

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
#00-1

PROPOSED PROJECT:

**Los Angeles River –
Clearing Vegetation
White Oak to Burbank Blvd.**

APPLICANT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Operations Branch, Los Angeles District
LOCATION: Sepulveda Flood Control Basin, Los Angeles, California

REVIEW PERIOD:

August 8, 2000 – September 7, 2000

Prepared For:
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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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1.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

Introduction and Rationale:

This document constitutes an Environmental Assessment for a proposed Corps of Engineers project, on Federal land, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Project Description:

The Sepulveda Dam flood control project was originally authorized by the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1936 and the Flood Control Act of 1941. The purpose of the basin is to control runoff from a drainage area of about 152 square miles, including the San Gabriel, the Santa Monica, and the Santa Susanna Mountains, and the Simi Hills areas in the Los Angeles County drainage area.

The Sepulveda basin site covers approximately 2,150 acres owned by the Corps of Engineers. A majority of the land is leased to the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for recreational development. The goal of the current project is to increase capacity of the channel to convey flood flows and to remove invasive vegetation.

The dual goals of the project will be accomplished by a combination of removing exotic vegetation, selective clearing of native and non-native vegetation around bridges or that create substantial obstructions, and possibly limited sediment removal (see Table 1). After completion of the project the area will be monitored for resprout of native trees. At that time a decision will be made on whether or not to replace the native trees lost in the clearing phase. No mitigation is proposed for exotic vegetation that is removed, but following control efforts will ensure that the sites remain free from exotic vegetation until native herbaceous vegetation begins to recolonize the area. Finally, all work will be done outside the migratory bird breeding season to minimize impacts to wildlife.

For the purpose of this assessment, the portion of Los Angeles River that flows through Sepulveda Basin has been divided into two reaches: Reach 1 consists of soft bottom and banks, extending from Burbank Blvd. north to the concrete spillway adjacent to Lake Balboa Park. Reach 2 consists of armored banks with a soft bottom, extending from Lake Balboa Park spillway north to the railroad trestle.

A draft Environmental Assessment will be distributed for a 30-day public review during Summer 2000.

Project Location:

The Sepulveda Dam flood control project, including a dam and a dryland reservoir, is on the upper Los Angeles River in the San Fernando Valley within the city of Los Angeles, California. The Corps of Engineers owns and maintains Sepulveda Dam and flood control facilities. The project area includes the portion of the flood control channel northwest of the Sepulveda Dam to White Oak Avenue (please see Figure). The project site is located approximately 2 miles southwest of the community of Van Nuys bounded by two major freeways - the Ventura Freeway (Highway 101) to the south and the San Diego Freeway (Interstate 405) to the east. The area of interest incorporates approximately 6.0 acres of riparian vegetation along the Los Angeles River channel.

Purpose and Needs:

The Corps of Engineers has determined that the basic project purpose for the proposed action is flood control. The Corps of Engineers has determined that in this instance, the proposed action is a water dependent activity because it must occur in or in proximity to water.

The overall project purpose for the proposed action is to restore and maintain flood control capacity and minimize overflows of the reservoir onto the adjacent golf course and nearby recreation areas. The second purpose

is to increase the biological condition of the river by removing invasive exotic weeds. The Corps of Engineers has determined that the overall project needs of the proposed action are:

Needs:

1. The removal of non-native vegetation to allow necessary inspection of structures along the basin that are currently obstructed.
2. Include a comprehensive routine maintenance plan for improvement of flood flow convergence through in the Sepulveda basin area.
3. Create an unobstructed flow line by selectively removing non-native vegetation.
4. Increase the channel width in narrow areas along the basin, via vegetation removal.
5. Dredge soil along potential problem areas near housing structures and recreational areas.
6. Improve existing habitats for the regeneration of native flora and fauna.

2.0 ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND DISCUSSION:

1. **No action:**

Alternative A - No Action Alternative: Alternative A would avoid the removal and clearing of any vegetation in or adjacent to the Los Angeles River. Under this alternative high flows would continue to affect the adjacent golf course and other recreation areas and potentially affect the local housing tract located on the south side of the basin nearest the southwest end of the Corps property. This alternative would not improve flood control in the area.

This alternative would not fulfill the overall project purpose because it would not decrease flooding in the bridge areas or golf course and could potentially increase a chance of flooding in other problem areas near the basin. This alternative would leave the Sepulveda basin in a potentially unsafe condition and hence is an unacceptable alternative.

