

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

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
STATE ROUTE 91/STATE ROUTE 71 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
PRADO FLOOD CONTROL BASIN
RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

I have reviewed the attached Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) which was prepared to describe and analyze impacts associated with a request from the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to access and utilize Federal land, otherwise identified as the Prado Flood Control Basin, Riverside County, California, which is a part of the Santa Ana River Mainstem Flood Control Project, for the purpose of constructing the proposed State Route (SR) 91/SR 71 Interchange Improvement Project. Prado Basin is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for flood risk management.


The Proposed Action consists of the Corps providing permission, to RCTC, in the form of a permit under 33 United States Code (U.S.C.) 408 to alter an authorized Corps project and a supplemental agreement to its existing easement under 10 U.S.C. 2668, for purposes of this construction. This action would allow RCTC to improve the SR-91/71 interchange by construction of a new direct flyover connector from eastbound SR-91 to northbound SR-71. The Interchange Proposal includes the following proposed components: flyover connector ramp, bridge widening, restriping of SR-91 eastbound lanes, modification or construction of new drainage facilities, and grading of hillside slopes, construction of retaining walls, and modification of access driveways at select locations. The Interchange Proposal would improve current and future operational efficiency and would enhance the capacity of the eastbound SR-91 to northbound SR-71 connector. The general location of the Interchange Proposal that would be constructed on Federal lands is illustrated in Figure 1-1.

Alternative proposals including a No-Action Alternative were developed and discussed in the draft EA (dEA), which was available for public review and comment during a 30-day period from April 25-May 27, 2014. No comments were received on the dEA. The Proposed Action is the approved and selected alternative as provided in the dEA. RCTC's request for construction and future operations would traverse Prado Dam's downstream Santa Ana River channel and Corps property adjacent to existing SR-71 and SR-91. Locations of the construction footprint and proposed structures are provided in Figures 2-1 and 2-2 of the FEA.

Disturbance to vegetation, wildlife species, Federally-threatened-and-endangered species, and other resources shall be avoided and/or minimized in affected portions of the outgranted area. Resources potentially affected in this request are discussed in Section 3.0 of the dEA. Mitigation and minimization measures which address various environmental resource areas are also mentioned in corresponding sections in Section 3 and include measures for: geology, water resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, aesthetics, noise, health and safety, utilities/emergency services, and flood risk management, with mitigation/minimization measures for affected resources also provided in Appendix B of the dEA. These planned avoidance and mitigation measures are expected to minimize potential effects of the Proposed Action to a level of insignificance. The Proposed Action is not expected to contribute significantly to adverse cumulative or other impacts related to the aforementioned environmental resources.


Consideration of all the significant factors and all pertinent environmental legislation, in addition to coordination with the public and concerned agencies as discussed in the dEA, indicates that the Proposed Action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment nor would there be significant adverse environmental effects. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required, pursuant to 33 Code of Federal Regulations 230.11.

Prepared by:


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4 September 2014
Date

Approval Recommended by:


Theresa M. Kaplan
Chief, Asset Management Division
Contracting Officer

September 4 2014
Date

Approval by:


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6 Sept 2014
Date