



SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

BUILDING STRONG®

Mountains Restoration Trust
In-Lieu Fee Program, Amendment 1
Calabasas, Los Angeles County, CA

Public Notice/Application No.: SPL-2004-00121-JWM

Comment Period: April 13, 2018 through May 18, 2018 [30-day comment period]

Project Manager: Stephen Estes; 213-452-3660; Stephen.M.Estes@usace.army.mil

Applicant

Debra Sharpton
MRT
23075 Mulholland HWY
Calabasas, California 91302

Contact

Debra Sharpton
MRT
23075 Mulholland HWY
Calabasas, California 91302

Location

The location of the proposed In-Lieu Fee Project (ILF Project) is located in Cold Creek which is a tributary within the Santa Monica watershed in northwestern Los Angeles County, California (see attached vicinity map). The property is generally located near Cold Canyon Road in the Monte Nido neighborhood of unincorporated Calabasas.

Activity

The review of the MRT Development, Interim Management and Long-Term Management Plans (ILF Project Plans) in Cold Creek and Amendment No. 1 to the MRT ILF Instrument related to the ILF Project in the Cold Creek, Calabasas, Los Angeles County California. For more information see page 3 of this notice.

Interested parties are hereby notified that the ILF Project Plans have been received to establish an ILF Project to comply with the framework of the established MRT ILF Program. Interested parties are invited to provide their views on the proposed ILF Project Plans, which will become a part of the record and will be considered in the decision to authorize or not authorize the ILF Project. Comments should be mailed to:

Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division
Los Angeles District
ATTN: Stephen Estes (SPL-2004-121-PKK)
915 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90017

Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: Stephen.M.Estes@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 First 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 First Amendment to help provide compensatory mitigation opportunities within the Santa Monica 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 MRT 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 MRT. After considering comments from the DE, the IRT, and the public, if the MRT chooses to proceed with the First Amendment, the MRT 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 MRT, a non-profit entity, wishes to implement an ILF Project consistent with the existing MRT ILF Program 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 DA permits. Consistent with the requirements of the rule at 33 CFR § 332.8(d), MRT has submitted the ILF Project Plans to the Corps for the purpose of implementing and managing an ILF Project. The Corps seeks comments from interested parties on the ILF Project Plans.

This public notice provides a summary of the ILF Project Plans submitted by MRT. The full ILF Project Plans may be obtained from the Corps by contacting Stephen Estes at Stephen.M.Estes@usace.army.mil, or by viewing the ILF Project Plans at the following website:

https://ribits.usace.army.mil/ribits_apex/f?p=107:378:3080285866991::NO::P378_PROGRAM_ID:1261

And following these steps:

1. Expand Santa Monica Bay Watershed Folder
2. Expand Cold Creek Folder
3. Expand Steelhead Barrier Folder
4. Expand Steelhead Barrier Development Plan
5. Click on the file to download the Plan

Objectives of the Project and Location

The ILF Project Plans were developed to comply with MRT's In-Lieu Fee Program to be used for the enhancement of approximately 2.20 acres of riparian areas, rehabilitation and enhancement of approximately 0.97 acre within the perennial Cold Creek, and enhancement of 0.06 acre of wetland within Cold Creek, located on MRT property (the "ILF Project") in Cold Creek subwatershed of the Santa Monica Watershed.

The purpose of the mitigation is to restore the functions and values of the Cold Creek watershed lost due to impacts from human activities by restoring and enhancing degraded areas where the ILF Project is to be located. The ILF Project Plans consider both the ecological and geomorphologic functions of the mitigation site in order to confirm that the functions of the restoration will exceed those of the existing habitat.

The objective of the ILF Project is to restore the ILF Project area to provide for stable communities and ecosystems which will require little or no support once established. This will be fulfilled by using plant materials that have originated from the local Eco region and that will provide improved food, cover and reproductive opportunities for wildlife.

The service area will continue to be the same as in the approved MRT ILF Program, which is the Santa Monica Watershed. The ILF Project site currently consists of dense stands of willow, California wildrose, and rough sedge. Invasive species found on site consist of smilo grass, water bentgrass, fennel, umbrella sedge, and clustered dock. The ILF project site contains a concrete barrier which spans the Cold Creek creating an artificial impoundment upstream of the barrier. MRT has completed and submitted to the ACOE a proposed preliminary concept plan referred to as the Development Plan. The Project was selected because the property is owned by MRT and would result in a high amount of improvement in the multiple functions described in the Prioritization and Compensation Planning Framework found in Exhibit B of the executed MRT ILF Instrument. MRT is requesting approximately 3.23 of ILF Program credits which equates to approximately 3.23 acres of land that will be rehabilitated, enhanced or used for a buffer area. The ILF Project site will be protected in perpetuity by a restrictive covenant and be managed with endowment funds.

Qualifications of the Sponsor

MRT has successfully managed many restoration projects including the removal of channels, culvert and bridge supports from streams, and the re-contouring of stream beds. Additional information about the qualifications of MRT were documented in the ILF Program Prospectus and Instrument.

For additional information please call Stephen Estes of my staff at 213-452-3660 or via e-mail at Stephen.M.Estes@usace.army.mil. This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Division.



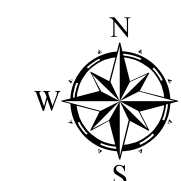
Regulatory Program Goals:

- 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.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90017
WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL/MISSIONS/REGULATORY**

Figure 1:
Vicinity Map

 Project Boundary



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

1:10,000

Coordinate System: NAD 1983
UTM Zone 11N

Basemap: USGS 7.5-Minute Malibu
Beach Quadrangle (2015)

This map contains data from various
federal, state, and local sources. MRT is
not responsible for the accuracy of data
presented herein. Use for general
planning purposes only.
Created by: Kevin Gaston

Date: 11/17/2017

