



PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

Corona Sewage Treatment Plant Dike, Corona National Housing Tract Dike and Yorba Slaughter Adobe Dike Modifications - Santa Ana River Mainstem Project

INTRODUCTION: To address inadequate drainage and maintenance access issues, minor modifications are required to the existing Corona Sewage Treatment Plant Dike (STP), Corona National Housing Tract Dike (CNH) and Yorba Slaughter Adobe Dike (YSA). These features of the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project are located in the Prado Dam Reservoir. The STP and CNH Dikes are located in Riverside County, and the YSA Dike is in San Bernardino County. The proposed action includes: (1) constructing new drainage features on the Reservoir side of exiting culvert outlets at the STP and CNH Dikes to eliminating ponding in those areas; (2) armoring the left bank of an eroded gully at the east end of the STP Dike that is starting to migrate closer to the existing maintenance road and could otherwise undermine the dike structure; (3) constructing a maintenance road along the interior toe (“land side”) of the STP Dike; 4) constructing a turnaround at the end of the maintenance road along the eastside of the YSA Dike to provide access to the Operation and Maintenance crew vehicles; and (5) improving drainage and reducing erosion of the southeast slope of the YSA Dike by constructing a terrace drain in this area. A Supplemental Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Report Addendum (SEA/EIR Addendum) is being prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). This SEA/EIR Addendum will supplement the 2001 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, Prado Basin and Vicinity.

These project features were previously analyzed in the 1988 Phase II General Design Memorandum (GDM)/SEIS, 2001 Final SEIS/EIR and then in 2005, 2007, 2010, and 2014 Final SEA/EIR Addenda that were prepared prior to their initial construction.

This document serves to notify interested parties of the Corps’ intent to prepare another Supplemental EA/EIR Addendum, and, if warranted, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and to address any additional environmental impacts due to the proposed modifications. The public notice will be available until October 1, 2018 after which a FONSI would be prepared if applicable. Any public comments received during the notification period will be addressed in the SEA/EIR Addendum.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, state, and local agencies and officials, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed project.

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Comments will be accepted through Monday, October 1, 2018. Comments may be mailed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District, Environmental Resources Branch
c/o Naeem Siddiqui, CESPL-PDR-N
915 Wilshire Blvd., Ste 930
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Alternatively, comments can be submitted electronically to Naeem.A.Siddiqui@usace.army.mil or via phone at 213-452-3852.

LOCATION: The project areas are located within the state of California, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, cities of Corona and Chino. (Figure 1).

PROPOSED PROJECT: The Proposed Action includes the following elements:

STP Dike Drain Modification: Construct a new drainage feature on the Reservoir side of an existing Twin 36 inch outlet structure and existing maintenance road. Ponded water and the sediment trapped in this area can make it impossible to get across the maintenance road for dike safety inspection and maintenance activities following a rain event. The modification would include replacing a small section of the existing asphalt maintenance road with concrete, and include removal of the central part of the existing grouted stone apron, replacing it with a low flow concrete channel. This modification will allow the water to get across the existing road and grouted stone apron and slope to drain. To keep the water from ponding beyond the road and backing up into the structure, a shallow pit, approximately 55 feet long by 30 feet wide will be excavated on the downstream side of the outlet structure and maintenance road. This pit will be maintained clear of vegetation and will allow water to percolate and, or drain more effectively. The project feature would temporarily affect 0.13 acres, and permanently affect 0.06 acres of predominantly non-native habitat. All but 0.01 acres of construction area would be within the previous Temporary Construction Easement (TCE) limits for the STP Dike.

STP Dike Gully Armoring Modification: A shallow gully or drainage feature located immediately adjacent to the eastern end of the STP Dike and maintenance road is eroding on its left bank. This erosion threatens the foundational integrity of both the road and eventually the dike. The purpose of this design modification is to eliminate the potential for damage to the maintenance road and the structure. The modification plans include placing riprap on the left bank of the drainage feature with sufficient toe protection (buried rock) to protect the road and dike from scour. This protection will be provided by a 2 foot thick riprap section that will line the left bank of the gully for about 50 feet. The top of riprap will extend 3 feet above the gully invert and will have a 5 foot toe down depth. The project feature would temporarily affect 0.09 acres and permanently affect 0.02 acres of predominantly non-native habitat.

STP Dike Interior Maintenance Road: A maintenance road would be constructed along the “land-side” toe of the STP Dike, facing the Sewage Treatment Plant. The gravel road would replace and extend an existing dirt road, and would be 2,900 feet long and 15 feet wide.

