

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

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

Operations Branch Public Notice  
Comment Period: June 23, 2006-August 7, 2006

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**SPORTS COMPLEX FACILITY: SEPULVEDA FLOOD CONTROL BASIN  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**Applicant(s)**

City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering  
Environmental Management Group  
1149 S. Broadway, Suite 600, M.S. 939  
Los Angeles, CA 90015  
Attention: Carol S. Armstrong, Environmental Specialist II  
[Carol.Armstrong@lacity.org](mailto:Carol.Armstrong@lacity.org), 213.485.5762

**Location**

In the San Fernando Valley, a recreational sports complex would be located at 6300 North Louise Avenue in Encino, California, within the Sepulveda Dam and Flood Control Basin on land owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Sepulveda Flood Control Basin is part of the Army Corps flood management system for the Los Angeles River. The proposed project area is in the northwest Basin in an area bounded by Victory Boulevard to the north, Balboa Boulevard to the east, the Los Angeles River to the south/southwest and the Orange Line public busway to the west/northwest. At present, an active military facility is located between Victory Boulevard and the proposed sports complex entrance.

This area is approximately 2 miles (3.22 km) southwest of the community of Van Nuys, about 10 miles (16.1 km) west of the City of Burbank and 20 miles (32.19 km) northwest of downtown Los Angeles. The nearest freeways are the Ventura (101) Freeway (approximately 0.8 mile (1.3 km) to the south) and the San Diego (405) Freeway (approximately 1.6 miles (2.57 km) to the east). The U.S. postal zip code for the area is 91316.

The project location falls within an unsectioned portion of T.1 N., R.16 W. in the San Bernardino Base and Meridian of the U.S. Geological Survey Canoga Park Quadrangle (7.5-minute series) topographic map, at an elevation of approximately 720 feet (219 m) above sea level. The area is on the eastern border of this map, adjacent the Van Nuys Quadrangle, which includes the rest of the Sepulveda Dam Recreational Area and Flood Control Basin. (See the accompanying topographic map and aerial photograph.)

The project area is located entirely within Los Angeles City Council District 12, immediately adjacent its border with Council District 6 (on the eastern side of Balboa Boulevard). The area is within the Encino-Tarzana Community Plan area and immediately adjacent the Reseda/West Van Nuys Community Plan area (on the northern side of Victory Boulevard).

**Proposed Activity: Purpose and Need**

The City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works proposes to construct the sports complex facility on an approximately 65 acre parcel of open space land that is owned by the U.S. Army Corps and has been leased for use as a commercial sod farm since the late 1980s. The proposed project would include four youth/teen softball fields, one synthetic soccer field, open multi-purpose fields, picnic areas, a planted riparian buffer along the Los Angeles River, and a walking trail throughout the site. There would be a small support building (approximately 2,000 square feet) to

house park staff and public restrooms. In addition, the proposed project would include a parking lot to accommodate approximately 400 parking spaces. The project would be developed in phases.

The project would serve three main purposes: (1) to provide public active recreational amenities in an area that contains congested, intensively over-used facilities; (2) to provide public passive recreational amenities that would add open space to a region lacking these resources; and (3) to serve as a vital linkage in promoting restoration of the Los Angeles River corridor through riparian habitat provision, runoff filtration, enhanced public access to the River and protection of its ecology. No adverse effect to listed species is expected.

This project is consistent with the 1981 Sepulveda Basin Master Plan governing land development in the area. The property is included within a long-term lease agreement for recreational development between the Army Corps and the City of Los Angeles.

The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks would be responsible for operation and maintenance of the new sports complex; the project would be included in the Department's Valley Region. A Park Advisory Board and a Local Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee comprised of nearby residents and representatives of constituent interest groups provided public feedback in the development of the project. Six LVNOC meetings were held in 2005-2006.

This Public Notice initiates the public review period for the project's NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) review. The draft Environmental Assessment may be viewed at the Encino-Tarzana Branch Library, 18231 Ventura Boulevard, Tarzana, CA 91356 (818) 343-1983 or at the Van Nuys Branch Library, 6250 Sylmar Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401 (818) 756-8453. A copy of the document may also be obtained online at: [http://eng.lacity.org/techdocs/emg/Environmental\\_Review\\_Documents.htm](http://eng.lacity.org/techdocs/emg/Environmental_Review_Documents.htm). Written comments should be provided to the address below, postmarked no later than August 7, 2006.

Please direct comments to:

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: Mr. Carvel Bass CESPL-CO-O  
P.O. Box 532711  
Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325**

Comments should be received by August 7, 2006.

### **Evaluation Factors**

The decision whether or not to proceed with this project will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit(s) which may reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Factors that will be considered include: conservation, economics, general environmental concerns, aesthetics, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, soil erosion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

For additional information please contact: Carvel Bass, Operations Branch, Ecologist, (213) 452-3392.

This public notice is issued by the Chief, Construction-Operations Division.