



PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY

VERDUGO WASH RAMP REPAIR
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT**

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Comment Period: June 17, 2020 to July 17, 2020
Direct comments to: Lieutenant Colonel Malia R. Pearson

Notice of Proposed Activity

VERDUGO WASH RAMP REPAIR
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

WHO: The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

WHAT: Conducting maintenance and repairs to the access ramp at Verdugo Wash of the Los Angeles River.

WHEN: From July 20 to October 31, 2020, for a total construction period of one week.

PROJECT: Verdugo Wash Ramp Repair.

LOCATION: The proposed project area is located on the access ramp into the Los Angeles River at the Verdugo Wash, situated between Fairmont Ave and the LAR north of Highway 134. See Figure 1.

COMMENTS: If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Lieutenant Colonel Malia Pearson at malia.r.pearson@usace.army.mil. Comments should be mailed to:

Lieutenant Colonel Malia Pearson
Program Manager
Operations Division, Los Angeles District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
915 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, California 90017

Or by email to:

malia.r.pearson@usace.army.mil



Figure 1: Project Area Map.



Figure 2: Proposed repairs.

ACTIVITY:

Verdugo Wash is a 9.4 mile tributary of the Los Angeles River (LAR) and provides partial drainage for run off generated from the Verdugo Mountains. The Verdugo Wash ramp provides channel maintenance access to the upper reaches of LAR. The ramp is experiencing erosion and needs general maintenance. This project will repair the erosion of the ramp by scarifying the existing base material and rebuilding the ramp by compacting lifts of new angular base material. The new base material will provide good interlocking and traction for trucks and heavy equipment. See Figure 2.

For the safety of the public, the Los Angeles River Bicycle Path at the project area will be closed for one week during repair.

BACKGROUND:

The Los Angeles River is a flood control asset constructed and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 1938 to 1939 that consists of rectangular and trapezoidal channel sections lined with levee systems. The Verdugo Wash ramp was constructed in 1989 to provide channel maintenance access for the Corps and its contractors to the upper reaches of the LAR.

PURPOSE AND NEED:

The ramp material has degraded over time as a result of erosion and requires general maintenance to repair. If left unrepaired in its current condition, the Corps could lose maintenance access to the channel. This degradation of the access ramp will continue without the current repair. The ramp provides access to the channel for routine trash and debris removal, vegetation management, sediment removal and other maintenance-related activities.

ALTERNATIVES:

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, the above activity would not be undertaken. As described above, portions of the access ramp would continue to erode, eventually rendering the ramp unusable and increasing the potential for the angular base material to be dislodged and transported downstream. The loss of this access point into the channel would impede access into the upper reaches of the LAR by channel maintenance crews in order to perform required routine and emergency maintenance, thereby posing a significant threat to life and property within the immediate area and adjacent areas during a significant storm event.

Coordination

Clean Water Act (CWA)/California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board):

In the interest of mutual cooperation, the Regional Water Board and the Corps have developed a Memorandum of Understanding to coordinate the respective regulatory processes associated with the District's Los Angeles county Drainage Area Operations, Maintenance, Repair, Rehabilitation, and Replacement activities in waters of the United States. The proposed activity will not result in the discharge of any dredge, fill or pollutant into waters of the United States and is therefore in compliance with the Clean Water Act.

Public Notices:

All applicable NEPA documents have been completed by the Corps and the project is in compliance.

Diversion of Water Flow:

All of the work will be on top of the ramp above any water. Water may be diverted around the bottom of the ramp to facilitate any vehicle/equipment turning around in the channel.

Non-native Vegetation Removal:

Not applicable.

Endangered Species Act (ESA):

No federal-listed species or designated critical habitat occur within the proposed work area or within the wider area of potential effects. The proposed work has no potential to affect federal-listed species and is therefore in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act:

The proposed work is limited to the access ramp. Since the work would not control or modify active water bodies, it is not subject to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA):

A Memorandum For Record (MFR) dated 2 June 2020 documents the Corps' responsibilities under Section 106 of the NHPA as required at 36 CFR 800.11(a). The Corps has made a determination that the undertaking is a type of activity that has no potential to cause effects to historic properties and is therefore in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA):

Recent avian surveys of the area found no evidence of bird nesting activity within the proposed action area or within the wider area of potential effects. This is primarily due to the absence of suitable nesting habitat within the area of potential effects. The proposed construction period would fall within the bird nesting season (July-September). A pre-construction nesting bird survey would be undertaken and documented if overlap is anticipated. If active nests are present, a buffer deemed suitable by Corps biologists would be established around the nests until fledglings have left their nests. No nesting birds would be impacted as a result of the proposed work and therefore the project is in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Additional Project Information:

Flood events that occurred between 1914 and 1934 were some of the most economically devastating floods the Los Angeles area historically experienced. These flood events prompted the Federal Government to allocate funds in the Flood Control Act of 1936 to assist Los Angeles County in developing and expanding flood control infrastructure, including channelizing 52 miles of the LAR. Construction of the channel occurred between 1936 and 1959. The flood control channel is owned by Los Angeles County, City of Los Angeles, and private land owners. In 1940, the Corps entered into an agreement with Los Angeles County to operate and maintain the portion of the channel from Lankershim Boulevard to Stuart and Grey Road which equates to 22.5 miles of the LAR channel.

The Verdugo Wash flood control channel began construction in 1936 and was finished in September of 1937. As decade's passed, and heavy urbanization continued, access for maintenance to Verdugo Wash and LA River became more and more limited. In 1989, the Verdugo Wash ramp was constructed to aid in accessing the channel for operations and maintenance needs. To this day, the Verdugo Wash ramp is used several times per week for flood control operations and maintenance.