



SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE LEAD-BASED PAINT FROM THE PRADO DAM, AT CORONA, CALIFORNIA

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

BUILDING STRONG®

Public Notice No.: SPL-2014-CHB-12- Prado Dam Lead-Based Paint Removal Plan
Comment Period: July 25-August 9, 2014
Project Manager: Carvel Bass

NOTICE OF PREPARATION ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This is to inform the general public that the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District (Corps) has preliminarily determined that the following project proposal could be adequately evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) through conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA). The Corps is preparing an EA for a proposal to be undertaken on Operations areas at Prado Flood Control Basin and anticipates issuing of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Corps is inviting the general public to submit comments on potential environmental impacts that could result from implementation of the proposal. A 15-day public comment period on preparation of the EA for this proposal will extend from July 25-August 9, 2014, and the Corps will consider all submissions received on or postmarked by August 9.

Proposal Title **Prado Dam Lead-Based Paint Removal**

Location and Background

The project site is the Prado Dam Spillway at 2493 Pomona–Rincon Road, Corona, CA 92880. The painted area of the spillway that was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1941 is estimated at 30,000 square feet. Activities provided in this proposal are to conduct removal of the full depth of all paint from the painted surface of the Spillway. The painted Spillways areas including the mural and subsequent graffiti, have been tested and show presence of lead-based paint, some of which is peeling from the surface, and which is no longer allowable to be used as freely as in the past. The US Environmental Protection Agency provides information about lead-based environmental issues at <http://hero.epa.gov/lead>.

Thousands of people daily see the mural as they drive the SR-91 Freeway near Corona. The Dam's Spillway, built in 1941, had been often a target for graffiti. As the nation's 200th birthday approached,

a local contest was held to design a mural to cover the graffiti and to celebrate the Bicentennial. In 1976, two Corona High School students, Ron Kammeyer and Perry Schaefer, entered the winning design which read, "200 Years of Freedom 1776-1976" and a small group of Corona High School students took three weekends and painted the Bicentennial mural on the 2,280-foot-wide-by-106-foot-tall spillway. "... we gave them the paint," said Brian Moore, former District Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "A lot of it is chipping off; it really needs to be refurbished." According to Mr. Kammeyer, now a landscape architect for the city of Perris, "I still get people calling me all the time, asking me when it's going to be repainted." Please see Figure, below.



Prado Dam Spillway, Riverside County, CA

Note current condition of Prado Dam ‘1776-1976 Bicentennial’ mural. Proposed work would only affect concrete Spillway and would utilize existing access roads at this Operations area.

Proposed Federal Action

In light of deteriorating conditions at the Prado Dam Spillway’s mural, the Los Angeles District of the Corps has prepared an internal Work Statement which proposes to perform complete removal of lead-based paint and other coatings from the Prado Dam Spillway. Removal of the extensively damaged painted mural surface would improve the current deteriorated environmental and aesthetic baseline since

graffiti and weathering have taken a toll on the mural, which was painted in 1976. Local individuals involved in creating the original mural have expressed support for a lead-removal project as a first step in renovating the site for a future fresh mural at the Spillway.

The proposed method to be used would involve high pressure water blast with high pressure collection shroud; this system recycles the water after separating out the paint and small concrete and other particles. A high pressure hydro-blasting unit with a vacuum recovery assembly would remove and collect the matrix for handling and storage. Liquids would be reused to the extent practicable to mitigate the volume of water used. Wastes would be characterized for handling and final disposition at an approved site. Other than motor exhaust from a small amount of machinery used for this process, project wastes would at no time be released to the environment.

A Contractor would be chosen to perform the work would take into consideration the location and any sensitive receptors in and around the project location. The estimated number of days to complete this project is one hundred twenty (120) calendar days, which includes 60 days of field work and 60 days for all other document preparation. A Work Statement to allow preparation of a Work Plan has been provided by Operations Branch in coordination with Engineering and other Divisions of the Corps, Los Angeles District.

The Contractor would prepare a Draft Project Work Plan that incorporates all work to be performed, within 14 days of contract task order award. All work would be performed in accordance with Federal, State of California, and Local regulations. The Work Plan would include: a detailed Site-Specific Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP); a site-specific and task-specific Health and Safety Plan (HASP); Spill Plan, Fall Protection Plan, Site-Specific Quality Control Plan (QCP), Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan (QASP); haul routes, dust control, permits, and technical specification for abatement/removal work, in accordance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Manual EM 385-1-1, September 2008 titled "Safety and Health Requirements" and 29 CFR 1910.120, Occupational Safety and Health Standards, which addresses all work to be performed.

Wildlife, listed species, and historic resources are not anticipated to be adversely impacted by this procedure. Wildlife does not require use of the Spillway and listed species and their constituent Critical Habitat elements are not present at this location. Due to the many alterations that have occurred at Prado Dam, the National Register of Historic Places designation does not apply at this location and no additional coordination is needed with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Public Involvement

The Corps is inviting the general public to submit comments on potential environmental impacts that could result from implementation of the proposal. The public comment period on preparation of an EA and FONSI, for the proposal described above, will extend from July 25-August 9, 2014, and the Corps will consider all submissions received on or postmarked by August 9. Please direct emailed or written comments to Carvel Bass, at carvel.h.bass@usace.army.mil or at 915 Wilshire Boulevard, Ste. 11098, Los Angeles, CA, 90017. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Carvel Bass, Ecologist, Asset Management Division, US Army Corps of Engineers, at (213) 452-3392.

The Corps will actively consider any comments timely received. The results of this consideration

would be reflected in a memorandum for record placed in the Administrative Record, unless consideration of the comments was reflected directly in the EA, either through a modification of the document prompted by the comments or an appendix to the EA articulating responses to the comments. If significant effects to the quality of the human environment have been identified and cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level, the Corps will initiate preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement and afford the public opportunities to participate in the environmental review process.

Following the 15-day comment period, once the EA is finalized and if a FONSI is determined to be appropriate based upon the analysis contained in the EA, then a notification which contains the Final EA and FONSI will be provided for their information to concerned agencies, organizations and to the interested public.