

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE
ANGELFEST MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL,
SEPULVEDA DAM BASIN, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

I have reviewed the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the AngelFest Music and Arts Festival.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received a request from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation (RAP, Proponent), the recreation lessee at Sepulveda Dam Basin, to hold a special event at the Sepulveda Dam Basin (Basin). As proposed, the Proponent's Preferred Alternative would be a three (3)-day special musical event to be held generally within the northeast portion of the Basin including Woodley Park (I, II, and III), the cricket fields, the archery range, and the parking lot of the Japanese Garden, as well as proposed parking within the Basin at the model airplane field (north of the airstrip), Woodley Lakes Municipal Golf Course, the Balboa Sports Center, the Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex, and the Orange Line parking lot at Victory and Balboa, as well as offsite satellite parking. In addition to the three (3)-day event, set up and break down of the event is currently proposed for 16 days before and 8 days after the event for a total of 27 days during which major portions of the Basin would be affected. The three (3)-day (Friday through Sunday) Festival would occur on October 7, 8, 9, 2016.

Pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Section 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 Basin 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 Basin 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.

Since the primary purpose of the Basin is to provide flood risk management for the residents of Los Angeles County residing downstream of Sepulveda Dam, the Corps reviewed the proponent's request in light of the Basin's primary flood risk management purpose and applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies in assessing whether the proposed event is a compatible use with Corps operations and land use guidelines/policies and whether it is in the public interest.

The EA evaluated the Proponent's Preferred Alternative, an alternative with redesigned parking (Alternative 2), and a No Action Alternative. In addition, the EA provides a brief discussion of alternatives that were considered but eliminated from further analysis. Under each action alternative, a waiver of certain conditions of the Special Events Policy would be required.

Environmental impacts associated with the Proponent's Preferred Alternative and Alternative 2

would be similar. Impacts on resources would be short-term and less than significant. Several environmental commitments would be implemented as part of each of the alternatives, and would further reduce potential impacts to these resources; those measures are described in Section 4.0 and Appendix D of the EA, and are incorporated herein by reference.

None of the alternatives would result in the discharge of dredged or fill material under Section 1344 (commonly called Section 404) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. §1251, et seq. Therefore, a 404(b)(1) evaluation is not required as part of this EA, and CWA Section 401 water quality certification, per 33 U.S.C. §1341, is not required prior to the initiation of the project.

No Federally listed special status species are expected to be onsite during the project timeframe. However, because habitat for least Bell's vireo, an endangered species, is known to occur in and near the action area, the Corps has determined that the Proponent's Preferred Alternative may effect, but is not likely to adversely affect, this species. Informal Section 7 consultation is currently being undertaken pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. §1536.

Each of the two action alternatives 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 is currently undergoing Section 106 consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). A letter with the Corps' no effect determination was sent to the SHPO on March 3, 2016.

Other resources analyzed, including air quality, noise, traffic, recreational uses, aesthetics, and public safety in this EA are not expected to result in significant impacts.

The draft EA was posted on the Corps, Los Angeles District's, public website for 30 days from [date] to [date]. During this time, public comments were solicited. [Number] comments were received, and were actively considered before the EA was finalized.

This 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. I have considered the available information contained in this EA and determined that the impacts resulting from the implementation of the two action alternatives evaluated in this EA would not have a significant impact upon the existing environment or the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

DATE

Kirk Gibbs
Colonel, US Army
Commander and District Engineer