

CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM

DEPARTMENT: Planning & Economic Development Department
AGENDA DATE: August 9, 2011
CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: David Coronado, (915) 541-4632, coronadoda@elpasotexas.gov
DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All Districts

SUBJECT:

That the City Council submit comments and recommendations made by the Open Space Advisory Board to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, to consider regarding the construction of a stormwater and sediment detention basin to protect neighborhoods surrounding Sun Valley Drive in northeast El Paso, such comments provided so that the project assists the City in meeting the goals established and adopted in the March 2006 Resolution and to develop an alternative that creates the least amount of degradation to Castner Range.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

On June 30, 2011, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requested input from the public and the Open Space Advisory Board regarding the Sun Valley flood damage reduction project, a project listed in the El Paso Storm Water Master Plan. The item was first discussed at the Open Space Advisory Board on July 13, 2011. On July 20, 2011, the Open Space Advisory Board approved the draft resolution for Council recommendation.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

On March 14, 2006, the City Council adopted a Resolution to protect and preserve Castner Range in its entirety, that it not be developed in whole or in part.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

LEGAL: (if required) N/A

FINANCE: (if required) N/A

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Mathew S. McElroy
Deputy Director-Planning & Economic Development

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____ **DATE:** _____

RESOLUTION

Whereas the United States Army Corps of Engineers has plans to construct a stormwater and sediment detention basin to protect the neighborhoods surrounding Sun Valley Drive in northeast El Paso; and,

Whereas, the United States Army Corps of Engineers requested that the Open Space Advisory Board and the City submit comments concerning the scoping of the above described Project; and,

Whereas the City of El Paso Storm Water Master Plan includes projects to protect citizens from flood damages in the Sun Valley Drive and Fairbanks Drive areas of the City's northeast sector; and

Whereas on March 14, 2006 the City Council adopted a resolution calling for the preservation of Castner Range as natural open space for the citizens of El Paso to enjoy; and,

Whereas the Open Space Advisory Board has discussed the Project and recommends that the City Council submit a Resolution containing comments and recommendations for the United States Army Corps of Engineers to consider when completing the Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District, consider and address the following comments in the draft environmental assessment, such comments provided so that the Project assists the City in meeting the goals established and adopted in the March 2006 Resolution and to develop an alternative that creates the least amount of degradation to the Castner Range.

1. In the alternative analysis, include an alternative that is limited in size to the smallest area needed to retain sediment, while only detaining (not retaining) runoff from the infrequent storm events (25-year and larger return periods), in order to release the storm water at a flowrate that can be safely conveyed by the downstream concrete-lined channel.
2. Limit alternatives evaluated to those that provide flood protection from storm events up to the 100-year return period, which is the current design standard for the City of El Paso, and not the SPF or PMF events.
3. In development of alternatives, evaluate the possibility of maintaining the arroyo system morphology within the project, through use of off-line retention/detention structures for sediment/runoff.
4. As part of the project's mitigation, require the area of disturbance for the recommended alternative to be limited to the minimum necessary to construct the project, and include fencing requirements in the construction documents to prevent unauthorized equipment excursions into adjacent areas.

5. As part of the project's mitigation, require development of a re-vegetation plan for the area disturbed by the project.
6. As part of the biological survey, identify characteristic vegetative species of the Chihuahuan desert to be flagged, transplanted, stored, and re-planted as part of the re-vegetation plan for the completed project.
7. Address the feasibility of restoration and re-vegetation of flood-damaged arroyo corridors within the project area.
8. Require evaluation of the use of native materials (native rock, rock in gabions, earthen structures, etc.) for construction instead of concrete for mitigation of the aesthetic impacts of the project.
9. Consider the possibility of using the project as an arid region, green infrastructure demonstration project, including the potential for water harvesting to support the re-vegetation plan.

ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 2011.

CITY OF EL PASO:

John F. Cook, Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Lupe Cuellar
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

Mathew S. McElroy, Deputy Director
Planning & Economic Development



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4101 JEFFERSON PLAZA NE
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87109-3435

June 30, 2011

Planning, Project and Program Management Division
Planning Branch
Environmental Resources Section

David Coronado
Open Space Advisory Board
Department of Planning and Economic Development
2 Civic Center Plaza
El Paso, TX 79901

Dear Mr. Coronado:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Albuquerque District, in coordination with and at the request of the El Paso Water Utility (EPWU), is planning to construct a stormwater and sediment detention basin to protect the neighborhoods surrounding Sun Valley Drive in the northeast sector of El Paso, Texas. This work is proposed under Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended.

