

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY AND PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Comment Period: November 7, 2019 to December 9, 2019 **Direct comments to:** Mr. Priyodarshi Majumdar (see below)

Notice of Preparation

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR ALTERATION/MODIFICATION TO TWIN CREEK CHANNEL, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, FOR THE REDLANDS PASSENGER RAIL PROJECT

In compliance with U.S.C. Title 33, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, Section 408, the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA), through the San Bernardino County Flood Control District (SBCFCD), has requested permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to alter and/or modify the Twin Creek Channel at the existing railroad bridge crossing (proposed project) owned by the SBCTA in San Bernardino County, California. The Los Angeles District of the Corps is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. Specifically, the proposed project entails construction of two improvements within the SBCFCD's right-of-way: (1) retrofit of the existing Twin Creek Bridge Crossing, including the replacement of the existing bridge superstructure and recoating of the sub-structure; and (2) reconstruction of an existing concrete-drainage pipe and new side drain connection (or outlet) immediately south of the bridge. The Corps is requesting comments pertaining to the proposed project from federal, state, local agencies, and interested public that would lead to the determination by decision makers on the preparation of a Finding of No Significant Impact or whether an Environmental Impact Statement would be required.

The Corps is the lead Federal agency for the proposed action. The Environmental Assessment is being prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), Federal laws and regulations, Executive Orders, and Corps' policies. Comments received will be considered in determining whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required or whether a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) can be issued.

Construction and routine operation and maintenance of the proposed action would provide immediate transportation benefits to the community at large and would result in no more than minimal individual and cumulative effects on the environment, social, or cultural resources, with implementation of standard avoidance and minimization measures. Bridge reconstruction, including the supporting drainage improvements and staging, would impact an approximately three (3)-acre area. Of this total, the proposed action would temporarily impact approximately 0.5 acre of concrete and non-vegetated channel, and permanently impact

approximately 0.04 acre of wetland through conversion of habitat. Construction of the Proposed Action would not result in the permanent loss of waters of the United States.

The proposed action would have no effect on species protected under the Endangered Species Act. Structural modifications would not affect historic properties protected under the National Historic Preservation Act. The project would be in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. A separate Section 404 permit pursuant to the Clean Water Act would be required for the Proposed Action.

All comments must be received by 5 p.m. on December 9, 2019.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Priyodarshi Majumdar at (213) 452-3661. Comments should be sent to:

Ms. Priyodarshi Majumdar, Senior Project Manager USACE-SPL-EDD-B 915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 930 Los Angeles, California 90017-3401 or by email at Priyodarshi.Majumdar@usace.army.mil