2. **Complete Clearing**

Alternative B - Complete Clearing Alternative: Alternative B would remove all vegetation in or adjacent to the Los Angeles River. This alternative would improve the flood control function of the channel.

This alternative would not fulfill the overall project purpose because it would remove all habitats from the project area. This alternative would not improve the existing habitat for support and regeneration of native flora and fauna.

3. **Hybrid Alternatives:**

The following is a list of project components that can be combined with one another to form a more comprehensive plan to increase the flow capacity and improve the existing habitats.

a. *Exotic species removal:* This alternative would increase flow capacity by selectively removing Arundo, Eucalyptus trees, palms, and a few other exotic herbaceous and tree

species. This would increase flow capacity throughout the channel. The decreased vegetation density will create a flow line for excess water during periods of high runoff.

b. *Selective Vegetation Clearing*: This alternative would entail clearing of vegetation along the channel banks. It would not target invasive species, but would remove both native and exotic vegetation from selected areas, to increase flood conveyance. Some of the areas would be stands of large trees in and along the channel.

c. *Clearing Vegetation near Bridges*: This alternative would involve the removal of vegetation from upstream and downstream sides of the bridges. The clearing of vegetation should not exceed 300 feet from either side of the bridge. This clearing would be to prevent debris dams from forming under bridges and thereby increasing the risk of flooding.

d. *Creation of Berms*: This alternative would create berms along the edges of the potential problem areas of the channel, mainly near housing and recreational developments. These will increase the height of the current channel to prevent overflow and have little effect on the existing condition within the river itself.

e. *Soil Dredging*: This alternative would remove sediment and soils from around the bridges and from narrow areas of the river. This would deepen and widen areas of the river, increasing flow rates, but could decrease native vegetation. This could also be done in areas of non-native vegetation.

This table shows the different alternatives that can be combined for each reach to select the management strategy that best suits the needs of the project. Boxes that are checked indicate actions in areas that are part of the preferred alternative. This alternative would allow achievement of the goals of the project, and would minimize impacts on the environment:

Table 1: Components of Preferred Alternative

Alternatives	Reach 1	Reach 2
a. Exotic Removal	x (plus some selective clearing)	x (plus some selective clearing)
b. Non-Target Clearing	x	x
c. Clearing near Bridges	x	x
d. Creation of Berms		
e. Soil Dredging	x	x

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND PROJECT SETTING

The existing conditions (i.e. project setting) are described in the following paragraphs, organized by evaluation factor. For each evaluation factor, the discussion of existing conditions is followed by a discussion of the expected impacts of the preferred project (as shown it Table 1) within the Los Angeles River (downstream of Burbank Boulevard and Balboa Boulevard).

3.1 VEGETATION AND HABITAT

- a. **Reach 1:** This stretch of the Los Angeles River extends from the Burbank Boulevard bridge north to where the concrete spillway starts adjacent to Lake Balboa Park. This portion of the river is characterized by soft earthen banks and bottom. The land use of the areas adjacent to this reach consist of golf courses (Woodley Lakes, Encino and Balboa), part of Lake Balboa Park, and a portion of the southern recreation area.

Vegetation along the edges and in the bottom of the southern section of Reach 1 is approximately 60% native southern willow scrub community dominated by willows (*Salix* sp.), with mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) and California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) scattered throughout. Yet, intermixed within this community are palms, eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) and castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), with the remaining 40% being dominated by giant reed (*Arundo donax*).

- a. **Reach 2:** This section of the Los Angeles River continues from the concrete spillway adjacent to Lake Balboa Park, north to the railroad bridge. This portion of the river is characterized by armored banks and a soft bottom. Adjacent land uses are the Balboa golf course and Balboa Sports Center to the south, the northern half of Balboa Park and recreation area to the north.

Vegetation in this section of river is a mix of approximately 40% native and 60% exotic species growing on the soft bottom. However, these species are intermixed and hard to separate from each other. Exotic species include: fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), pines (*Pinus* sp.) and sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) scattered throughout this reach, with limited amounts of native vegetation.

- a. Project Effects on Vegetation/Habitat

The different components of the project would have different effects on vegetation and habitat, and its ability to support wildlife

The selective removal of large trees would reduce the structural diversity of the site and the associated canopy shading. Reduced shading would lead to invasion by non-native grasses and other shade intolerant species. Reducing structural diversity would decrease suitability for use of the site by raptors. It would also adversely affect the suitability of the site for local migratory and nesting bird species.

