Note: Water features are based on National Hydrography Dataset products (Publication Date 2005). This figure may not accurately display or represent all of the inclusive waters of the United States of America.
Notes:
1. For the purpose of this analysis, the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) is defined as the existing 2-yr water surface elevation by USACE and was used to define impacts within the waters of the U.S. (NHD).
2. Construction areas as shown are for graphical purposes only and may not accurately display or represent all of the area within the ordinary high water mark.
LEGEND

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES
VALLEY STORAGE CUT SITES
UPLAND DISPOSAL FILL SITES
UPPERS CHANNEL TIE-INS
STRUCTURES

Notes:
1. For the purpose of this analysis, the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) is defined as the existing 2-yr water surface elevation by USACE and was used to define impacts within the waters of the U.S. (NHD).
2. Construction areas as shown are for graphical purposes only and may not accurately display or represent all of the area within the ordinary high water mark.
Fort Worth Central City Preliminary Design

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report

Final Supplement No. 1 to the Final Environmental Impact Statement

Appendix G

March 2008
March 6, 2008

Colonel Christopher W. Martin
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
(Attn: Billy Colbert, CESWF-EV-EE)
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300

Re: Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report for the Upper Trinity River Modified Central City Project Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Colonel Martin:

This letter constitutes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (Service) final report on the Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ (Corps) Modified Central City Project in accordance with Section 2(b) of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.). The purpose of this report is to identify and evaluate anticipated impacts of merging and implementing the proposed changes to the authorized Central City and Riverside Oxbow Projects on fish and wildlife resources within the Trinity River floodplain in Tarrant County, Texas and to recommend conservation and mitigation measures for fish and wildlife resources. Our report has been coordinated with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) as noted in the enclosed February 26, 2008 letter from Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program Biologist Karen Hardin.

Background

Authority for the Corps’ investigations on the Upper Trinity River Basin was provided by the U.S. Senate Committee on Environmental Public Works Resolution dated April 22, 1988. The Corps initiated this study at the request of Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) to examine opportunities to reduce flood damage, restore ecosystems, and provide additional and improved recreational opportunities along the West and Clear Forks of the Trinity River and its tributaries within the City of Fort Worth (City). The June 13, 2000 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), Upper Trinity River Basin, Trinity River, Texas identified 90 preliminary potential projects addressing flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and recreation. That year, the Corps initiated the Upper Trinity River Basin Interim Feasibility Study for the Clear and West Forks of the Trinity River and Tributaries which included a group of flood control,
ecosystem restoration, and recreation projects that are proposed along the West and Clear Forks of the Trinity River and several tributaries between Benbrook Lake and Highway East Loop 820. Investigations of the project area were conducted by Service personnel in October 2000 and January, February, April, and May 2001. A FWCA planning aid report was completed November 3, 2001 (Hale 2001).

The Riverside Oxbow Ecosystem Restoration and the Central City Multi-Purpose projects are the first two studies being conducted as part of the comprehensive Upper Trinity River Basin Interim Feasibility Study for the Clear and West Forks of the Trinity River and Tributaries. The Corps’ Riverside Oxbow Interim Feasibility Report and Integrated Environmental Assessment was completed in April 2003 and some aspects of the plan have already been implemented.

In December 2004, the U.S. Congress authorized the Corps to undertake the Upper Trinity River Central City project as generally described in the April 2003 Trinity River Vision Master Plan, a cooperative initiative between TRWD, Streams and Valleys (a local non-profit parks organization), and the City. The Corps completed the Upper Trinity River Central City Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in January 2006.

The Service assisted the Corps in assessing both projects which involved attending team meetings, conducting site visits, completing baseline habitat assessments, and evaluating alternative plans. The Service previously submitted the following documents to the Corps identifying the fish and wildlife resources within the project areas, possible project impacts, and recommended ecosystem mitigation and restoration measures.

- Residual Organochlorine Pesticide Contamination in Fish Collected from the Trinity River within the Proposed Central City Multi-purpose Projects Area. Tarrant County, Texas. April 2004.
- HSIs and Analysis for the Central City Project Extended Area Upstream. December 2, 2004 memorandum.
- Baseline Fisheries Survey of Marine Creek within the Proposed Central City Multi-Purpose Project Area. Tarrant County, Texas. January 2005.
- Corrections for the HSI Averages contained in the December 2, 2004 memo regarding the Central City Project Extended Area Upstream. February 1, 2005 Memorandum.
- Baseline Fisheries Survey of Lebow Creek within the Proposed Central City Multi-Purpose Project Area. Tarrant County, Texas. April 2005.
- Final FWCA Report for the Central City Multi-Purpose Project Study. October 5, 2005.
- Gateway Park Old Wastewater Treatment Plant Lagoons Existing Habitat

• Numerous Emails providing information and comments throughout the planning process.

In a letter dated June 22, 2006, the City requested that the Corps conduct an evaluation and analysis to consider the potential benefits of merging the Central City and the Riverside Oxbow project areas. The City stated that by merging these projects, there would be greater opportunities for valley storage alternatives and wildlife habitat restoration.