CNH Dike Drain Modification: Similar to the STP Dike, water tends to pond within the existing Twin 48 inch outlet structure and on the existing maintenance road of the CNH Dike. The ponded water depth and the sediment trapped in this area can make it impossible to get across the maintenance road for dike

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safety inspections and maintenance activities following a rain event. The purpose of this modification is to reduce or eliminate ponding at the outlet structure and on the maintenance road, and promote drainage. The modification would be similar to that described for the STP Dike, and would include replacing a small section of the existing asphalt maintenance road with concrete, and removing the central part of the existing grouted stone apron and replacing that with a low flow concrete channel. This modification will allow the water to get across the existing road and past the grouted stone apron. To keep the water from ponding just beyond the road and backing up onto the structure, a shallow pit, approximately 55 feet long by 30 feet wide will be excavated on the downstream side of the outlet structure and maintenance road. This pit will be maintained clear of vegetation and will allow water to percolate and, or drain more effectively. The project feature would temporarily affect 0.13 acres and permanently affect 0.06 acres of predominantly non-native habitat. The entire construction area would be within the previous TCE limits for the CNH Dike.

YSA Turnaround: The proposed action includes construction of a turnaround at the end of the maintenance road on the southeastern side of the YSA Dike. The purpose of this turnaround is to provide access for O&M activities for dike safety inspection and improved access to an existing manhole. Earthwork will be performed to bring the turnaround up to grade. The turnaround area will be finished with an aggregate base layer. Construction of this project feature would permanently affect 0.08 acres of predominantly non-native habitat; individual willow trees and mulefat scrub would also need to be removed.

YSA Terrace and Down Drain Construction: The existing southeast slope of the natural bluff at the toe of the existing dike is subject to erosion due to inadequate drainage. The purpose of this terrace and down drain design is to eliminate these problems. The terrace drain would be a 117-foot long, 6-foot wide concrete ditch that would collect surface runoff from the top of the hill and redirect it to the bottom of the slope and safely away from the dike. The terrace drain would connect to a 4-foot wide concrete down drain that would direct surface runoff to the bottom of the slope. At the bottom, surface flows would travel across a concrete dip crossing and into a 10-foot wide by 37-foot long riprap scour apron. This scour apron will be constructed to dissipate energy. The terrace and down drain will both be constructed within the existing project's TCE. The riprap scour apron will require an additional 520 sq. ft. of TCE to build. Approximately 60 sq. ft. of that TCE will be riprap. Construction of this project feature would predominantly affect non-native habitat.

For all elements, staging areas would be placed within existing paved or cleared areas and existing access roads would be utilized.

BACKGROUND: The approved Prado Basin and Vicinity project is a component of the Santa Ana River Mainstem Flood Damage Reduction Project (SARP). The purpose of SARP is to reduce flood damages in vulnerable areas within the counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange. The Corps is the lead agency for compliance with NEPA, and the Orange County Flood Control District (Orange County, one of the three SARP local sponsors) is the lead agency for compliance with CEQA.

IMPACTS: No significant impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed action. Initial characterizations of biological and cultural resources from site visits and assessments conducted in 2017 and 2018 are noted below:

Biological Resources: The biological resources within the proposed project footprints are extremely limited consisting of mainly non-native annual grasslands, summer mustard, wild radish, and rigput brome. Less dominate species include mallow, tree tobacco, prickly lettuce, amaranth, castor bean, chenopod, annual rye, bull thistle, and jimson weed. The few native species include horsetweed and

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bursage. Mulefat and Southern willow scrub habitat is present in areas that are seasonally inundated in adjacent areas. A thin, dense stand of willows (*Salix* spp.) is present at the base of the manufactured slope along the east side of the YSA, near where the turnaround would be constructed. Goodding's black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), and salt cedar (*Tamarix* sp.) were identified. The dense habitat has restricted the development of an understory. Only a few individual, immature willow trees and mulefat would be removed for construction of the turnaround feature at the YSA Dike and some disturbed riparian scrub consisting of common ragweed and mulefat scrub would be temporarily impacted during the STP ponding area work. None of the other features including the gully repair and new maintenance road at the STP Dike, drainage work at the CNH Dike and construction of the terrace drain at the YSA Dike would affect native vegetation.

