

**DATES:** A public scoping meeting will be held in Jackson, MS, at the Mississippi Agriculture, Forestry, and Aviation Museum, on February 23, 2004, at 6 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions about the proposed action and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be directed to Ms. Karen Dove-Jackson (telephone (601) 631-7136) or Vicksburg District, 4155 Clay Street, ATTN: CEMVK-PP-PQ, Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This project is authorized by congressional resolutions adopted May 9, 1979. These authorizations read as follows:

“Resolved by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the House of Representatives, United States, That the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors is hereby requested to review the reports of the Chief of Engineers on Pearl River Basin, Mississippi and Louisiana, published as House Document Number 282, Ninety-Second Congress, Second Session, and other pertinent reports, with a particular view toward determining whether any further improvements for flood damage prevention and related purposes are advisable at this time. The alternatives are to be reviewed with local interests to insure a viable, locally supported project. Resolved by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the House of Representatives, United States, That the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors is hereby requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Pearl River and Tributaries, Mississippi, contained in House Document 441, 86th Congress, and other reports with a view to determining whether measures for prevention of flood damages and related purposes are advisable at this time, in Rankin County, Mississippi. Resolved by the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the United States Senate, That the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, created under section 3 of the River and Harbor Act, approved June 13, 1902, and is hereby requested to review the reports of the Chief of Engineers on Pearl River Basin, Mississippi and Louisiana, submitted in House Document Numbered 92-282, 92nd Congress, 2nd Session, and other pertinent reports with a view to determining whether any further improvements for flood damage prevention and related purposes are warranted at this time.”

1. A reconnaissance study was initiated in 1989 and a favorable report was completed in 1990 for the Pearl River Watershed, MS, Project. The local sponsor executed a Feasibility Cost-Sharing Agreement (FCSA) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in September 1991 to pursue alternative solutions. The resulting recommended plan documented in a January 1996 draft report was a comprehensive levee system to provide protection from a

flood event of 1979 magnitude. The 1979 flood event in Jackson is the maximum flood of record. The frequency of this flood in Jackson was estimated at approximately a 200-year event. Study actions were suspended in July 1998, and the final feasibility report was never completed. Lack of local support for the recommended plan, questions over operation of the Ross Barnett Reservoir, and downstream concerns over flooding and bank caving were primary issues. In 1996, local interests proposed the LeFleur Lakes Flood Control Plan, consisting of upper and lower lakes along the Pearl River south of the Ross Barnett Reservoir, as an alternative to the comprehensive levee plan. The lakes would extend from the Ross Barnett Reservoir outlet downstream along the Pearl River to approximately 1 mile southwest of Interstate 20. The combined lakes would cover approximately 4,800 acres at normal operating levels, and weirs at both the upper and lower lakes would regulate flow. The plan is supported locally by community and business leaders due to its commercial development aspects and potential for cost recovery. An independent evaluation of the LeFleur Lakes Flood Control Plan was conducted from June-December 2000 by an Architect-Engineer firm. The valuation indicated that the LeFleur Lakes Plan could reduce Pearl River flooding in the Jackson area, as would the levee plan. The Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement, necessary for study resumption, was signed with the non-Federal sponsor, Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District, on 15 October 2003. Studies will include updating the previously proposed levee plans presented in the aforementioned January 1996 draft report and an analysis of the LeFleur Lakes flood control plan. Studies will also include investigations of levees for south Jackson and Richland as a component of the LeFleur Lakes Plan. The District Engineer has decided to prepare a Draft EIS to investigate measures to alleviate flooding in the study area and determine the feasibility of continued Federal involvement in developing and implementing a solution.

2. The feasibility study for Pearl River Watershed, MS, will be conducted to fully evaluate a range of alternatives to provide a comprehensive plan for flood control. Alternative development and analysis as currently planned will be limited to updating of previously proposed levee plans and an evaluation of the LeFleur Lakes Plan.

3. A public scoping meeting will be held in Jackson, MS (see **DATES**).

Significant issues identified during this scoping process will be analyzed in depth in the Draft EIS. The Natural Resources Conservation Service; U.S. Forest Service; Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality; and Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks will be invited to become cooperating agencies. Federally recognized Indian tribes will also be invited to become cooperators. These agencies and tribes will be asked to participate in the review of data and the feasibility report and appendixes.