Significant changes in land use and development activities within portions of the Riverside Oxbow and the Central City project areas have occurred since the interim feasibility reports and original National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents were completed, such as the recent gas well drilling near the Riverside Oxbow. These changes required further baseline assessment. The Corps requested that the Service provide additional existing conditions, impact assessments, mitigation requirements, and ecosystem restoration recommendations associated with the proposal to combine the Central City and the Riverside Oxbow projects.

Evaluation Methodology

The Service’s Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP) (USFWS 1980), described in the Service’s June 18, 2004 planning aid report (Hale and Giggleman 2004), was used to evaluate the existing terrestrial habitats in the proposed valley storage sites in the same manner as it was in the Central City and Riverside Oxbow projects (Figure 1). The Service conducted additional assessments at the old Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Gateway Park (Valley Storage Site 17) because it was determined that the Riverside Oxbow assessment no longer correctly represented the habitat within the drying beds.

No additional aquatics studies were necessary for the proposed modified plan. Fish communities within the proposed project area were assessed by the Service in 2003 and 2005. The results of these assessments can be found in the previous FWCA reports (Hale and Giggleman 2004; Giggleman and Lewis 2005a; Giggleman and Lewis 2005b; Giggleman and Lewis 2005c).

The Service has evaluated this project in accordance with the guidelines and directives contained in its Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Policy (Federal Register 46(15):7644-7663; January 23, 1981). The Mitigation Policy is the basis by which the Service makes recommendations, in order of priority, to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce or eliminate the loss over time, or compensate for project-related impacts to fish and wildlife resources. Our recommendations are based on the value and relative abundance of the affected habitats to the evaluation species. The Policy includes four Resource Categories (1-4) to provide a consistent value rating for wildlife habitats. Based on the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) values and Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) evaluations, the Service has designated a Resource Category for each terrestrial and aquatic habitat evaluated in the project area.
Project Alternatives and Proposed Action

The current project proposal contains two alternatives, the “No Action” Alternative which would be the separate implementation of both the 2005 Central City project and the 2003 Riverside Oxbow Ecosystem Restoration project as they are currently approved, and the “Modified Central City Alternative” combining both projects with modifications which would provide greater opportunities for valley storage alternatives and wildlife habitat restoration.

Construction activities associated with both alternatives would result in some loss of all habitats. However, these adverse impacts would be compensated for in each alternative with in-kind and out-of-kind mitigation.

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative is implementation of the Central City and the Riverside Oxbow Restoration projects as they are currently approved. The Service’s FWCA reports for these two projects contain the descriptions of the approved projects, existing environmental conditions, possible project impacts, and recommended ecosystem mitigation and restoration measures (Hale 2003; Hale and Giggie 2005).

The April 2003 Riverside Oxbow Interim Feasibility Report and Integrated Environmental Assessment describes the ecosystem restoration project located just east of the downtown area on the West Fork of the Trinity River downstream of Riverside Drive and Gateway Park. It consists of habitat restoration on 512.2 acres of floodplain lands, approximately 2 miles of oxbow river channel, 56.5 acres of wetlands, 112 acres of riparian habitat and upland native grassland, and 25,700 feet of compatible mixed surface linear recreational trails. The approved project would restore a water source for the oxbow by removing the earthen plug between the oxbow and the river channel. An in-stream dam has been installed down stream to raise the water level in the old oxbow. The project plans include increasing the width of the riparian woodland corridor to 150 feet. These actions would provide excellent habitat for riparian wildlife species, such as nesting and brood-rearing wood ducks. The old Sycamore Creek remnant and the drying beds of the old WWTP at Gateway Park would be developed into emergent wetlands.

In response to the Secretary of the Army’s review of the Riverside Oxbow project, the Corps developed an April 2005 Addendum to the Riverside Oxbow report reducing the proposed property acquisition in the Gateway Park by 79 acres that were proposed to be developed as native grassland and tree mottes and increasing the amount of restored forested wetlands by 20 acres.

The approved Central City project plan, as described in the January 2006 Upper Trinity River Central City, Fort Worth, Texas final EIS, includes a flood bypass channel and flood gates to divert flood flow around a segment of the existing Trinity River adjacent to downtown Fort Worth, a dam located downstream of Samuels Avenue to create a small lake extending up the river to approximately Rockwood Park, ecological restoration areas, and 5,250 acre-feet of valley storage mitigation sites. Much of the proposed valley storage would be located in the Riverbend
Park area to compensate for the loss of valley storage associated with the construction of the proposed dam and bypass channel on the Trinity River.

Habitat improvement, restoration, and enhancement included in the approved Central City project would be located in three areas to compensate for project impacts. These include the proposed valley storage mitigation area at Riverbend Park, two old oxbows near Rockwood Park, and Ham Branch in Harmon Park east of the downtown area.

