

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

This is to inform the general public that the United States Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District (Corps) has preliminarily determined that the following project proposal could be adequately evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) through conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA).

Proposal Title	Fiestas Patrias Celebration at Whittier Narrows Basin
Proponent	County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation
Proposed Implementation Date	9 September, 2012
Proposed Federal Action	County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation would exercise its Recreation Outgrant from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

This proposal is for a one-day Fiestas Patrias Celebration, in Areas A and B of the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area which is operated by Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. The Corps is reviewing this Special Event, which may draw 40-60 thousand participants. Admission to the public will be free with a \$15/vehicle parking fee charged.

Fiestas Patrias is a national celebration in commemoration of Mexico's first proclamation of independence from Spain in 1810. Father Miguel Hidalgo, from Dolores Hidalgo, Guanajuato, prepared the people for rebellion against Spanish rule and proclaimed the rebellion for independence in the famous "El Grito de Dolores", by ringing the local church bell.

Location	The event location is Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, Areas A and B, which are dirt and turfed special event areas north of the I-60 freeway.
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Public Involvement	The Corps is inviting the general public to submit comments on potential environmental impacts that could result from implementation of the proposal. The public comment period on preparation of an EA for the proposal described above would extend from 30 August through 6 September, 2012 . Please direct your comments to Carvel Bass, US Army Corps of Engineers at carvel.h.bass@usace.army.mil by mail at 915 Wilshire Boulevard, Asset Management Division Ste. 11098, Los Angeles, CA, 90017, or by telephone at (213) 452-3392. For specific questions about the planned event, please contact Park staff at (626) 575-5526.
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The Corps will actively consider any comments timely received. The results of this consideration would be reflected in a memorandum for record placed in the Administrative Record, unless

consideration of the comments was reflected directly in the EA, either through a modification of the document prompted by the comments or an appendix to the EA articulating responses to the comments. Once the EA is complete and if a FONSI is determined to be appropriate based upon the analysis contained in the EA, pursuant to the last cause of 33 CFR § 230.11, a separate notification will be sent to concerned agencies, organizations and to the interested public stating that the FONSI is available for review. If significant effects on the quality of the human environment are subsequently identified and can not be mitigated to a less than significant level, the Corps will initiate preparation of an EIS and afford the public opportunities to participate in the environmental review process.