



PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

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PUBLIC NOTICE of virtual public meetings on Feb. 3, 2022 and the opportunity to submit comments regarding a re-evaluation study and potential Supplemental Environmental Assessment for Murrieta Creek Flood Control/Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project- Phase 1A, Phase 3 and Phase 4

Direct comments to: Emily Lester, Corps' Los Angeles District by Email at:
emily.a.lester@usace.army.mil

LOCATION: The Project area is located along Murrieta Creek in the cities of Temecula and Murrieta in southwestern Riverside County, California, specifically Phases 1A, 3 and 4 (see Map). The Project is developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in coordination with the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, as the non-federal local sponsor.

BACKGROUND AND AUTHORITY: The Murrieta Creek Flood Control, Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project (Project) was authorized by Congress in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 2001 (P.L. 106-377), on 27 October 2000, which stated as follows:

“The Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, is authorized to construct the locally preferred plan for flood control, environmental restoration and recreation, Murrieta Creek, California, described as Alternative 6, based on the Murrieta Creek Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement dated October 2000, at a total cost of \$89,850,000 with an estimated Federal cost of \$57,735,000 and an estimated non-Federal cost of \$32,115,000.”

The authorized Project will reduce the risk of flooding within the cities of Murrieta and Temecula, up to the 1% Annual Chance of Exceedance (100-year event) and will provide ecosystem restoration and recreation benefits. Prior to the authorized Project, Riverside County constructed a flood control channel on Murrieta Creek in 1939, following the damaging floods of 1938. For the subsequent 25 years, no major modifications to the channel were made. By 1969, severe bank erosion and channel degradation had taken place, considerably reducing the flood-carrying capacity of the channel. In 1969, improvements occurred to provide additional flood flow capacity. Despite this, the area was still prone to flooding. In particular, Old Town areas of Murrieta and Temecula were susceptible to substantial flooding during periods of heavy rains.

The authorized Project was evaluated in the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) in the September 2000 Murrieta Creek Feasibility Study. Supplemental analyses subsequent to congressional authorization occurred in the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and EIR Addendum for Phase 1 Modifications (2003), SEA and EIR Addendum for Phase 2 Modifications (2014), and SEA and EIR for Completion of Construction and Operations and Maintenance of Phase 1 and Phase 2A (2019). Since then, Phase 1 and Phase 2A of the Project have completed construction. Phase 2B has been designed. Phases 1, 2A and 2B are not being considered for comment at this time.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The Corps is conducting a post-authorization Re-evaluation Study (Study) for the Murrieta Creek Flood Control, Environmental Restoration and Recreation Project to evaluate and analyze modifications

to authorized features of the Project and optimize cost effectiveness for the features not yet constructed. The Study is intended to review and potentially modify the improvements within Phase 3, and to evaluate potential modifications of Phases 1A and 4 as a component of the overall Project receiving federal cost-share participation, with the goal to identify a more economically justified and policy compliant project and to improve federal budgetary support. Authorized Project improvements within Phase 3 currently include a 270-acre multi-purpose detention basin incorporating flood risk management improvements accommodating 163 acres of ecological restoration and 49 acres of additional recreational features; for Phase 4, the authorized Project includes continued upstream channel improvements.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT COMPLIANCE: As a result of the Study, additional environmental evaluation and documentation may be required. A Supplemental Environmental Assessment may be necessary for proposed changes in design and/or project boundary changes, to the extent such changes result in impacts to the environment which differ from the authorized Project documented in the September 2000 EIS/EIR. For this Study, the future without project condition (FWOP) will be the completed, constructed portions of the project which include Phase 1 and Phase 2A. Any changes to the authorized Project detailed in the 2000 EIS/EIR will be considered as alternatives which will be subject to further environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In accordance with NEPA (40 CFR 1506.6- Public Involvement), the Corps of Engineers would like to provide the opportunity for comment on the proposed changes being considered under the Study for Phases 1A, 3 and 4 of the Project. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, two public meetings will be conducted virtually in lieu of an in-person meeting. Participants can join by computer, telephone or other devices, such as electronic tablets.

The two online public meetings are scheduled for February 03, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST) and from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. PST, and can be accessed at:

<https://usace1.webex.com/meet/MurrietaCreek>

Join by phone

+1-844-800-2712 US Toll Free

+1-669-234-1177 US Toll

Access code: 1993 12 5987

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties. Comments will be accepted from January 14, 2022 to February 13, 2022. Comments may be verbally expressed at the meetings above, submitted electronically to emily.a.lester@usace.army.mil or alternatively, comments may be mailed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Los Angeles District

Planning Division

Attn: Emily Lester

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