The ecosystem restoration activities planned for the approved Central City Project includes restoration of 15.02 acres of wetlands and 34.5 acres of riparian woodlands; establishment of 42.2 acres of native grasslands, 92.7 acres of riparian woodlands, and 45.5 acres of upland woodlands; enhancement of 13.3 acres of existing upland woodlands; preservation of 74.36 acres of riparian woodland; and reestablishment of 5.08 acres of three historic oxbow stream channels.

A letter from the Corps, dated September 13, 2005, includes an Aquatic Mitigation Plan for restoring aquatic habitat and improving water quality in Ham Branch. The plan includes restructuring 892 linear feet of the stream to be geomorphically stable with a riffle/pool/run aquatic regime, and planting 7.4 acres of riparian woodland to add to the existing 1.4 acres of woodlands to create a 50-foot wide riparian buffer on each side of the stream. An emergent wetland (0.6 acre) and a sediment/litter trap (0.7 acre) would be developed as a means to improve water quality in Ham Branch. These restoration measures would provide a portion of the compensation required for the impacts resulting from the approved project.

The approved Aquatic Mitigation Plan also includes restoration measures along the planned Lebow Creek diversion. These restoration measures are mitigation for the impacts the project would cause to Lebow Creek and partial mitigation for the impacts to Marine Creek. The diversion would be designed to provide comparable riffle/pool/run habitat regimes to those being impacted by the project. Shrubs and overhanging grasses would be planted along the banks for shade and cover. These plants would also provide bank erosion control thereby reducing the amount of sediment in the stream.

**Modified Central City Alternative**

The proposed Modified Central City Alternative would combine the Central City and the Riverside Oxbow project to increase valley storage, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities and reduce the use of eminent domain by minimizing acquisition of private land and increasing the use of public land for valley storage and wildlife habitat restoration (Figure 2). There are three major changes proposed from the approved Central City Project: (1) the location and design of the proposed valley storage sites, (2) location of the Samuels Avenue Dam with a newly proposed lock and channel on the west side of the structure, and (3) addition of the Marine Creek Low Water Dam. All other features of the Modified Project Alternative would remain the same as those contained in the approved Central City and Riverside Oxbow plans.
The modified plan includes 21 preferred and five contingency valley storage sites proposed along the Trinity River to provide approximately 5,250 acre-feet of flood water storage. The sites, which are located within the floodplain and on City of Fort Worth and TWRD owned property, are located predominantly in habitats of poor quality. Most of these sites would be excavated to acquire more acre-feet of storage. However, after excavation these sites are proposed to be restored into equal or higher quality habitat than their existing condition. Most of the habitat restoration and mitigation would be located in these sites.

The modified plan would minimize acquisition of private lands by relocating the valley storage sites to public lands and concentrating wildlife habitat mitigation in the Riverside Oxbow project area. The modified project proposes to exclude Riverbend Park from the project for habitat mitigation, but includes it as a contingency valley storage site if additional storage is necessary. The modified plan would require compensation for loss of about 18.3 acres of riparian woodlands, 59 acres of upland woodlands, 2.3 acres of aquatic habitat, and less than an acre of emergent wetlands. However, it includes establishing 58 acres of wetlands, restoration of 10.9 acres of stream and oxbow habitat, developing of 137.6 acres of riparian woodland, enhancement of 263.6 acres of existing riparian woodland, development of 87 acres of native grassland/savannah, and enhancement of 53.3 acres of native grasslands. The Modified Central City Alternative would increase riparian woodland habitat by 109 Average Annual Habitat Units (AAHUs) and emergent wetlands by 47.78 AAHUs. The negative impacts to upland woodland habitat would be partially compensated by out-of-kind mitigation using the additional riparian woodlands developed beyond those required to fully compensate for the existing riparian woodlands that would be impacted. The total acreage and AAHUs for existing grassland habitat would decrease because mitigation for the other higher quality habitats is proposed in poor quality grasslands on public lands.

The Modified Central City Alternative proposes to locate the proposed Samuels Avenue Dam to approximately 1,750 feet downstream of Northside Drive on the main stem of the Trinity River, immediately upstream from the confluence of Marine Creek. This new location would eliminate aquatic impacts to Lebow Creek. During normal dry weather the dam will maintain the normal water pool level elevation of 524.3 National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD). The 390-foot wide dam would operate with seven 48-feet wide and 18-feet high gates. The structure would have low flow conduits 4-feet wide by 6 feet high located at the base of three piers. A stilling basin would be located on the north side of the dam to dissipate the hydraulic energy released from the gates. The channel width at the dam site would be 250 feet. On the west side of the dam, a lock and channel would be constructed to connect the river to Marine Creek in order to accommodate small boat traffic. The lock structure would be 40-feet long by 16-feet wide and have a maximum lift of 8.5 feet.

