

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, LOS ANGELES DISTRICT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area: Concert in the Park
Sepulveda Dam Reservoir
Los Angeles (Lake Balboa area), California**

I have reviewed the attached Final Environmental Assessment (EA) which was prepared to describe and analyze effects should the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) approve the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (RAP or Proponent) proposal to permit use of the Sepulveda Dam Reservoir Recreation Area at Woodley Park I for a three- (3) day music concert. The EA was originally prepared for a concert anticipated to be scheduled over Labor Day weekend 2019 (Aug. 31-Sept. 2). Following completion of the Final EA and signature of the FONSI for the project, the concert promoter shifted the concert schedule to be over Labor Day weekend 2020. However, early in 2020 it was clear that no public events could be held while the Covid epidemic was active, and the project was subsequently postponed indefinitely. The concert promoter then requested use of Woodley Park I for the same type of concert event to be held from Oct. 11-13, 2024, but was unable to get a permit in time for these dates. The promoter is now requesting use of the same area in the park for the same type of concert even to be held from Oct. 10-12, 2025. The Corps conducted a review of the updated concert proposal and determined that no new or different effects would occur as a result of the change in concert dates. Pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 327.21, the Corps is authorized to approve special events at its water resources development projects. Under the terms of RAP's recreation lease with the Corps, any special event exceeding 1,000 people requires individual permission from the Corps. Special events with more than 5,000 people or which include activities not already evaluated in the 2011 Sepulveda Reservoir Master Plan and EA are subject to evaluation in an event-specific National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document. Special events must also comply with the Master Plan Appendix A5: Policy on Special Events. If a proposed event does not comply with these conditions, the Corps may consider a waiver of the Special Events Policy. The proposed Federal action is to approve the event and to waive certain conflicting conditions of the Special Events Policy.

The Proponent's Preferred Alternative is a three (3)-day family-friendly music concert for up to 25,000 attendees per day, to be held within Woodley Park I, which is generally within the northeastern portion of the Sepulveda Reservoir. The concert location at Woodley Park I provides adequate space for the event with access to parking and public transportation. Proposed parking onsite within the Reservoir would be on multiple fairways (no greens) at the golf course south of Victory Boulevard (Woodley Lakes Municipal Golf Course), a parking lot just west of Lake Balboa, and parking lot west of Bull Creek. Within Woodley Park I, parking spaces for event artists would be reserved. Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant parking within an existing parking lot just south of Woodley Park I would be identified. Offsite satellite parking for staff and overflow would be provided at Erwin Street/Sepulveda Boulevard. The event attendees would also have access from Metro lines and would have designated Uber/Lyft drop-off and pick-up points away from residential streets. Set up and break down of the event is proposed for seven (7) days before and three (3) days after the event for a total of 13 days during which the northeast portion of the Reservoir would be affected.

Since the primary purpose of the Sepulveda Reservoir is to provide flood risk management for the residents of Los Angeles County residing downstream of Sepulveda Dam, the Corps reviewed RAP's request in light of the Reservoir's primary flood risk management purpose and applicable Federal laws, Corps' regulations, and policies in assessing whether the proposed event is a compatible use with Corps operations and land use guidelines and policies, and whether it is in the public interest. The purpose of the EA was to determine whether approval of RAP's proposal and waiver of the Special Events Policy would result in significant environmental impacts requiring development of an Environmental Impact Statement. The No Action Alternative was also evaluated in the EA, as required by NEPA. In addition, the EA provides a brief discussion of other alternatives that were considered but eliminated from further analysis. The original 2019 Draft EA, including a notice to the public that the Corps is considering approval of the proposal was circulated for 30 days from March 7, 2019 through April 8, 2019, and two letters of comment were received from the public and were actively considered before finalization of that EA. An updated Draft EA was prepared for the new concert dates and circulated for public review for 30 days from March 4 to April 3, 2024. One comment letter was received from the public. All comments from this letter were actively considered before finalization of the EA. The Draft EA was updated again for the 2025 concert dates and is circulated for public review for 30 days, from Nov. 25 to Dec. 24, 2024. As before, all comments from these letters are actively considered before finalization of the EA.

Resources identified as potentially temporarily affected by the Proponent's Preferred Alternative include recreation/access, noise, traffic/parking and public safety. The concert event would restrict the use of Woodley Park I and the designated parking sites from general public use for the event's duration, so activities that generally occur at these areas, including picnicking and general park use, would not occur here during the event, although all other Reservoir recreation areas would remain open to the public. All clean-up and restoration of the site would be required to be completed within three (3) days from the end of the three-day concert. Noise is anticipated to increase in the Reservoir temporarily due to amplification of music or speakers during certain events, but the noise would be localized within the large recreation areas, and sound speakers would be directed away from residential areas. While this particular event would bring additional traffic to Reservoir recreation areas, RAP (with support from the concert promoter) would utilize a parking plan in the subject areas to address traffic and parking logistics. The dense concentration of people who would attend the concert increases the risk of exposing more people to a flood hazard and poses a need for additional police, fire and emergency response personnel to be onsite throughout the duration of the event. Given the rapid nature of flooding that can occur in the Reservoir, a preliminary emergency evacuation plan for the Proponent's Preferred Alternative has been prepared in coordination with RAP, the concert promoter, the Corps and local emergency services, including Los Angeles Fire and Police departments. A final plan would be prepared during the planning and implementation phase, to be implemented by emergency response personnel who are responsible for ensuring public safety in the event of a flood.

Overall, impacts on resources would be short term and less than significant. Several environmental commitments would be implemented as part of the Proponent's Preferred Alternative and would further reduce potential impacts to resources. Those measures are described in Section 5.0 of the EA and are incorporated herein by reference.

The Proponent's Preferred Alternative would not result in the discharge of dredged or fill material under Section 1344 (commonly called Section 404) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 United States Code (U.S.C.) §1251, et seq. Therefore, a 404(b)(1) evaluation is not required, and CWA Section 401 water quality certification, per 33 U.S.C. §1341, is not required prior to the initiation of the project.

No species listed as endangered or threatened pursuant the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C. §1531, et seq., are expected to be onsite during the project timeframe and no critical habitat is present. The Proponent's Preferred Alternative would result in no effect to species protected by the ESA.

The Proponent's Preferred Alternative would constitute an undertaking as defined in 36 C.F.R. § 800.16(y). However, implementation of the undertaking is expected to have no effect to historic properties, as none are known to be present within the area of potential effects. The Corps completed National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 300101, et. seq.) Section 106 consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The Corps received a letter dated March 14, 2019 from SHPO indicating SHPO concurrence with the Corps' no effect determination.

The EA is written in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. § 4321, et seq., and all applicable environmental laws and regulations. Consideration of all the significant factors and all pertinent environmental legislation, in addition to comments and coordination with concerned agencies as discussed in the EA, indicate that the proposed action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, nor would there be significant environmental effects. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required, pursuant to 33 C.F.R. § 230.11.