



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, LOS ANGELES DISTRICT
915 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 1109
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-3409

February 14, 2023

DEAR INTERESTED PARTIES:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District (Corps) announces the availability of and is requesting comments on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (DSEA) and Draft Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) analysis for the Rio de Flag (RDF) Flood Control Project (Project), located in the City of Flagstaff, Coconino County, Arizona. This Project is authorized in Section 101(b)(3) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000 (Public Law 106-541) with subsequent authorization in Section 3007 of WRDA 2007, Public Law 110-114. The Corps is the lead Federal agency for this Project and the City of Flagstaff is the non-Federal sponsor (NFS).

A Feasibility Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement was prepared for the Project in September 2000 in the interest of flood damage reduction for the RDF Channel and the Clay Avenue Wash. A Final SEA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) completed in 2009 evaluated potential effects related to modifications to the 2000 design. Since this time, further improvements and refinements have been identified that would vary slightly from the Previously Approved Design described in the 2009 Final SEA. This DSEA addresses these subsequent design improvements and refinements (Proposed Project) that have occurred since the completion of the 2009 Final SEA. The Corps has prepared this DSEA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 USC 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 230.

This DSEA includes the No Action Alternative and assesses impacts to environmental resources related to implementation and future maintenance of the Proposed Project which is the preferred alternative described in the 2009 Final SEA. The Proposed Project includes channel section geometry reconfiguration, incorporation of a reinforced concrete box covered channel, and reinforced concrete box culvert in some of the Clay Avenue Wash Reaches and the RDF Channel Reaches. It also incorporates a low flow channel going through a portion of downtown City of Flagstaff. Minor changes in channel depth, for hydraulic purposes, would also occur, but do not significantly change the original hydrology and hydraulics determination or the area of channel flow. The Proposed Project is designed to convey storm flows of up to a 1% annual chance of exceedance (ACE), formerly identified as a 100-year flood event; hold back peak flow; and provide life and safety protection to residents of the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County.

An electronic version of the Draft SEA and Appendices, including the Draft Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) analysis, are available at:

<https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16021coll7/id/23176>

The Corps encourages all interested parties to submit comments concerning the analysis presented in the Draft SEA during the 30-day public review comment period. Comments may be submitted through March 14, 2023. Comments should be as specific as possible and address the analysis of potential environmental impacts. Reviewers should organize their participation so that it is meaningful and makes the agency aware of the viewer's interests and concerns using quotations and other specific references to the text of the Draft SEA and related documents. Matters that could have been raised with specificity during the comment period on the Draft SEA may not be considered if they are raised for the first time later in the decision process. This comment procedure is intended to ensure that substantive comments and concerns are made available to the Corps in a timely manner so that the Corps has an opportunity to address them.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from the public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Please submit comments or questions regarding the Draft SEA to Kirk.C.Brus@usace.army.mil with subject heading "Rio de Flag Flood Control Project Draft SEA Review Comments."

If you have specific questions or if we can provide any clarification about this request for comments on the Draft SEA or any other concerns, please contact Kirk Brus at (213) 452-3876 or via email at Kirk.C.Brus@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi L. Clifford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Jodi L. Clifford
Chief, Planning Division