The Service has designated the aquatic habitats within the lower sections of Marine and Lebow Creeks as Resource Category 3. Category 3 habitat is of high to medium value for the evaluation species and is relatively abundant on a national basis. The mitigation planning goal for this category is no net loss of habitat value while minimizing loss of in-kind values. Impacts to these aquatic resources should be avoided, minimized, and/or compensated.
A fixed low water dam would be constructed across the mouth of Marine Creek, approximately 300 feet upstream of the confluence of the main stem of the river, to raise the water level in the creek to allow boat traffic through the lock structure and down Marine Creek. This structure would have a crest elevation of 516.5 NGVD and a crest length of 200 feet. This lower level would reduce the backwater impacts to Marine Creek, but would still inundate the shallow riffle-pool sequences that currently support an exceptional and high valued fish community within the stream, therefore mitigation would be required. Marine Creek channel would be widened by approximately 50 feet and a turnaround basin just upstream from 23rd Street would be constructed. Compacted concrete with rip-rap would be used for bank stabilization where necessary.

Aquatic habitat mitigation for impacts to Marine Creek resulting from construction of the dam, the proposed lock and channel located west of the dam, and the Marine Creek low water dam are still proposed for Ham Branch, but now includes restoration of Sycamore Creek within the Riverside Oxbow area.

**Summary and Recommendations**

The Service supports the proposed Modified Central City Alternative aquatics mitigation plan that proposes developing additional stream mitigation features in Sycamore Creek and Ham Branch as mitigation for the impacts associated with inundation of Marine Creek. Mitigation would include construction of a series of riffle-pool sequences with a stable streambed supported by stable banks and a riparian corridor in both streams. We recommend using natural soft engineering for bank stabilization. The streams should have a sufficient longitudinal profile (slope) to maintain adequate flow regimes. Substrate composition should be similar to the habitat in Marine Creek.

We also support restoring the old remnant of Sycamore Creek between Riverside Oxbow and the river. Providing a reliable water source and restoring the aquatic function of this segment of Sycamore Creek would benefit aquatic species and contribute to the mitigation requirement for the impacts associated with inundating Marine Creek. Habitat restoration benefits would not be fully realized for several years, but the newly planted aquatic vegetation proposed in the mitigation plan would probably be well established within one year.

These mitigation measures would fully compensate for the adverse impacts to the aquatic habitat in Marine Creek caused by the construction of Samuels Avenue dam and the low water dam.

The only federally listed threatened or endangered species known to occur in Tarrant County are the endangered whooping crane (*Grus americana*), and the endangered interior least tern (*Sternula antillarum*). Detailed information on these species is contained in the October 5, 2005 Final FWCA report (Hale 2005). Due to the lack of suitable habitat and the urbanized character of the project area, it is unlikely that either of these federally listed species would utilize any of the study areas. Therefore, no adverse affects to federally listed species are expected to occur with implementation of any of the proposed alternatives.
After reviewing all the information provided by Corps staff and our analysis of the HEP data regarding the proposed changes to the two approved projects in order to combine them, we have determined that the Corps' recommended plan, including our recommendations discussed above, would provide a sufficient amount of habitat restoration and preservation to mitigate for the adverse impacts caused by the various components of implementing the Modified Central City Alternative. The mitigation plan would provide diversity, as well as habitat of sufficient quality and quantity, to benefit a variety of resident and migratory wildlife species. Reforestation and improvement of the riparian corridor would also substantially increase the amount of vital reproductive and migratory neotropical bird habitat, thus furthering the goals and objectives of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and the Partners in Flight program.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the planning of this project. Please contact Carol Hale at (817) 277-1100 if you have any questions or require additional assistance.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas J. Cloud, Jr.
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Jennifer Key, TPWD, Austin, Texas
Executive Director, TPWD, Austin, Texas
Literature Cited


February 26, 2008

Thomas J. Cloud, Jr.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WinSystems Center Building
711 Stadium Drive, Suite 252
Arlington, TX 76011

RE: Draft Supplemental Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report for the Fort Worth Central City Project (Tarrant County)

Dear Mr. Cloud,

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has reviewed the November 20, 2007, Draft Supplemental Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report (Report) for the Central City Interim Feasibility Study. The Report has identified and evaluated anticipated impacts on fish and wildlife resources within the Trinity River floodplain in Tarrant County, Texas, that are anticipated as a result of implementing the proposed changes to the authorized Central City Project and merging it with the Riverside Oxbow Project. The Report recommends conservation and mitigation strategies for natural resource protection.

TPWD concurs with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) findings presented in the Report. I appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on this project and look forward to working with the USFWS and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the future. Please contact me at (903) 675-4447 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Karen B. Hardin
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Wildlife Division

kba/12900(12329, 11137, 11132, and 11032)
Fort Worth Central City
Preliminary Design
Public Review and Comments
Final Supplement No. 1 to the Final Environmental Impact Statement
Appendix H
March 2008
ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PUBLIC MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2008

INN SUITES

2000 BEACH STREET

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PRESENTATION

ALLIED REPORTERS * (817) 335-5568 * (800) 562-7055
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**ALLIED REPORTERS** *(817) 335-5568* *(800) 562-7055*
(Public comments prior to presentation.)