The removal of *Arundo donax* and other exotic species will create openings between the existing vegetation, increasing the movement of species through the habitat. Selective removal of species, both native and exotic, will allow for native species to recolonize the area, increase overall richness and species diversity within the Los Angeles River.

Removal of exotic species would be a net benefit to this reach of the river. Removal of large trees would result in an adverse affect to this reach of the river. This project is designated primarily to remove exotic vegetation, which will be a benefit. Therefore vegetation impacts are considered less than significant.

3.2 WILDLIFE

- a. The entire Sepulveda Basin is known for a rich presence of resident and migratory bird species. Along the project site there are many bird species that use both the waterway and the vegetation along the edges. There were two species of raptors, red-tail hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), seen using the eucalyptus trees as perches and possible nesting sites. In addition to the bird species, evidence of small mammal species (opossums, raccoons, and skunks) were also seen while visiting the site.

Within Reach 2 of this project, there exists a black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) rookery. Field reconnaissance observed in excess of 50 birds and many old nests in the willows and sycamores along the edges of the river. Most birds and nests were observed from about 100 feet east of the Balboa Boulevard bridge to the concrete spillway.

The area of Reach 1 north of Burbank Boulevard is densely vegetated and could serve as a wildlife movement corridor for urbanized species (raccoons, skunks, and opossums). These species would use the vegetation along the edges of the channel as cover when they move through the area.

b. Project Effects on Wildlife

The project would affect local wildlife, to some extent. Removal of exotic vegetation would have minimal direct impacts on wildlife. However, indirect impacts associated with heavy equipment operation and access could include noise, dust, and human presence, which might displace wildlife. Impacts associated with selective clearing of large vegetation and clearing around bridges would include some loss of habitat for reptiles, small mammals and birds. Removal of large trees could adversely affect raptor foraging by removing perching or nesting trees. The black-crowned night herons rookery could be adversely affected during the vegetation removal within this section and soil dredging below the Balboa Boulevard bridge. Sediment dredging would result in temporary increases in turbidity that would adversely affect fish and amphibians. In addition, disruption of wildlife foraging and breeding could occur as an indirect impact of use of dredging equipment.

Impacts to wildlife would be minimized and mitigated by minimizing the amount of native vegetation that would be removed. To the extent possible, trees serving as raptor nests or perches would be avoided. All work would occur outside the breeding season to minimize impacts on breeding and migratory species. In general, all clearing of habitat would occur outside the migratory bird-breeding season. The proposed project would result in adverse, but less than significant impacts to wildlife habitat.

3.3 NATURAL DRAINAGE

a. The natural drainage of the project is from north to south through the Sepulveda Basin with drainages flowing the same direction into it. The flow of the drainage has been channelized and current vegetation conditions are impairing the flow capacity.

b. Project Effects on Natural Drainage

This project would not adversely affect natural drainage patterns at the project site. Drainage through the site would be improved by the proposed vegetation and sediment removal. The riverside excavation site would be confined within existing river channel margins which have been reshaped, over the years, by a number of factors. No significant adverse impacts to the drainage would be expected to occur.

3.4 RIPARIAN AND WETLAND RESOURCES

a. The riverbed represents riparian resources consisting of appropriate vegetation types. This vegetation is made-up of willows, giant reed, California sycamore, and other riparian vegetation. The vegetation is generally very dense and is made up of varying structure from tall trees to shrubs. Although no formal wetland delineation was performed we estimate there to be approximately 6.0 acres of wetlands/riparian on-site. The existing flood plain is occupied by both native and exotic species, thereby reducing the actual overbank area. New sandbars have formed within the middle of the river, and riparian vegetation has colonized these new terraces. These riparian resources are an important stop-over for migrating birds, as well as a movement corridor for local wildlife.

a. Project Effects on Riparian and Wetland Resources

The proposed project would selectively removal vegetation along the river terraces. This would have an adverse effect on both the structural and spatial diversity of the site. If there is to be removal of large trees, the seed base would be reduced, and limit the existing habitat to low shrubby plants. In addition, the tree removal will also decrease shading. The increased temperature and light incident on the water surface has the possibility of increasing algae blooms. Although, adverse, this impact would be less than significant if removal of large trees in minimized to a few key locations.

