



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant:
Joan Valle, Riverside County Flood
Control & Water Conservation District

Published: **July 31, 2025**
Expires: **August 30, 2025**

Los Angeles District
Permit Application No. SPL-2025-00454

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Los Angeles District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

APPLICANT: Joan Valle
Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
1995 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501

AGENT: Margaret Bornyasz
Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
1995 Market Street, Riverside, CA 92501

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The project would affect waters of the United States associated with Cactus Channel. The project/review area is located adjacent to March Air Reserve Base (MARB) in Section 13 of Township 3 S, Range 4 W; at Latitude 33.909927 and Longitude -117.25015; in Moreno Valley, Riverside County, California (Figure 1).

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The project site contains approximately 1.71 acres of waters of the U.S., of which 1.39 acres consists of wetland waters, representing a total of 7,426 linear feet of streambed. The boundaries of waters of the U.S. are depicted on the enclosed map (see Figure 2). The project alignment would parallel Cactus Avenue, commencing immediately east of Cactus Avenue and Elsworth Street intersection and terminating at Heacock Channel located at the southwest corner of Cactus Avenue and Heacock Street.

Approximately 0.32 acres of non-wetland waters of the U.S. are associated with the project site. Vegetation in non-wetland areas is dominated by species such as common brome (*Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens*), Dallis grass (*Paspalum dilatatum*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), and tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*).

Approximately 1.39 acres of wetland waters of the U.S. are associated with the project site. Vegetation in wetland areas were dominated by various species including broadleaf cattail, pondweed, tall flat sedge, and support in some areas Goodding's

black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), sandbar willow (*Salix exigua* var. *exigua*), and Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*).

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Basic: The basic project purpose comprises the fundamental, essential, or irreducible purpose of the proposed project, and is used by the Corps to determine whether the applicant's project is water dependent (i.e., requires access or proximity to or siting within a special aquatic site to fulfill its basic purpose). Establishment of the basic project purpose is necessary only when the proposed activity would discharge dredged or fill material into a special aquatic site (e.g., wetlands, pool and riffle complex, mudflats, coral reefs). The basic project purpose for the proposed project is flood control. Preliminary review indicates the project is water dependent.

Overall: The overall project purpose serves as the basis for the Corps' 404(b)(1) alternatives analysis and is determined by further defining the basic project purpose in a manner that more specifically describes the applicant's goals for the project, and which allows a reasonable range of alternatives to be analyzed. The overall project purpose for the proposed project is to provide 100-year flood protection to residential, commercial, federal, public, and privately owned properties within the vicinity of the project site.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant requests authorization to convert an existing man-made stormwater channel to an underground storm drain system for the purpose of providing 100-year flood protection to nearby properties. Impacts consist of the placement of a concrete box culvert system within the channel. The box culvert system has been designed to contain the 100-year flood discharge to reduce flooding impacts currently experienced by the residential, commercial, federal, public and privately-owned properties within the vicinity of Cactus Channel.

The proposed project would permanently discharge fill material into 1.71 acres of waters of the U.S., of which 1.39 acres are wetland waters. A total of 7,426 linear feet of streambed would be permanently filled. The box culvert system would connect to existing infrastructure in the channel and the system would run approximately 7,900 linear feet and would vary in width from an 11-foot-wide box to a 9-foot-wide double box (approximately 19 feet in width total).

The project consists of one continuous drainage feature (Cactus Channel), but for planning purposes the feature has been sectioned into 4 aquatic resource segments, based on ownership. The segments may be constructed sequentially or concurrently depending on entitlement stage and funding. For informational purposes, the following shows the limits and design features of the four phases:

- Phase 1 (MJPA) includes the construction of approximately 2,570 linear feet of a concrete box culvert system beginning near the intersection of Cactus Avenue

and Heacock Street and ending westerly of Riverside Drive. The linear feet includes connection areas to existing facility infrastructure within the Phase.