ROBERT CROWE: I'm Robert Crowe. I'm a member of the Steering Committee with the Neighborhood Association of South Lake Worth and a member and supporter of the South Lake Worth Alliance. As such, I fully support the objectives of preserving, protecting and enhancing Fort Worth's invaluable and irreplaceable green space and natural habitat area for recreational
SANDRA AND GEORGE EVERETT

(Written statement wrote into record.)

Sandra and George Everett, 4218 Kenwood Court, Fort Worth, 76103. In light of all the activity -- construction, injection well, et cetera -- related to gas well drilling by Chesapeake on land adjacent to Gateway Park at the intersection of Oakland Boulevard and First Street, an environmental impact study of the effects of runoff from this industrial/construction area and interaction with the floodplain in Gateway Park and surrounding area is essential prior to the decision to go forward with the wonderful plans for improving the...
Effects of activities by others, including petroleum exploration in the geographic area have been considered in the cumulative impacts assessment of the SEIS and this site specific activity will be further evaluated for its potential impacts to the proposed project during the processing of the Final Supplemental EIS. Surface water is protected by state and federal laws and any pollution coming from offsite of any well is reported and will be required to be cleaned up.
Tommy Simmons
TOMMY SIMMONS: Tommy Simmons, 2020
Windsor, 76110. And connecting -- One of the most
important parts of this is connecting the trail -- the
Trinity Trail completely to Arlington. Okay. And then
one other thing. I think the -- I have already done a
bunch of stuff on this, but the Rowing Club have a
rowing dock isolated to itself instead of using the
trail. That's what they use to dock.
(Beginning of presentation.)

COLONEL MARTIN: All right. We will get this thing started. I'm Colonel Christopher Martin. I'm the Commander of the Fort Worth Engineering District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and I would like to welcome you-all tonight to this public meeting.

This meeting obviously is regarding the proposed modifications to the Central City Project and the supplement to the final Environmental Impact Statement that describes those changes.

If you have not signed in, please make sure that you work your way over to the left there, sign in and that will make sure you get on our mailing list for any further changes. And that's also where you register to make comments here tonight. If you're not on one of those sheets, we won't be able to recognize you unfortunately.

Here's what we hope to cover tonight.
And hopefully you've had a chance to review the displays at the back of the room which describe the changes that we'll address tonight and then discuss them with our staff that's here. They will also be available following the meeting if you have any further questions.

So what we're not going to do tonight is a question and answer session. We'll have the experts in the back, and they will be able to address your specific questions at the end of the meeting tonight. They're a lot smarter than I am on this stuff, any way.

What I would like to do is introduce some folks from partner agencies that are here tonight, and they are our partners in this project. Starting off first of with Mayor Mike Moncrief. Mayor, thank you, sir, for being here. Eric With from Congressman Michael Burgess's office. Barbara Ragland from Congresswoman Kay Granger's office. Maureen Hagen, Representative from -- hopefully I say this right, Mark Reecey's office. Councilman Danny Scarth, City of Fort Worth District Four.

Councilwoman Kathleen Hicks, City of Fort Worth District Eight. Councilman Joel Burns, City of Fort Worth District Nine. And Vic Henderson, President of Tarrant Regional Water District Board. And Jack Stevens, Tarrant Regional Water District Board Member. Marty Leonard, Tarrant Regional Water District Board Member. And Dale Fisseler, City of Fort Worth City Manager.
So here's what we're going to cover tonight. You see it on the agenda up here. We're going to briefly describe the purpose of the meeting. You know, what do we hope to accomplish here in this meeting tonight. We'll describe the project modifications from the incorporation of the two projects and some other things that changed. We'll talk a little bit about what our schedule is for this project. Then the opportunities for public comment, you know, why are we here tonight? What are we going to do with the comments that we get out of here? And then an opportunity for you to make other verbal comments.

We are at day 20 in this public comment period, so hopefully now you've had a chance to review the draft supplement to the EIS. So what's the purpose of our meeting then? Well, the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA as we call it, requires a 45-day public comment period on a draft Environmental Impact Statement. So we're at day 20 of the 45-day period. Public comment is required for the Corps to make an informed decision on the project, and this is an effective way for us to receive comments. And we will have the court reporter over here who will be recording our comments throughout the night, and we'll have a transcript of the meeting that will be produced following the meeting here.

For those of you who have had the opportunity to look at this you know this already, we'll
cover the project modifications. And there are three of them.

First of all, it's the change of the location of the primary hydraulic mitigation. Okay. The guys that wrote this -- Let's make this so everybody who are not engineers can understand that. That means where is the floodwater going to be stored.

So we'll talk about that, the change of location of the primary hydraulic mitigation, or where the floodwater storage is going to be. We'll change the location of Sammuels Avenue Dam and the pool level in Marine Creek.