3.5 ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES

- a. The project area occurs some distance from areas known to support at least two federally listed species, the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and unarmored three-spined stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*). Vireos are not known to occur at the project site, although non-sensitive wildlife (various birds, lizards and small mammals) pass through the area. Sticklebacks are not known to occur on-site and are not expected due to lack of suitable habitat.

a. Project Effects on Endangered and Threatened Species

Neither of these areas or populations would be directly affected by any project phases and so no significant adverse effect is expected to occur to federally-listed sensitive species as a result of this project. The US Fish and Wildlife and local natural history groups will be notified by public notice of this proposed project and their comments will be incorporated into the Final Environmental Assessment.

3.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

- a. There are no known historical or archeological sites within the project area.
- b. Project Effects on Cultural Resources

This project will be reviewed by Corps archaeologist staff and by State Historical Preservation Office to insure no significant impact to cultural resources.

3.7 WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY

- a. Water sources within the project area include established channels and swales which receive seasonal rain and runoff from surrounding residential and commercial developments. The majority of runoff is generated from streets and existing landscaping on manufactured slopes. Surface water quantity within the construction area consists of small amounts of rain and runoff from the grassy field and off the downstream dam surface. General water quality inputs from the surrounding area includes street and other runoff, equestrian activities, and container nurseries. Some local surface water is likely to contain trace amounts of organic nutrients, pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, and petroleum products

b. Project Effects on Water Quality and Supply

The proposed project would have minimal impact on water quality and no impact on water supply. Sediment excavation and vegetation clearing may result in temporary increases in turbidity and/or resuspension of compounds currently sequestered in the river sediments. These effects would be short-lived and confined to a limited location. Removal of invasive vegetation would result in a temporary decrease in biofiltration (associated with decreased biomass), but this effect would be offset over time as native herbaceous vegetation replaces the exotic vegetation. Removal of large canopy trees would result in localized increases in water temperature, which could result in decreased dissolved oxygen. Because the

project area is upstream of Sepulveda dam, retention times should be sufficient to recoup most of the biofiltration lost as a result of vegetation clearing. Overall, effects of the proposed project on water quality would be of minimal magnitude, short lived and localized. Therefore, the impacts are less than significant.

Contractors will be required to use all industry standard Best Management Practices to minimize impacts of implementation of the proposed action on water quality.

3.8 FLOOD CONTROL AND HYDROLOGY

a. Sepulveda Dam controls the flood elevation within the project area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) owns and operates Sepulveda Dam. The project purpose is to increase the flood conveyance through Sepulveda Basin at the project area and to reduce the likelihood of damage to any of the existing upland structures.

b. Project Effects on Flood Control and Hydrology

The purpose of the proposed project is to increase flood control capacity through Sepulveda Basin. No adverse effects to basin hydrology are expected as a result of the proposed project.

3.9 RECREATION

a. The Sepulveda Basin represents a very large recreation venue. The overall uses near the project site include picnicking, golfing, model plane flying, hiking, and biking activity areas. The proposed project is adjacent to the Sepulveda Basin wildlife refuge. The proximity of the refuge and the concentration of riparian habitat facilitate use of the study areas by occasional strollers or bird-watchers.

b. Project Effects on Recreation

The proposed project would have temporary impacts on some recreational activities. Project implementation would necessitate temporary blockage of certain hiking, biking, and birding trails. In addition, the presence of construction equipment in and adjacent to the river would temporarily disrupt some recreation. However, all such construction activities will be conditioned to minimize impacts to recreation. Over the long term, the ability of the site to support recreation will increase due to the increased flood protection of recreational facilities, and the replacement of the exotic vegetation with native habitat (which will attract additional birds for bird watchers). Therefore, the effect of the proposed action is temporary and less than significant.

3.10 AIR QUALITY

a. Ambient air quality on the site is largely affected by regional air mass movements and local automobile transportation routes. Commuting traffic is the most significant contributor of pollutants locally including carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, dust and other trace gases associated with automobile emissions.

a. Project Effects of Air Quality

Any new earth-moving activity would contribute additional exhaust and, more importantly without adequate controls, also contribute to impaired values for visibility and particulates. The proposed project would utilize all appropriate controls to minimize contribution to impaired air quality values. The sites would be under daily inspection for all construction and excavation/borrow activity. All temporary haul roads would be regularly treated with water to minimize dust production; the entire project is expected to be governed by such typical Best Management Practices. Therefore, the impacts of the proposed project on

air quality are expected to be temporary and will not significantly affect the ability of the air basin to meet regional air quality standards.