4. Upon completion, the Draft EIS will be distributed for agency and public review and comment. Additionally, a public meeting will be held to present results of the Draft EIS evaluations and the recommended plan.

5. The DEIS is estimated to be completed in October of the year 2005.

Dated: January 22, 2004.

**Douglas J. Kamien,**

*Chief, Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division.*

[FR Doc. 04-2500 Filed 2-4-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3710-PU-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Rio del Oro Project, in Sacramento County, CA, Corps Permit Application Number 199900590

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Sacramento District, will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Rio del Oro project, a proposed residential and commercial development in Rancho Cordova, Sacramento County, CA. Elliot Homes, Inc. has applied for a permit to fill approximately 47 acres of waters of the United States, including vernal pools, and other wetlands.

**DATES:** Public scoping meetings will be held on February 26, 2004. The first meeting will be held at Rancho Cordova's City Hall, at 1:30 p.m., and the second meeting will be at Mills Station, at 6:30 p.m.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions about the proposed action and DEIS can be answered by Mr. Justin Cutler, (916) 557-5258,

*justin.cutler@usace.army.mil*, 1325J Street, Room 1480, Sacramento, CA 95814-2922.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The applicant has applied for a Department of the Army permit under section 404 of the Clean Water Act to construct a residential and commercial development. The proposed project would be developed on approximately 3,828 acres south of Highway 50 in Rancho Cordova, Sacramento County. The project site is located south of White Rock Road, north of Douglas Road, and east of Sunrise Boulevard. The project consists of approximately 1200 high, medium and low density residential homes, 38 retail/commercial offices, 9 parks, 10 schools, and 2 wetland preserves and other open space areas. The proposed project site has a past history of grazing, landfill activities, gold mining, and rocket fuel testing. Approximately one-third of the site is grasslands, which have been used for grazing and contain vernal pool complexes and the upper reaches of Morrison Creek. Past gold mining in the 1920s and 1950s, and past landfill activities, have altered the remaining two-thirds of the site. Since mining ceased, the site was used to burn excess rocket fuel and test energetic material. Due to the rocket testing and propellant burning on the site, soil and groundwater at the site are known to contain trichloroethene (TCE) and other volatile organic compounds. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control has issued Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Orders to address the issue of TCE detected in a county well. The site has been divided into eleven primary study areas with responsibility for performing the required investigations divided between McDonnell Douglas and Aerojet General Corporation based upon previous usage. Soil and groundwater remediation continues to occur at the site.

A total of 74.61 acres of waters of the United States have been identified on the project site, including 37.02 acres of vernal pools, 20.44 acres of seasonal wetlands, 6.43 acres of riparian wetland, 6.47 acres of ponds, and 4.25 acres of stream channels. The applicant has applied to fill approximately 47 acres of these waters to construct the project. A 505-acre vernal pool/wetland preserve in the southern portion of the project, where the highest concentration of vernal pools exists on the project site, would be preserved. The preserve would contain 27.62 acres of waters of the United States. The applicant proposes to create approximately 22

acres of additional vernal pools in the preserve.

The Corps' public involvement program includes several opportunities to provide oral and written comments (See **DATES**). Affected Federal, state, local agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested private organizations and parties are invited to participate. Currently, potentially significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the DEIS include, loss of waters of the United States, including wetlands, cultural resources, biological resources, hazardous materials, air quality, surface and groundwater, water quality, noise, aesthetics, and socio-economic effects.

Except for on-site preserve alternatives, no specific on-site or off-site project alternatives have been identified. However, alternatives, including the no-project alternative, other locations and other site configurations, will be evaluated in the DEIS and in accordance with the section 404(b)(1) guidelines.

The Corps has initiated formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, for five Federally threatened or endangered species and one species proposed for listing that may be affected by the project. The Corps will also be consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for potential impacts to properties listed, or potentially eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared as a joint document with the City of Rancho Cordova. The City is the local agency responsible for preparing an Environmental Impact Report in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The DEIS is expected to be released in March of 2005.

**Luz D. Ortiz,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 04-2501 Filed 2-4-04; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3710-EH-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**SUMMARY:** The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before April 5, 2004.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: January 30, 2004.

**Angela C. Arrington,**

*Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

### Institute of Education Sciences

*Type of Review:* Revision.

*Title:* 2005 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES:2005).

*Frequency:* One-time.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or household.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

Responses: 2,350.

Burden Hours: 302.