

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED EVENT AT SEPULVEDA DAM BASIN

Evaluation of Federal Action

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District (Corps), has received a request from the City of Los Angeles, Department of Recreation and Parks (City or Applicant), the recreational lessee at Sepulveda Recreation Area at the Sepulveda Dam and Basin (Basin), for a proposed special event entitled AngelFest. As described by the City, AngelFest would be a three (3)-day music and cultural event celebrating the City of Los Angeles. As discussed further below, the Corps is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and will seek input on the draft EA when complete, currently estimated in early to mid-February.

Under the terms of the City's recreation lease with the Corps, any special event exceeding 1,000 people requires individual permission from the Corps. Special events with more than 5,000 people or which include activities not already evaluated in the Corps' Sepulveda Dam Basin Master Plan are subject to evaluation in an event-specific National Environmental Policy Act document. In addition, when a proposed event does not comply with conditions of the Corps' Sepulveda Dam Basin Master Plan Appendix A5: Policy on Special Events at the Sepulveda Dam Basin, the Corps can consider a waiver of the Special Events Policy.

As part of the evaluation process and because of the scope of the event as proposed, the Corps is preparing an EA to evaluate the effects of permission to hold the event as proposed and a waiver of certain conditions of the Special Events Policy, along with reasonable alternatives. The Basin is a Federally authorized flood risk management project constructed, operated, and maintained by the Corps. The primary purpose of the Basin is to provide flood risk management for the residents of Los Angeles County residing downstream of Sepulveda Dam. The Corps will review the City's request in light of the Basin's primary flood risk management purpose and applicable Federal laws, Corps regulations, and policies in assessing whether the proposed event is a compatible use with Corps operations and land use decisions.

Applicant's Proposed Event

As proposed by the City and as described in supporting materials provided to the Corps, the event would be a three (3)-day commercial family-friendly music, food, and cultural event with maximum attendance of 65,000 people per day (including approximately 1,200 workers). The event would be developed and managed by the Make Good Group and designed to have a cross-generational and multicultural feel highlighting the unique contributions the City of Los Angeles makes to the world. Tickets for the event are proposed to cost approximately \$295 for the three days, with a portion of every ticket sold being donated to the Los Angeles Parks Foundation which would use the funds to improve the recreational amenities within the Basin.

The AngelFest event is proposed to occur Friday, October 7, 2016, through Sunday, October 9, 2016, from approximately 10:00 a.m. through 11:00 p.m. each day except Sunday, when activities would end at 9:45 p.m. During the event, five performance stages and other additional festival areas, including concessions, would be open to ticketholders at the northeast portion of the Basin including Woodley Park (I and II), the cricket fields, the archery range, the Japanese Garden, and the northern developed part of the Wildlife Area (known as Woodley III). Please see the attached figures for additional details on site use. Use of amplified sound is proposed for the event. Onsite parking is proposed both at areas currently

designated in the Basin Master Plan as special events parking areas, as well as areas not currently designated for parking. The proposed parking areas include the field adjacent to the model airplane runways, golf course(s), parking at the Wildlife Area lot, and other areas within the Basin to be determined. There would also be off-site satellite parking areas. In addition to the event days, set up and break down of the event is currently proposed for fifteen (15) days before and eight (8) days after the event for a total of 26 days where the Basin would be partially affected. The areas anticipated to be affected, and potentially closed, during the AngelFest event and setup and breakdown days include Woodley Park (I and II) and the Japanese Garden. Parts of Woodley Avenue are proposed to be closed during the three (3)-day event. Most other Basin areas, such as the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Lake, Lake Balboa, and the Universal Playground, would remain open before, during, and after the event. Logistics such as water, restrooms, first aid, lighting, waste management, security, access, traffic, and parking are being coordinated among City of Los Angeles departments, and outreach is being provided to local Council Districts and other user groups. As proposed, the event may use pyrotechnics and fireworks.

Alternatives

The Corps has preliminarily identified the following alternatives for evaluation in the EA:

1. Grant of permission for Applicant's event as proposed, with waiver of conflicting Special Events Policy conditions. Under this alternative, the Corps would grant permission to the City to hold the AngelFest event as proposed and would waive certain conditions of the Special Events Policy inconsistent with the event as proposed. Please see the description of the Applicant's event above.
2. Grant of permission for alternative with modified parking layout, with waiver of conflicting Special Events Policy conditions. This alternative would be similar to the above alternative, but with a redesigned parking plan to include additional parking within the Basin, as opposed to off-site satellite parking. This would potentially include the addition of 3,100 parking spaces at Balboa Municipal Golf Course and 200 spaces at the Balboa Recreation Center. The inclusion of the Balboa Golf Course as a parking option would reduce the number of satellite shuttles to the site, but would require the golf course to be closed to the public during the three (3)-day festival.
3. No Action alternative. Under this alternative, the Corps would not grant permission to hold the AngelFest event and would not waive the conditions of the Special Events Policy.

Public Involvement

Once the draft EA is complete, it will be circulated for public review for fifteen (15) days, during which time the public will have an opportunity to comment on the draft EA. If you wish to be notified when the draft EA is published, please contact Deborah Lamb at Deborah.L.Lamb@usace.army.mil or 915 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 930, Los Angeles, CA 90017. The draft EA is anticipated to be available in early to mid-February. Subsequent to circulation of the draft EA, the Corps will finalize the EA, sign a Finding of No Significant Impact, if appropriate, and make a decision on whether to approve the event as proposed and waive certain conditions of the Special Events Policy, approve a modified event, or deny permission for the event.



(NOT TO SCALE)