And then the third change is to incorporate the Riverside Oxbow Project features into the Central City Project. So these are the changes that are subject to comment and review during this period. And that's what we're going to focus on here tonight is those changes.

Now, let's cover each of those individually, just to make sure everyone is aware of what we're talking about here. First one we're talking about is the hydraulic mitigation change, relocating the storage of floodwaters, above a one hundred year event flood.

Now, what does that mean, a hundred year flood? Well, that means that on average you have a
one percent chance of having that kind of flood in any given year. Not that it’s going to happen every 100 years or only once in a hundred years, but on any given year, you have a one percent chance of that type of flood occurring.

So what we’re doing now is the change relocates the storage of floodwaters above a hundred year event from the Riverbend area in West Fort Worth, and that’s what’s shown on the map and the crosshatching on the left side there, to the Gateway/Riverside area on the east side of Fort Worth, which is shown in the purple over here.

This change in location does not change downstream flood volumes or water surface elevation, so everybody understands that. No change in downstream flood volumes. The amount of water that comes through downstream is the same before or after these changes, and the water surface elevation does not change either as a result of these changes.

Next slide.

Now, let’s talk about the Samuels Avenue Dam changes. The Samuels Avenue Dam was moved from downstream of the Marine Creek mouth to just upstream of Marine Creek due to some geotechnical and environmental considerations. Our guys originally had it more up here, and now moved it to where it’s shown on the yellow area because of some factors that they were able to -- you know, as we got to understand more about them, recognized that it made better sense to move it further.
south there.

A lock will allow recreational boat passage between the Trinity River and Marine Creek and a small low head dam on Marine Creek will result in a lower pool elevation in Marine Creek, so we'll have a small damn there. You know, a very low head being the differential in water heights there, so it will be very small there.

And then our third change is the incorporation of the Gateway restoration features and river flows reintroduced through the severed Oxbow and Sycamore Creek so as to restore the river and the Gateway/Riverside Oxbow area back to the way it was. And incorporate planting of trees that will result in a restored ecosystem for the area, so that brings in the Gateway Park area there.

So this is the schedule that we're looking at now. Following this meeting, you should provide any additional comments by the end of the 45-day comment period, which is February 19th. The target dates for the Final Supplement -- Again, this is just a draft that you have out right now. So the Final Supplement to the EIS should be published in late March to early April. And then following that a complete record of the decision around mid May or the end of May sometime with construction scheduled to begin of the fall of 2008.

So that's a pretty aggressive schedule.
These are target dates however, and if substantive comments are presented during this period, the process could be delayed. The project will seek a Record of Decision; the formal document that presents and explains our final decision on the project. Again, that's scheduled for sometime around mid to end of May.

And then just to make sure that everyone understands the way the Army Corps of Engineers constructs projects or does projects is when they receive an authorization from Congress to do so. In other words, we don't just go out and pick the projects that we want to do. We're specifically directed in a law that says the Army Corps of Engineers will construct this project.

We have that for the Central City Project now, and then rely every year on funding in order for us to make that project go. It's not that we receive a pot of discretionary money. It is an appropriations bill from the Congress that specifically allocates money to a given project and does not allow us to move money around from project to project.

And I think that's important that everyone understands that, because we are very dependent on what the Congress tells us. You know, where they would like us to serve the Nation's interests.

The opportunities for public comment are as shown here. Verbal comments tonight will be recorded and then the transcript prepared. That's why we have the court reporter over to the right. And then you can...
provide written comments tonight on those forms that have been provided over on the side tables there, or you can send written comments by February 19th to the Corps Project Manager whose address is on the handout over there.

And you can e-mail comments, again, by February 19th to the address also listed on the handout.

And we will incorporate those into the final EIS as we go through and do our review. And then finally, the draft supplement to the EIS is also available for download on our Fort Worth District website, and we put it up here, so I'll list it www.swf.usace.army.mil.

It's www.swf.usace.army.mil.

You can also talk to some of our folks back there and possibly get a CD, if we have some to give out here tonight, that has our supplemental EIS on it.

All right. So how are we going to conduct this meeting tonight? We're going to follow these rules of the road. Limit your comments to three minutes, please. That way everyone here will have the opportunity -- everyone who wants to make comments will have the opportunity to do so.

What I will do is I will get a stack of the people who registered to make comments and I will call out, you know, someone to come up, and then I'll say who is on deck. And we use baseball terms -- that's something I know, we use baseball terms, you're on deck.
And you will be ready to go when their time is up.

Please no questions, just because I'm not going to be able to answer the questions tonight, I'm not going to debate things with you. This is your opportunity to give us your comments about the project, so take advantage of that, if you would. But again, try to keep your time to three minutes or less if you can.

And please, then at the end of the meeting, though, feel free to go in the back and talk to our staff about whatever specific questions you have.

And I guarantee you they can answer a lot better than I can any way.

