Credits and mitigation within the Santa Ana River Watershed. While RCRCD's service area extends and RCRCD is able to sell Credits throughout the Watershed, mitigation projects are currently limited to areas within Riverside County, California. By adding SRMA as a Program sponsor, RCRCD and SRMA would be able to initiate mitigation projects in other locations within the watershed.

### **Qualifications of the Sponsor**

RCRCD and SRMA have combined staff experience of over 70 years in biology, ecology, fisheries, water conservation and related fields. RCRCD and SRMA have together worked with over 3,000 landowners on field and technical activities including erosion control, mitigation, restoration, and water management. Additional information about the qualifications of RCRCD were documented in the ILF Program Prospectus and Instrument.

For additional information please call James Mace of my staff at 951-276-6624 x263 or via e-mail at [James.E.Mace@usace.army.mil](mailto:James.E.Mace@usace.army.mil). This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Division.



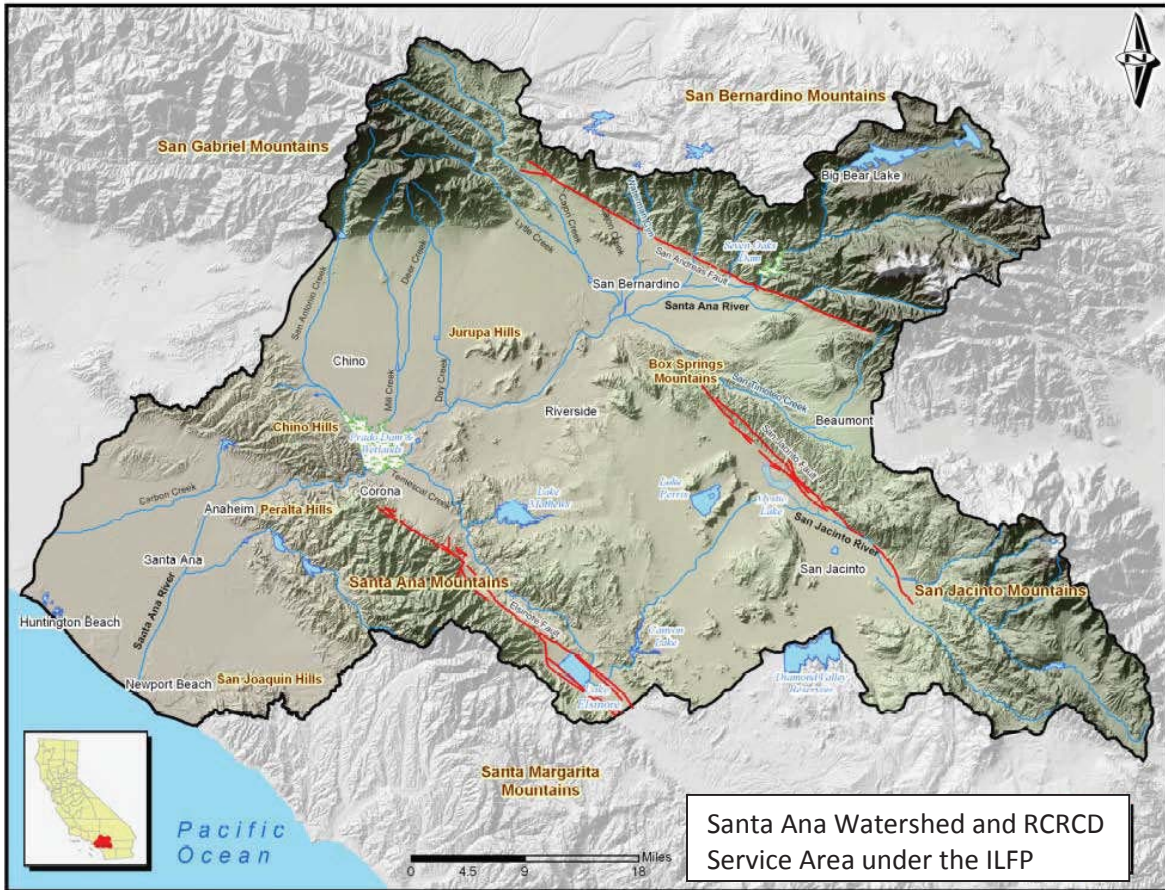
#### *Regulatory Program Goals:*

- To provide strong protection of the nation's aquatic environment, including wetlands.
- To ensure the Corps provides the regulated public with fair and reasonable decisions.
- To enhance the efficiency of the Corps' administration of its regulatory program.

---

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – LOS ANGELES DISTRICT  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
RIVERSIDE REGULATORY FIELD OFFICE  
1451 RESEARCH PARK DRIVE, SUITE 100  
RIVERSIDE, CA 92507-2154  
[WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL](http://WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL)**

Exhibit A



F:\projects\IRP\_2004\surface2\_1.mxd GW-421