

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary****Defense Partnership Council Meeting**

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense (DoD) announces a meeting of the Defense Partnership Council. Notice of this meeting is required under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This meeting is open to the public. The agenda will include a discussion of the Defense Labor-Management Relations Evaluation and other related Partnership topics.

DATES: The meeting is to be held January 11, 2000, in room 1E801, Conference Room 7, the Pentagon, from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Comments should be received by January 4, 2000, in order to be considered at the January 11 meeting.

ADDRESSES: We invite interested persons and organizations to submit written comments or recommendations. Mail or deliver your comments or recommendations to Mr. Kenneth Oprisko at the address shown below. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Individuals wishing to attend who do not possess an appropriate Pentagon building pass should call the below listed telephone number to obtain instructions for entry into the Pentagon. Handicapped individuals wishing to attend should also call the below listed telephone number to obtain appropriate accommodations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Kenneth Oprisko, Chief, Labor Relations Branch, Field Advisory Services Division, Defense Civilian Personnel Management Service, 1400 Key Blvd, Suite B-200, Arlington, Virginia 22209-5144, (703) 696-6301, select menu #3, ext. 704.

Dated: December 13, 1999.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army Corps of Engineers****Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Proposed Tres Rios Environmental Restoration, Maricopa County, Arizona**

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: The Tres Rios study area is 9 miles long and one mile wide, encompassing approximately 5,600 acres. The area gets its name because it is located at the confluence of the Salt, Gila and Agua Fria rivers. The Salt runs into the Gila just upstream of 115th Avenue; the Agua Fria runs into the Gila at the western end of the study area.

The feasibility study showed an opportunity exists "to restore riparian habitat within the study areas, as well as to address flooding problems and the recreation needs of the study area." Following studies of several alternatives, a plan was selected that is technically feasible, economically efficient, and environmentally sound.

The source of water for the river is effluent from the 91st Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The study notes the water also can be used for constructed wetlands that would provide areas for new wildlife habitat, education and recreation. The wetlands would further enhance the high quality of water released from the WWTP.

Characteristics of the plan include a regulating wetland to provide a more constant rate of discharge from the 91st Avenue WWTP, constructed wetlands arranged in a line along the north bank of the river, a pipeline leading from overbank wetlands to riparian corridors west of El Mirage Road, open water and marsh areas within the river channel, west of El Mirage Road, large open water/marsh areas along the south side of the river channel, and flood control levees.

The proposed project is expected to have significant beneficial environmental impacts. Restoring native riparian and wetland vegetation to the Salt/Gila River is expected to benefit several native wildlife species and threatened and endangered species. No long-term adverse ecological or environmental health effects are expected due to the proposed environmental restoration. No significant impacts are expected to occur.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on the Draft Feasibility Report contact Mr. Mike Ternak, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Attn: CESPL-PD-WC, 3636 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix AZ 85012-1936 at (602) 640-2003, and for information on the DEIS contact Mr. Alex Watt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Attn: CESPL-PD-RL, P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles CA 90053 at (213) 452-3860.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Army Corps of Engineers has prepared a DEIS to assess the environmental effects associated with the proposed Tres Rios environmental restoration. The public will have the opportunity to comment on this analysis before any action is taken to implement the proposed action.

Scoping

The Army Corps of Engineers conducted a scoping meeting prior to preparing the Environmental Impact Statement to aid in determining the significant environmental issues associated with the proposed action. The meeting was held at the Estrella Mountain Community College, 300 N., Dysart Road, Avondale, Arizona on September 16, 1997.

A public hearing to receive comments on the DEIS will be held in conjunction with the public meeting to present the feasibility report. The public hearings will be held in Tolleson, Arizona on January 10, 2000 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Tolleson High school Auditorium, 9419 W. Van Buren Street, Tolleson, AZ 85353. The location, date, and time of the public hearing will be announced in the local news media, and separate notice will also be sent to all parties on the project mailing list.

Individuals and agencies may offer information, comments, or data relevant to the environmental or socioeconomic impacts by attending the public hearing meeting, or by mailing the information to Mr. Alex Watt at the address below prior to January 31, 2000. Comments, suggestions, and requests to be placed on the mailing list for announcements and for the Draft DEIS, should be sent to Alex Watt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Attn: CESPL-PD-RL, P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles CA 90053.

Availability of the Draft EIS

Copies of the DEIS are available for review at the following locations:
City of Phoenix, Planning Department,
200 W. Washington Street, 6th Floor,
Phoenix, AZ
Arizona State University West Library,
4701 W. Thunderbird Dr., Glendale,
AZ