We're going to ask that you don't yield your time to others, if you're registered on the card, you speak. If you're not registered on the card, you don't speak. That's just to be fair, again, to everyone. To give everyone their ample opportunity to make their comments known tonight. So we'll have no yielding of time to others.

And just be respectful of comments, as individuals come forward to allow them to be heard. You know, we're going to take each and every comment. We have to address them, we're required to do that, and address them. And they will be in the back of the final EIS once it's published.

And with that, we're going start here with the comments right about now. Again, three minutes per person. We're going to start first with the Mayor. Sir, if you would come up here, please. Mayor Mike
20 Moncrief, and you're on the clock. And, Danny Scarth, sir, you're on deck.
21 MAYOR MONCRIEF: Colonel, thank you.
22 Thank you very much. And if you would, before you --
23 before you start the -- try again.
24 Thank you very much, Colonel. And before
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1  you start the timer, if I might just tell this audience
2 just a little bit about you and your presence here
3 tonight and your service to this country.
4 Graduate of West Point, the
5 101st Airborne, served us in Bosnia, he's an Army
6 Ranger, he also just completed a recent tour of Iraq.
7 Thank you, sir, for your service.
8 (Applause.)
9 MAYOR MONCRIEF: I wasn't just trying to
10 butter you up, Colonel. As you know in 2006, the City
11 asked the Corps to study the possibility of combining
12 two federally authorized projects, the Trinity River
13 Vision and the Riverside Oxbow Gateway Park restoration.
14 And we were delighted to hear the Corps agreed that such
15 a union was appropriate.
16 I'm here tonight to express Fort Worth's
17 continued support for combining these projects.
18 Currently the City lacks sufficient flood protection
19 along the Trinity River corridor, we all know that. The
20 flood control component of the TRV Project will allow us
21 to meet and possibly exceed regional standards for flood
22 protection.
What's more, the modified project also will remove levees allowing our citizens to reconnect with our most valuable natural asset, the Trinity River.

Additionally, the project will provide ecosystem restoration, it will increase recreational opportunities and bring greatly needed economic development to a blighted portion of our City.

Adding the Riverside Oxbow and Gateway Park to the overall Trinity River Project will make a great plan even better, and it just makes good sense given the extensive need for park space within our City. And I'm not sure if you're aware, but Fort Worth is 3,500 acres short of regional park land.

Adding this public property to the Trinity River Vision Plan is a remarkable opportunity to funnel millions of federal dollars into East Fort Worth and reduce our park deficit by more than 500 acres. Plus this plan will allow us complete and exceed the original Gateway Master Plan and continues, not for it, the list of possibilities is amazing, including an ecosystem restoration with more than 70,000 new trees.

Becky, 70,000.

Fifteen miles of trails, an amphitheater, playgrounds, athletic fields and basketball courts, boat launches, a skating park, equestrian trails. The list goes on and on. And there is something for everyone, young and old alike, so I applaud the Corps for taking the time to host this meeting, listen to the needs,
wants, and concerns of those who live here. And I thank all of you who came out tonight on this cold evening to make your voices heard.

Colonel Martin, I urge you and the Corps to take note of what our citizens have to say. We look forward to our continued partnership as we move forward with this historic project. Thank you for the time. I'm delighted to be here with my fellow colleagues. I'm glad to be here with Becky, our former colleague, and to represent this great community. Thank you all.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you, Mayor.

Councilman Scrath, and then, Councilman Burns, you're on deck.

COUNCILMAN SCRATH: Thank you, Colonel.

I appreciate you being here. You know, as -- as I drove over here, we had -- I was plenty early, so I came up East First Street, and as I drove past the old former landfill, I looked over and I imagined soccer fields and baseball fields, a trail along the river there and the bridge. And I can just imagine walking my dog on a trail that -- next to the river where I had never been able to be. And I thought of all of the people that would be able to enjoy that scenery today that they just can't get to.

And I came a little bit farther, and I went by the fields that are there today, and then turned
the corner and came up Beach Street and imagined the equestrian center and the -- the preservation and restoration of what is just a scar today of what the river was 50 years ago, and 70,000 new trees planted there.

And then from this window, you can look out and see where an amphitheater may be some day, and you can just imagine what that will mean to Fort Worth. And I was just grateful that the Army Corps of Engineers, like Fort Worth, is not afraid to dream big, to look at projects. And I realize that you guys are the experts and the engineers, you have seen projects far larger than ours, but -- but you're not afraid to -- to dream with us of what could be by combining these two projects together.

And -- And certainly there are things we could find as individuals that we might not like in the project, and that part is easy. The difficult part is to -- is to stay the course, to see what can be, and to continue to work on this project, because it will have stumbling blocks.

But we appreciate the work that you've done. We hope that you take to heart the comments of the people here tonight, and we -- we really do look forward to working together as partners with the -- the Regional Water District, the County, the Corps of Engineers, and the City of Fort Worth to make this a possibility. Thank you for your time.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thanks, Councilman.
Councilman Burns, and then, Barbara Ragland, you're on deck, please.