3.11 SOILS AND GEOLOGY

a. The substrate in the proposed project area is mainly silts and sands transported from the watershed. These materials have been deposited and vegetation has established on them.

b. Project Effects on Soils and Geology

The proposed project would result in temporary disturbance of the soils associated with vegetation and sediment removal. These effects would be short-lived and localized. Therefore, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to soils and geology.

3.12 EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

a. Most of the proposed project area is vegetated or the banks are armored (Reach 2); therefore, erosion does not occur to a large degree. Because the Sepulveda Basin drains an area that is mostly urbanized, there is not much sedimentation transported through the project site.

b. Project Effects on Erosion and Sedimentation

Because most of the proposed project area will remain vegetation, the proposed project is not expected to have any impacts on erosion or sedimentation.

3.13 MINERAL RESOURCES

a. Does not apply to this project site.

b. Project Effects on Mineral Resources

Does not apply to this project.

3.14 LAND USE AND MASTER PLAN COMPATIBILITY

a. The proposed project would occur on lands designated for flood control activities. Although the Corps of Engineers owns the project site, portions adjacent to the river are leased to the County of Los Angeles and others for recreational activities.

b. Project Effects on Land Use and Master Plan Compatibility

There are no expected significant adverse effect to land use or master plan compatibility as a result of this project.

3.15 ECONOMICS

a. The Sepulveda Basin flood control area provides flood protection for many downstream residents, thus representing a huge economic stake. The proposed project has been determined as necessary in order to maintain the appropriate degree of readiness in case of large future highwater events.

b. Project Effects on Economics

The proposed project is considered to have a significantly positive economic effect in terms of its flood control capabilities for the Los Angeles Basin below the Sepulveda Basin.

3.16 SAFETY AND HEALTH

- a. At this time, the project area is considered to need such attention, for which this project has been intended.

- a. Project Effects on Safety and Health

During project implementation all applicable Federal, state, and local safety procedures would be implemented. Upon completion of the project, the safety of the adjacent and downstream residents will be increased due to greater flood protection.

3.17 NOISE

- a. Existing uses on the site do not create is nuisance noise. Surrounding roadways contribute to existing ambient noise levels, which are not considered excessive.

- a. Project Effects on Noise

A temporary increase in noise would be expected during construction periods. This noise would be associated with operation of earth-moving and construction equipment. All work would be down outside the migratory bird breeding season to minimize noise related impacts on nesting, breeding, or fledging of young. There are no other sensitive receptors in the immediate area of the proposed project. However, nearby residents may experience somewhat higher noise levels during construction. Effects of noise, with proper conditioning and limiting activities to normal weekday work hours, would not be considered significant.

3.18 TRAFFIC

- a. The San Diego Freeway (405) and Hollywood Freeway, Burbank Boulevard, and Balboa Boulevard provide regional and local access to the site.

- a. Project Effects on Traffic

Truck traffic activities will be conditioned by the City of Los Angeles. Trucks shall use local city streets; Victory Blvd, Balboa Blvd., White Oak and Burbank Blvd. for haul routes and preliminary access to site. They will use dirt roads along the river for access to the river itself.

3.19 AESTHETICS

- a. The proposed project area is open space and generally used for recreational activities. The aesthetics value is that this area represents one of the few natural greenways in the local urban setting. Consequently, many local residents use the area for strolling and observing nature.

- b. Project Effects on Aesthetics

This project may temporarily disrupt the aesthetics of the project site while heavy equipment is being used in the area. Following completion of the proposed activities, the area would be restored to a condition better than the existing conditions (due to removal of exotic vegetation). Therefore, no significant adverse effects are foreseen as a result of this project.

3.20 SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL VALUE

a. The vegetation along the river provides moderate to high quality native habitat that are of some scientific and educational value. These resources are used by wildlife and by local residents interested in enjoying and learning about southern California ecology, bird life, and interactions of natural habitats with urban uses. Adjacent to the southern end of Reach 1, exists the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area and wildlife area. Local residents use these areas for nature walks and to observe local wildlife.

b. Project Effects on Scientific and Educational Value

Most of the basin would be unaffected by this project and many acres with similar educational value are still expected to remain untouched. Once complete, the project areas will be left in a similar condition as at present and will generally revert to present conditions. A positive effect is the removal of at least 2.0 acres of *Arundo donax*, the plant pest in the Sepulveda Basin. No significant adverse effects to scientific and educational values at these locations are expected as a result of the project.

