



# PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

BUILDING STRONG®

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) has requested a temporary modification to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps') Water Control Plan for Prado Dam, to provide an opportunity for conserving additional water during the 2015/2016 flood season. Currently, the authorized water conservation pool extends to an elevation of 498' within the Prado Basin during the flood season (from October 1 through February 28), and 505' during the non-flood season (March 1 through September 30). Under flood control operations (during a major storm event), water may be held up to the current maximum basin elevation of 556' as needed to allow for controlled releases. The proposed modification to the Water Control Plan would not affect flood control operations, but would increase the allowable flood season water conservation pool to 505' elevation. **See Exhibit 1.** This increase in the water conservation pool during the flood season would provide approximately 10,500 acre-feet of additional storage space for conservation and groundwater recharge. While the proposed action (a one-year "deviation") described in this notice is only for the remainder of the current flood season, the Corps and OCWD plan to pursue a five-year deviation that would be implemented at the beginning of next flood season. Information developed through a monitoring program associated with the one-year deviation would assist in planning and evaluating any longer term actions. The five-year or any other deviation or modification to the Water Control Plan would require separate environmental analysis and documentation.

OCWD's proposed project would require the following authorization or action from the Corps:

- Approval to deviate from authorized water conservation limits
- Modification to the Prado Dam Water Control Manual/Water Control Plan

The required authorizations constitute Federal actions pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Corps is preparing an environmental assessment (EA). The EA will evaluate the impacts of the proposed action as well as the "no action" alternative, and evaluate whether environmental impacts warrant the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The Corps of Engineers 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 and alternatives.

Comments will be accepted from November 25, 2015 to December 16, 2015.

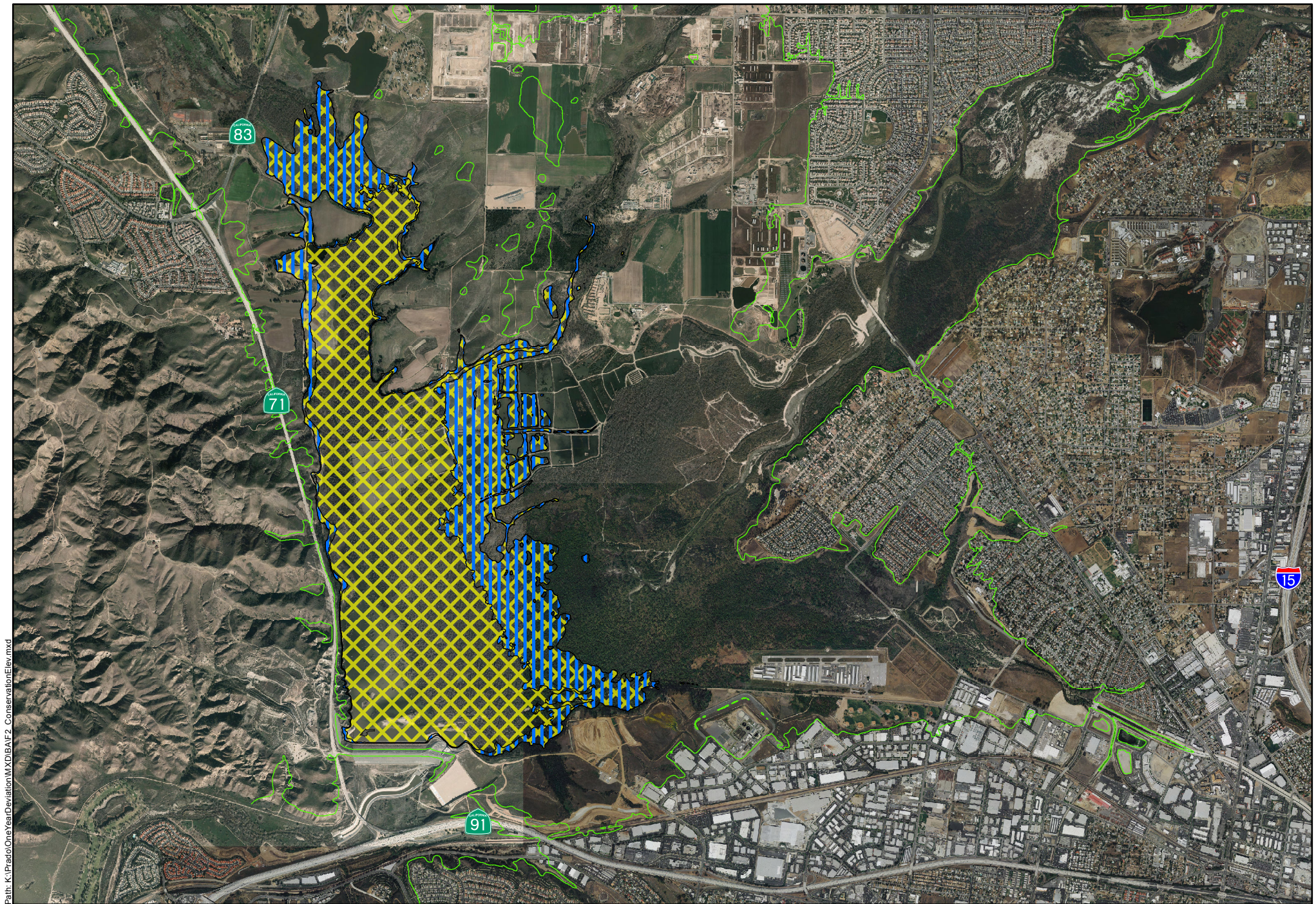
Comments should be mailed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Chris Jones, Environmental Resources Branch  
915 Wilshire Blvd., 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

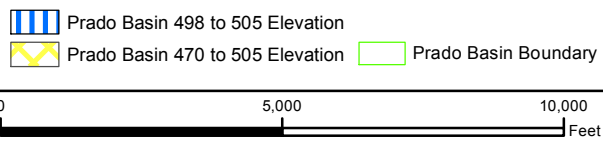
Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: [christopher.t.jones@usace.army.mil](mailto:christopher.t.jones@usace.army.mil), or he can be reached by phone at (213) 304-6234.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – LOS ANGELES DISTRICT





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# **One Year Planned Deviation Prado Dam Water Control Plan** **498' to 505' Prado Basin Water Conservation Elevations**