

## **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).

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| <b>Proposal Title</b>          | <b>Prado SR 91-71 Interchange Improvement Proposal</b>   |
| <b>Proposed Federal Action</b> | The Corps is reviewing Riverside County Transportation Commission's (RCTC's) proposal to the Corps which requests access to Federally-owned properties located southwest of Prado Basin, for the purpose of construction a new flyover interchange at this location to replace the existing SR 91-71 interchange. This proposal has been the subject of approved CEQA documentation as well as previous NEPA documentation for preliminary geotechnical exploration, a study of existing cultural and biological conditions including biological surveys for sensitive species, and to confirm mapping elevations within the study area. In addition, the present proposal has been reviewed by Engineering and other Divisions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District. The proposed activities are designed to improve traffic circulation in the State Route 91/71 area. A draft Environmental Assessment will be posted at the RCTC and Corps public websites. |
| <b>Location</b>                | This request's subject area includes Federal lands located south and southwest of Prado Dam, Riverside County, CA. The study area is located adjacent to Prado Basin, just south of the Dam, and within the Santa Ana River corridor, on Corps Operations lands which contain both native and non-native vegetation.   |
| <b>Public Involvement</b>      | 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 for the proposal described above will extend from April 25-May 27, 2014, and the Corps will consider all submissions received on or postmarked by May 27. Please direct emailed or written comments to Carvel Bass, at <a href="mailto:carvel.h.bass@usace.army.mil">carvel.h.bass@usace.army.mil</a> 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. Once the EA is complete and if a FONSI is determined to be appropriate based upon the analysis contained in the EA, pursuant to the last clause of 33 CFR § 230.11, a separate notification will be sent to concerned agencies, organizations and to the interested public stating that FONSI is available for review. If significant effects on the quality of the human environment are subsequently identified and can not be mitigated to a less than significant level, the Corps will initiate preparation of an EIS and afford the public opportunities to participate in the environmental review process.