

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY
AFFECTING FEDERAL LANDS**

Asset Management Division,
Civil Works Branch

**Cucamonga Creek Watershed Regional Water Quality Proposal
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

This Public Notice is issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chief, Asset Management Division, for the Cucamonga Creek Watershed Regional Water Quality Proposal (Proposal) *Draft Environmental Assessment (dEA)*, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Environmental issues relating to the Proposal are discussed in the *dEA* which has been prepared for public review and which will be sent to agencies, organizations, and local libraries. The public is invited to review and to comment on the *dEA* which analyzes the environmental affects that would occur if the USACE approved use and occupation of Federal land located in the Prado Flood Control Basin in San Bernardino County for the construction, operation and maintenance of a regional water quality treatment facility.

PUBLIC NOTICE COMMENT PERIOD: September 16-October 17, 2011

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE: 2011-2012

PROPONENT: City of Ontario (City)

LOCATION: The requested land is located in San Bernardino County along Mill Creek/Cucamonga Channel upstream of the Prado Dam in the Prado Basin. The requested land can roughly be delimited by Cucamonga Channel/Mill Creek to the southeast, Comet Road to the west and the Cucamonga Creek crossing of Hellman Avenue to the north.

PROPOSED FEDERAL ACTION: The Corps has received a request from the City requesting the use and occupation of federal lands, which it proposes to approve after a full consideration of reasonable alternatives that meet and satisfy the objectives put forth by the City. The City's stated goals for their request is to treat storm water runoff through a regional water quality treatment approach that (1) treats a target goal of at least 1,500 acres, or 25%, of the 6,059 undeveloped acres located in the City that are tributary to Cucamonga Creek and subject to the MS4 Permit requirements; (2) reduces pollutant loads during both the wet- and dry-weather conditions, including targeting reductions of total suspended solids, metals, trash and debris, bacteria and nutrients; and (3) improves water quality in the Prado Basin. It would be infeasible from the City's perspective to construct a facility that treats less than the requested 1,500 acres because treating a smaller acreage amount would not support a regional treatment approach. The USACE has determined that a regional treatment approach supports USACE Water Quality and Environmental Management missions, detailed in ER 1110-2-8154. Furthermore, the USACE has determined, pursuant to 40 CFR 230.10(a)(3), that the City's request is a water dependent project, as it pertains to the alternatives analysis pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

Since a substantial portion of the Cucamonga Creek watershed is already developed and most of that development does not include water quality treatment facilities, there is a need for regional

water quality treatment facilities that not only treat new development, but treat a larger portion of the watershed that includes previously urbanized areas constructed without water quality facilities. The State Water Resources Control Board recognizes the need for regional treatment facilities and encourages such facilities in its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) Permit program.

Within the City of Ontario, approximately 6,059 acres of undeveloped land drain into Cucamonga Creek. As the City approves new development within its boundaries, it must comply with the discharge requirements of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, included in the MS4 Permit (also called an Order), which requires the preparation of project-specific Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs) to address post construction impacts on water quality. To meet the requirements of the Order, the City of Ontario may undertake two types of treatment programs, localized (and often project-specific) treatment programs and regional programs. A local treatment approach would not capture the “watershed” based management system required by the ER.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The Corps invites the general the general public to submit comments on potential environmental impacts that could result from implementation of the Proposal and alternatives. The public comment period on preparation of an EA for the proposal described above will extend from **September 16 through October 17, 2011**. Copies of the *dEA* are available for review at the following locations:

City of Chino:
Chino Branch Library
13180 Central Avenue
Chino, CA 91710

City of Chino Hills:
James S. Thalman Chino Hills Branch Library
14020 City Center Drive
Chino Hills, CA 91709

City of Corona:
Corona Public Library
650 S. Main Street
Corona, CA 92882

City of Ontario:
Ovitt Family Community Library
215 East "C" Street
Ontario, CA 91764-4111

A copy of the *dEA* may also be obtained by calling Scott Murphy, Planning Department, City of Ontario at (909) 395-2419 or by visiting the City and Corps websites as provided below:

City of Ontario website: www.ci.ontario.ca.us

Corps website: <http://www.spl.usace.army.mil/publicnotices.html>

Please direct comments to Carvel Bass, Asset Management Division, at (213) 452-3392 and carvel.h.bass@usace.army.mil or by mail to Attn: Asset Management Division, USACE, Los Angeles District 915 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90017, Attn: Asset Management Division. All comments must be received by 5 p.m., October 17, 2011.

The Corps will actively consider any comments timely received. The results of this consideration will be reflected in a section of the EA articulating responses to the comments, in addition to any changes to the EA made to incorporate the comments and suggestions. Once the EA is complete, and if a FONSI is determined to be appropriate based upon the analysis contained in the EA,

pursuant to 33 C.F.R. 230.11, a notification will be sent to concerned agencies, organizations and the interested public stating that the FONSI is available for review. If you would like to receive notification, please provide an email address with your comment letter. The FONSI will also be posted on the Corps and City websites. If significant effects on the quality of the human environment are identified and cannot be mitigated to a level below significance, the Corps will initiate preparation of an EIS and afford the public opportunities to participate in the environmental review process.