No construction will occur during the bird nesting season (all work will be performed between August 16 and February 14), and no work will be performed in ponded or flowing water. No active least Bell's vireo nests were identified within the proposed project footprint during recent or past surveys, and no effect to any vireo or other listed species territory is anticipated with the implementation of the proposed project. No effects to federally listed threatened or endangered species would occur. While most of the proposed activities will occur within designated critical habitat for the vireo, most of the work would take place within the footprint of previously constructed and mitigated features. The minor expansion of permanent footprint to include the construction of a turnaround area and terrace drain at the YSA Dike and drainage features at the STP and CNH Dikes would result in a negligible affect and would not diminish the character, quality or value of critical habitat in this area.

Cultural Resources: The area of potential effects (APE) was surveyed for the presence of historic and prehistoric resources in 1985 by ECOS Management Criteria, Inc. (Brook and Langenwaller, 1985). The survey covered an area that extends from the Prado Dam Flood Control Basin all the way to the Pacific Ocean. A significant cultural resource is located within the general project area for the proposed work at the YSA Dike. The proposed construction would avoid direct impacts to the site. Avoidance measures, which include monitoring by qualified archaeologists, have been developed to ensure that the significant site will not be adversely affected by the proposed action.

COORDINATION: The proposed action has been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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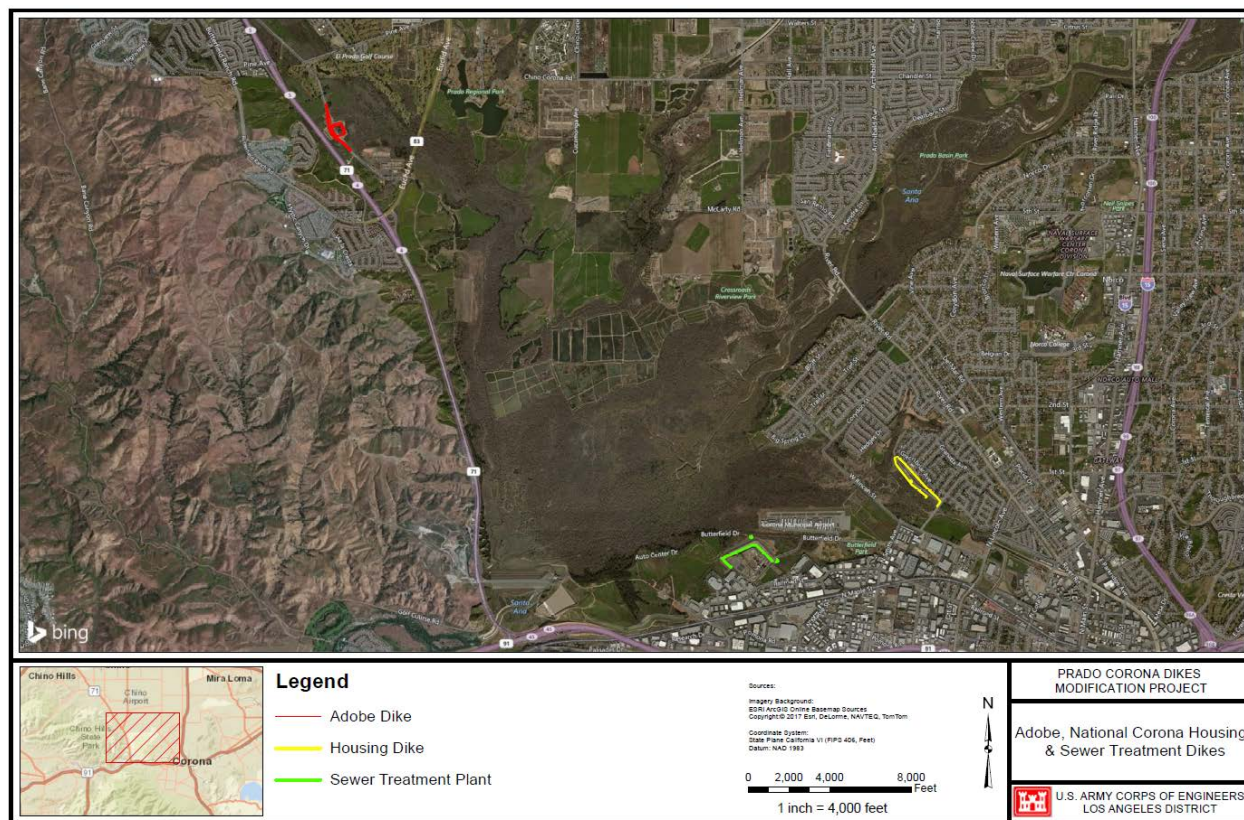


Figure 1 depicts the project locations of STP, CNH and YSA Dikes