



# SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

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Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District  
In-Lieu Fee Program Amendment – New Project Site  
Western Riverside County, CA

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

**Comment Period:** March 4, 2015 through March 18, 2015

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

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**Applicant**

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

**Contact**

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

**Location**

The location of the proposed Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD) In-Lieu Fee Project Site (ILF Project) is adjacent to the Santa Ana River (mainstem area), west of the Hamner Avenue Bridge over the Santa Ana River, near Norco/Eastvale, Riverside County, California (see attached Figure 1).

**Activity**

The review of the RCRCD Development, Interim Management and Long-Term Management Plans (ILF Project Plans; ILFPP) in the Santa Ana River mainstem area, and Amendment to the RCRCD ILF Instrument. For more information see page 3 of this notice.

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Interested parties are hereby notified that the ILFPP have been received to establish an ILF Project to comply with the framework of the established RCRCD ILF Program. Interested parties are invited to provide their views on the proposed ILFPP, 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:

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 proposed activity. 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 ILF Project to provide compensatory mitigation. 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 Inter-agency Review Team (IRT) and the sponsor 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 sponsor. After considering comments from the DE, the IRT, and the public, if the RCRCD chooses to proceed with the ILF Project, the RCRCD will prepare a draft amendment to the RCRCD ILF Instrument and submit it 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 Interagency Review Team review and approval process as mitigation banks.

The RCRCD, a public agency special district formed under the State of California Public Resources Code to provide soil, water, and wildlife resource management, wishes to implement an ILF Project consistent with the existing RCRCD 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 Department of the Army permits. Consistent with the requirements of the rule at 33 CFR § 332.8(d), RCRCD has submitted the ILFPP to the Corps for the purpose of implementing and managing an ILF Project. The Corps seeks comments from interested parties on the ILFPP.

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

## **Objectives of the Project**

The ILFPP were developed to provide for mitigation on the Project Site (formerly known as the Altfillisch Property) owned and managed by the RCRCD, and to comply with RCRCD's In-Lieu Fee Program to be used for the restoration of waters of the United States, including wetland waters.

The purpose of the mitigation is to restore the functions and services of waters of the U.S. lost due to impacts from human activities by restoring degraded areas of the Project Site. The ILFPP consider both the ecological and geomorphologic functions of the Project Site in order to confirm the functions and services after the restoration will exceed those of the existing habitat.

The objective of the ILFPP is to restore the Project Site by raising scores of an applied functional assessment (specifically the California Rapid Assessment Method; CRAM) in all of the metrics within the Physical Structure and Biotic Structure attributes. The primary goal is for restored areas to contain stable, self-sustaining populations, 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 proposed service area would continue to be the same as in the approved RCRCO ILF Program, which is generally the Santa Ana Watershed. The Project site is classified as a low-gradient alluvial floodplain wetland (riverine and palustrine) that has developed on alluvium from the river floodplain and from parent material sources upstream. The site is also hydraulically connected to the river as waters of the United States including, but not limited to, wetlands, that formed in linear strips in the floodplain. The site has predominately unidirectional flow of both surface and subsurface water, depending upon location, and the hydroperiod ranges from short and damaging during storm events, to long and steady in areas where runoff or treated wastewater are the only water sources during most of the year.

The Project Site was selected due to its proximity to existing habitat and the potential for restoration based upon hydrologic functions, nearby plant communities, and soil conditions. Further, the site was selected because it is owned by the RCRCO and would benefit from restoration. The proximity and connectivity of aquatic resources that occur upstream and downstream of the site allow for inflow and outflow of water during flood events and low flow periods. The site is hydraulically connected to the entire upstream portion of the watershed and downstream to the Pacific Ocean.

The RCRCO purchased the Project Site in July, 2014. To ensure the long-term protection of the Project Site, the RCRCO will record a Declaration of Restrictive Covenant that will be approved by the ACOE in substantially the same form as the template previously agreed to pursuant to the RCRCO In-Lieu Fee Instrument. RCRCO is requesting approximately 60.86 ILF Program rehabilitation credits and 14.96 enhancement credits, which equates to approximately 60.86 acres of land that would be rehabilitated and 14.96 acres of land that would be enhanced.