The proposed basin would be located upstream of the EPWU's Northeast Channel #2, a stormwater channel that has a history of overflowing and flooding the surrounding neighborhoods. The proposed project site is west of highway US-54 on the Castner Range, a formerly used bombing range attached to Ft. Bliss (see enclosed map of proposed project area and vicinity). The purpose of this project would be to reduce potential property damages by reducing flooding and sediment overflow from the Northeast Channel #2. The proposed construction period would be approximately 5 months beginning in 2015.

The Corps is seeking public and agency input for consideration during the planning and scoping of the project. Your input will be used in determining the issues to be addressed in a draft environmental assessment (DEA) that is currently being prepared by the Corps to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The DEA is anticipated to be released for public review in October, 2013.

Please submit your comments by July 30, 2011. You may use the attached form or send a letter to the address above, Attn: Dana Price, Environmental Resources Section. You may fax your correspondence to (505) 342-3668, Attn: Dana Price.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Dana Price, biologist, at (505) 342-3378 or dana.m.price@usace.army.mil; or Mr. Jonathan Van Hoose, archaeologist, (505) 342-3687 or Jonathan.E.VanHoose@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,


for Julie Alcon
Chief, Environmental Resources Section

Enclosure

Sun Valley Flood Risk Reduction Project

Comment Form

Please make your comments specific to the proposal described in the attached letter.

1. What issues (for example, natural or cultural resources, social, or economic such as property damage or flooding) are of concern to you in regards to the project?

2. Do you feel that any of the issues described in #1 are significant? If yes, please explain why.

3. Are you aware of other studies, reports, plans, environmental assessments or environmental impact statements that are available or are being developed that relate to the proposed project area? If yes, please provide the title, author and year.

4. Other comments about the project.

Please attach additional sheets if desired.

Please keep my name on the project mailing list and send me a notice of the public review for the DEA.

Please remove my name from the project mailing list.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Please submit your comments for receipt by 30 July, 2011 to:

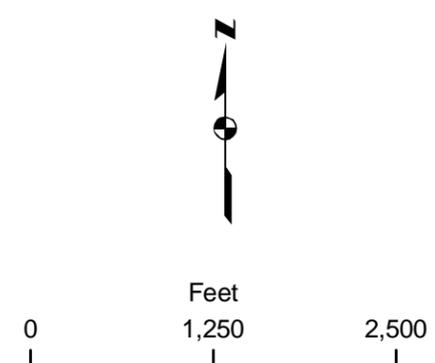
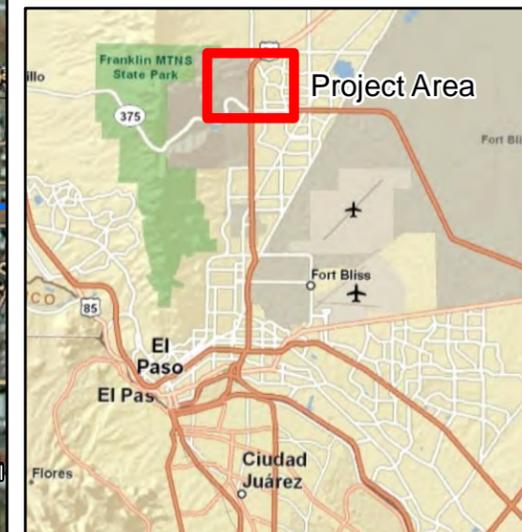
Dana Price, Environmental Resources Section, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 4101 Jefferson Plaza NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Fax: (505) 342-3668, Attn: Dana Price

E-mail: dana.m.price@usace.army.mil

Sun Valley 205 Flood Risk Reduction Project, El Paso, TX

-  Drainage Channel
-  Primary Drainage
-  Fort Bliss Boundary
-  Project Area Potentially Impacted by Construction



Coordinate System: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 13 North, units meters.

Map Scale: 1:15,000
Map Date: May 24, 2011

