



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: February 10, 2021 to March 11, 2021

Direct comments to: Mr. Priyodarshi Majumdar (see below)

Notice of Preparation

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR ALTERATION/MODIFICATION TO SALT RIVER CHANNEL, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, FOR THE SOUTH CENTRAL EXTENSION/DOWNTOWN HUB PROJECT

In compliance with U.S.C. Title 33, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, Section 408, Valley Metro Rail, Inc., through the City of Phoenix, has requested permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to alter and/or modify the Salt River Channel at South Central Avenue by conducting repairs on the Central Avenue Bridge and the quarry road bridge structure (proposed project) in Maricopa County, Arizona. The Los Angeles District of the Corps is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. Specifically, the proposed project entails Central Avenue Bridge modifications inclusive of extending existing concrete apron, replacing expansion bearing pads, pier diaphragms, and expansion joints, construction of overhead centenary pole foundation on the bridge deck above each pier, as well as replacement of a smaller quarry road bridge with a concrete box, and construction of a roundabout. Construction staging would be located in uplands or previously disturbed areas.

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.

The purpose of the project is to address scour vulnerability of the Central Avenue/Salt River Bridge, and to accommodate light rail on the bridge as well as on the quarry road bridge structure. The proposed project would result in less than significant individual and cumulative effects on the environment, social, or cultural resources, with implementation of standard avoidance and minimization measures. Extension of the scour apron and modifications to the

quarry bridge would require less than one (1) acre of ground disturbance, none of which would occur within waters of the United States. Construction of the Proposed Action would not result in the permanent loss of waters of the United States.

The proposed action would be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Structural modifications would not result in the removal or destruction of 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 not be required for the Proposed Action.

All comments must be received by 5 p.m. on March 11, 2021.

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

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