### **Qualifications of the Sponsor**

RCRCO has combined staff experience of over 70 years in biology, ecology, fisheries, water conservation and related fields. RCRCO has 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 RCRCO was 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.



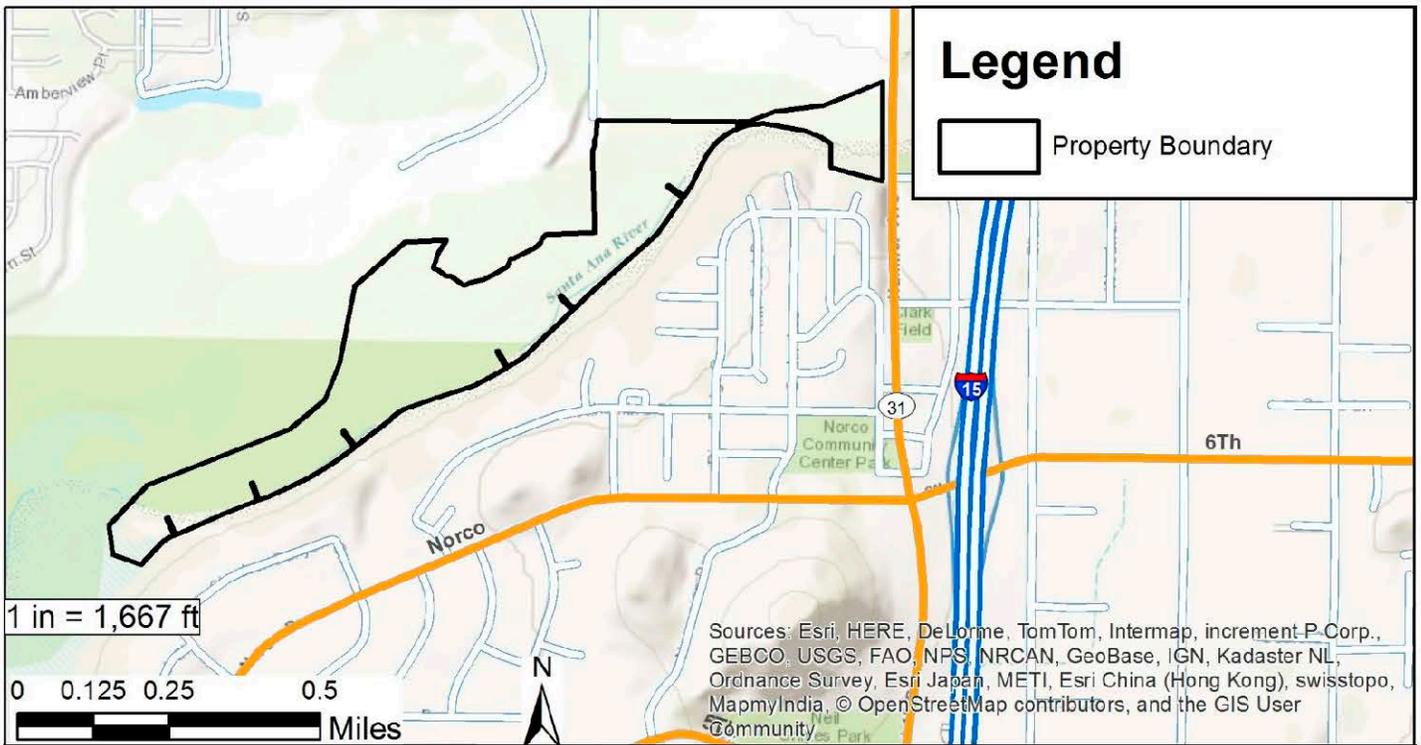
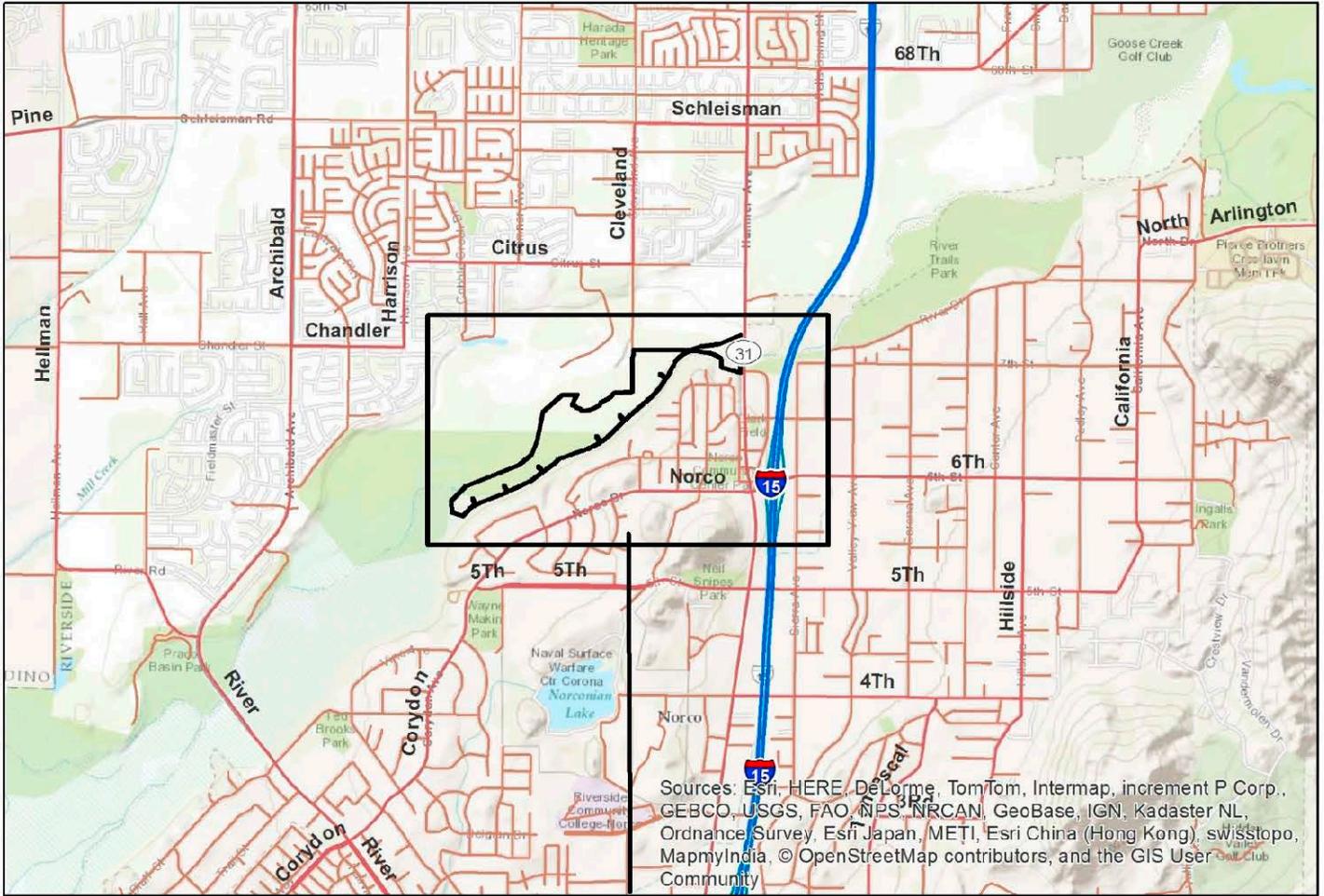
*Regulatory Program Goals:*

- 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.

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**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)**

Figure 1. Property Location - North Corona, Riverside County, California



**RCRCD**  
 RIVERSIDE-CORONA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
**RCRCD**  
 4500 Glenwood Dr.  
 Riverside, CA. 92501  
 (951) 683-7691

Location Map  
 Norco, California

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
**Action No. SPL-2009-00143**