



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT, US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1455 MARKET STREET #16
SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA 94103-1398

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The draft integrated General Reevaluation Report and Environmental Assessment (GRR/EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Study are now available for your review. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is conducting this study to address flood risk in the Pajaro River watershed, California. The Pajaro River Flood Control Project was authorized by the Flood Control Acts of 1944 (Public Law No. 534, 78th Congress, Ch. 665, 2nd Session) and 1966 (Section 203, Public Law 89-789, 80 Stat. 1421). The current study was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 1990, Section 107 Continuation of Authorization of Certain Projects (Public Law 101-640, November 28, 1990). The Corps is the Federal lead agency and Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties are the non-Federal sponsors for the study.

The Corps and non-Federal sponsors propose to reduce flood risk to the City of Watsonville and the town of Pajaro by a combination of the following measures: improve existing levees; construct new levees; and, construct new floodwalls. The draft GRR/EA presents the draft findings of the General Reevaluation Study and identifies and evaluates the benefits, costs, and environmental effects of alternative plans to reduce flood risk to the city of Watsonville, the town of Pajaro, and the surrounding area. Based on the evaluation, the Corps has identified a Federal interest in at least one alternative plan, the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), to reduce the risk of flooding in the study analysis area, while minimizing adverse environmental effects.

Since publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a combined Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) in 2001, the Corps and the study sponsors have worked with stakeholders to identify and incorporate measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for adverse environmental effects. As a result, the environmental review conducted as part of this study has initially concluded that, with mitigation, the proposed alternatives would not result in any significant environmental effects. Therefore, an EA has been prepared instead of an EIS. Also, the Corps now requires water resources planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents to be integrated into a single document, in this case, an integrated GRR/EA. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document for the study is being prepared separately by Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties as the CEQA lead agencies.

This draft GRR/EA integrates plan formulation with documentation of environmental effects of the alternative plans and meets the requirements of the NEPA, as amended. These requirements include making the document available for public and agency information, review, and comment. The draft GRR/EA will be available for review on October 31, 2017 on the San Francisco District's website at <http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-and-Programs/Projects-by-Category/Projects-for-Flood-Risk-Management/Pajaro-River-Watsonville/> and at the following websites:

- Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works: <http://www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/>

- Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works Flood Control Zone 7:
<http://www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Home/FloodControlStormwater/FCWCZone7.aspx>
- Pajaro River Watershed Flood Prevention Authority:
<http://www.pajaroriverwatershed.org/index.htm>

The document is also available for review at the libraries listed below:

- Watsonville Public Library, 275 Main St., Suite 100, Watsonville, CA 95076
- Porter Mansion, 29 Bishop St., Pajaro, CA 95076
- Pajaro Middle School, 250 Salinas Road, Pajaro, CA 95076
- Casa De La Cultura, 225 Salinas Road, Pajaro, CA 95076

The 30-day public review period for the draft GRR/EA extends from October 31, 2017, to November 30, 2017. During that time, the Corps, and Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties will also host a public meeting to discuss the status of the study, present the draft results of the GRR/EA, and encourage questions and comments. The location and time for the meeting is provided below:

Watsonville Civic Plaza Community Room
275 Main Street, 4th Floor
Watsonville, California 95076
November 8, 2017
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

All comments postmarked by November 30, 2017, will be considered and incorporated into the final GRR/EA, as appropriate. Specific responses will also be included in a comments and responses appendix to the final document. Please send any questions and comments to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, Attn: Mr. Chris Eng, Environmental Manager, 1455 Market Street, Suite 1737B, San Francisco, California 94103-1398, or email: CESPN-ET-PB@usace.army.mil .