3.21 ENERGY NEEDS AND EFFICIENCY

a. Does not apply to the project site.

b. Project Effects on Energy Needs and Efficiency

Does not apply to the proposed project

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The proposed project would not result in significant impacts to the above-mentioned list of environmental parameters. Adverse, but not significant, impacts associated with the project include temporary effects to some existing biological and recreation resources. Best management practices and proposed mitigation measures offset these effects to a level that is less than significant. Some beneficial impacts to recreational resources, aesthetics, and flood control capacity are expected to occur as a result of this project.

Cumulative impacts associated with the project's construction would likewise not result in significant impacts. Cumulative impacts include temporary effects to air quality, noise, and to natural resources, such as temporary disruption at the riverbed sites which may be used by wildlife. These effects at this site and in this region are not considered significantly adverse and efforts have been made in scoping this work to insure that a final, close-up plan will have addressed any matters.

4.0 ALTERNATIVE REVIEW

NEPA requires that an alternatives review be completed before embarking on a significant federal action. The alternatives in this case involve No Action, Complete Vegetation Clearing, and five hybrid alternatives. The hybrid alternatives include removal of exotic vegetation, selective clearing of large vegetation, clearing adjacent to bridges, sediment removal, and construction of berms. The Preferred Project would consist of a combination of removal of exotic vegetation, selective clearing of vegetation, and sediment removal. This hybrid alternative would accomplish the necessary flood protection and minimize impacts to the environment. The second objective of increasing habitat function via removal of exotic vegetation would also be accomplished by this alternative. The Proposed Project has been determined at this stage to be the best alternative to do the necessary work and increase habitat function.

5.0 MITIGATION (if needed)

No mitigation is proposed since this project will primarily remove exotic vegetation and allow for better circulation

and use of existing native habitat.

6.0 COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The following federal laws and regulations were considered in preparation of this environmental assessment.

LAWS/REGULATION COMPLIANCE ACTION

National Historic Preservation Act :

The project is in compliance in that this environmental assessment and the previous one will have had State Historical Office review. No cultural resources within the project area have been identified. If cultural resources are discovered during project implementation the applicant and ACOE will comply with 36 CFR 11.

Clean Air Act:

The project is in compliance. The lessee will be responsible for complying with all applicable federal, State, and local air quality laws.

Clean Water Act:

The project is in compliance. The project may affect small areas of jurisdictional wetlands. These areas will be identified and appropriate notifications to Department of Fish and Game will be completed.

Endangered Species Act:

The project is in compliance. No federally listed threatened or endangered species would be adversely effected by implementation of the project. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has been notified of this project and will receive a copy of this draft Environmental Assessment for their review and comments.

National Environmental Policy Act:

The project is in compliance. The draft Environmental Assessment is consistent with the requirements of NEPA.

Floodplain Management (E.O. 11988):

This is a flood control project and does not compromise the intent of this law.

Protection of Wetlands:

Minor impacts to wetlands are associated with this project; however, all impacts have been identified under the Clean Water Act and would be mitigated by implementation of the project, including Arundo removal, and other construction practices identified at Best Management Practices.

7.0 COORDINATION AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The following agencies have been notified of this final Environmental Assessment and were forwarded copies of this document for review.

Federal:

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2730 Loker Avenue West
Carlsbad, CA 92008**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94150

State:

State of California
Department of Fish and Game
330 Golden Shore, Suite # 50
Long Beach, CA 90802

Regional Water Quality Control Board
2010 Iowa Street
Suite # 100
Riverside, CA 92507-2409

Cherilyn Widell
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296

Caltrans, Region 7
120 S. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Local

Tom Petrique
City of Los Angeles Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Valley Region HQ
6335 Woodley Ave
Van Nuys, CA 91406

City of Los Angeles Planning Dept.
201 N. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

City of Los Angeles Transportation Dept.
221 N. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, ca 90012
City of Los Angeles Fire Dept.

South Coast Air Quality Mgt. District
21865 E. Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

In addition, other individuals, associations, and agencies are being contacted in the mailing for their comments to be included.

Environmental Documentation