- Phase 2 (USDA) includes the construction of approximately 2,569 linear feet of a concrete box culvert system beginning near the intersection of Riverside Drive and ending easterly of Frederick Street. The linear feet includes connection areas to existing facility infrastructure within the Phase.
- Phase 3 (Lewis Group) includes the construction of approximately 1,418 linear feet of a concrete box culvert system beginning easterly of Frederick Street and ending near the intersection of Cactus Avenue and Veterans Way. The linear feet includes connection areas to existing facility infrastructure within the Phase, including the K4 Warehouse access driveways.
- Phase 4 (USAF) includes the construction of approximately 968 linear feet of a concrete box culvert system beginning near the intersection of Cactus Avenue and Veterans Way and ending near the Elsworth Street intersection. The linear feet includes connection areas to existing facility infrastructure within the Phase.

The following table provides a breakdown of Corps jurisdictional impacts by project stage.

Proposed Impacts to Corps Jurisdiction by Project Stage

Phase	Wetlands (Acres)	Non-Wetland Waters (Acres)	Total Corps Jurisdiction (Acres)	Linear Feet
1	--	0.28	0.28	2,570
2	0.73	--	0.73	2,470
3	0.40	--	0.40	1,418
4	0.27	0.04	0.30	968
Total	1.39	0.32	1.71	7,426

All construction staging is anticipated to occur on or around the project site in disturbed/developed areas. Proposed construction would commence in late 2025. Each segment of the channel is considered a construction phase, depending on the actual buildout of each stage and in the case that one or more stage is substantially delayed. Interim improvements would be constructed as part of each construction phase until the project is completed. These interim improvements could include installation of riprap or other material energy dissipators to slow flood velocity to pre-project levels. While timing and construction of each phase would be dependent upon availability of funding, the owners are anticipating the entire project to be complete in 32 months.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment:

Avoidance: Preliminary analysis suggests the proposed project is necessarily site specific and water dependent (to provide flood protection to properties along Cactus Avenue). As such, preliminary analysis suggests avoidance of waters would not be practicable.

Minimization: In accordance with the requirements of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Construction Permit, the project applicant will develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prior to construction. Standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to the maximum extent possible by incorporating water pollution control practices in the following categories: soil stabilization, sediment control, wind erosion control, tracking control, non-storm water management, and waste management and materials pollution control. Staging and storage areas for all equipment and related materials will be located outside of jurisdictional areas.

Since the project area is adjacent to the March Air Reserve Base (MARB), the closed box culvert system would also help minimize the bird strike incidents by reducing the wildlife attractants, which is consistent with Air Force's Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) prevention program commitments and FAA recommendations.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant offered the following preliminary compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable functional loss to the aquatic environment:

Impacts to 1.71 acres of waters of the U.S. would be potentially mitigated through a regional water quality and habitat enhancement project associated with the Sunnyslope Channel tributary to the Santa Ana River. The applicant would retain ultimate legal responsibility for meeting the requirements of the final, approved mitigation plan. Detailed mitigation objectives, performance standards, and monitoring requirements would be described in the final, approved mitigation plan. Any requirements for financial assurances and/or long-term management provisions would also be described in the final, approved mitigation plan.

The proposed mitigation may change as a result of comments received in response to this public notice, the applicant's response to those comments, and/or the need for the project to comply with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Corps is evaluating the undertaking for effects to historic properties as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This public notice serves to inform the public of the proposed undertaking and invites comments including those from local, State, and Federal government Agencies with respect to historic resources. Our final determination relative to historic resource

impacts may be subject to additional coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized tribes and other interested parties.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Corps has performed an initial review of the application, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) and CNDDDB, to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, as well as the proposed and final designated critical habitat may occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project will not affect any listed species or critical habitat.

Pursuant to Section 7 ESA, any required consultation with the Service(s) will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR part 402.

This notice serves as request to the USFWS for any additional information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: No Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, occurs within the project area and no EFH is affected by the proposed project.

NAVIGATION: The proposed structure or activity is not located in the vicinity of a federal navigation channel.

SECTION 408: The applicant will not require permission under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408) because the activity, in whole or in part would not alter, occupy, or use a Corps Civil Works project.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The applicant is required to obtain water quality certification, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. Section 401 requires that any applicant for an individual Section 404 permit provide proof of water quality certification to the Corps prior to permit issuance.

NOTE: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the Corps jurisdiction has not been verified by Corps personnel.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable

detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

COMMENTS: The Corps 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. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The Los Angeles District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until **August 30, 2025**. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs> or to Antonia Nino at Antonia.R.Nino@usace.army.mil.

Please refer to the permit application number in your comments.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.