COUNCILMAN BURNS: My name is Joel Burns, and I represent City Council District Nine, and this probably, I guess, is my first public forum to come talk to anyone at. And it's nice to be here.

In addition to living in and representing District Nine, I also at one point lived in Meadowbrook for 12 years. Gateway Park is near and dear to me because of my -- for many reasons, because of its impact for the entire City, but I also became partial to it during the time that -- that we lived here on the east side of Fort Worth.

They're -- We're going to hear a lot of things tonight about why it's important to -- to look at combining these two important projects. It certainly impacts downtown, which is in District Nine. It impacts practically all of our City. One of those things that I've look at critically, I read the Fort Worth Star-Telegram articles, I've talked with the folks from the Trinity River Vision Authority, and it truly is a situation where we have an opportunity to combine two projects, the sum of which is greater than the individual parts are. And I really want to look at it from that framework.

I also want to remind everyone here about the economic impact of potential -- the potential impact of this project. We're talking about more than 10,000
residential units coming into the City of Fort Worth in its urban core. We're talking about $2.7 million square feet of office, retail and commercial space. Think about the economic impact that makes on our City, think about the lifting of the property tax burden off the shoulders of existing property taxpayers.

This is the engine by which we will lift those burdens as we continue to have a billion-dollar annual budget, continue to pay for employee salaries, continue to pay for retiree benefits, things like that. We have to bring in these new residences, these new businesses, and this new economic generator in order to continue to shoulder that burden.

The net new tax revenue over 40 years is predicted to be over 1.15 billion dollars in real property tax revenues just to the City of Fort Worth, that doesn't include our other taxing jurisdictions, an estimated 600 construction workers jobs a year and more than 16,000 permanent jobs to this project.

Please think about this in context of its economic impact to this wonderful City, not just to East Fort Worth, not just District Nine, but to our entire City. Thank you very much for having me here tonight.

COLONEL MARTIN: Barbara Ragland, and Vic Henderson is on deck, please.

BARBARA RAGLAND: Colonel Martin, I have a letter from the Congresswoman that I would like read. "I'm writing to offer my strong support for the Central City Project, Gateway Park Improvement.
Plan. I appreciate your holding the public meeting and regret that I am not able to attend in person.

"I believe it's important for our community to understand the benefits of this project, and welcome the opportunity to express my strong support. As the residents of Fort Worth know, revitalization of Gateway Park on the east side is long overdue. Although the park has some amenities, it also has gravel pits, a landfill, an abandoned sewage treatment center.

"This is certainly not what our citizens want for Gateway and for the City. The Central City Project, Gateway Park Improvement Plan allows construction to begin this year on improvements to the park including building athletic fields, expanding the trail system, planting thousands of trees, and many other improvements.

"Beyond the esthetic and recreational improvements the project will provide, there are other equally important benefits that are important to note. An estimated 80 percent of the levees in the project are inadequate. The project improves flood protection by replacing these levees. There are also strong ecosystem restoration and environmental clean-up improvements included in the plan.

"In addition, this revitalization will result in an estimated 16,000 jobs and a billion dollar increase in tax base for the schools, roads, and other..."
community projects. It is important to note that federal tax dollars are being used only for public infrastructure, such as the bypass channel and bridges. “There has also been a significant investment by private industry in this area. In fact, over a billion dollars of private investment has already broken ground, including Radio Shack, Pier One, Trinity Bluffs, LaGrave Development and Tarrant County Community College. It is clear that the project has already spurred economic development in the surrounding area, and it's reasonable to expect that this is only the beginning.

“Again, thank you for holding this important meeting. I look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders to advance this project that will transform our City. Sincerely, Kay Granger, Member of Congress.” Thank you.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Vic Henderson is up, and on deck is Ben Loughry, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.

VIC HENDERSON: Colonel Martin, and interested members of the community. I want to thank the United States Army Corps of Engineers for giving me and the rest of the public a chance to comment on combining the Trinity River Vision Plan with the Riverside Oxbow Plan. I believe that the rapport that you have produced creates a great opportunity not just for the east side residents of Fort Worth, but residents of all the surrounding communities.
Gateway Park has long been an underutilized piece of land that has badly needed serious environmental restoration. Your report gives us the necessary tool to not only clean up this land but also create an environmental habitat and recreational facility that my grandkids and their kids will be able to enjoy.

As president of the Tarrant Regional Water District Board, I want to commend the City of Fort Worth for asking for this study. I believe that Randall Harwood and his staff and the Mayor and City Council have done an excellent job of looking past the bare bones of what needs to be done and have decided to take advantage of an opportunity that this City will never have again.

I also want to say to Saji and his staff at the Army Corps of Engineers, thank you for your hard work. Saji, you did an excellent job. In closing, the Tarrant Regional Water District is excited about this project. We look forward to being a partner in moving this project forward. Thank you.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you, sir. Now, Ben Loughry, and Devoyd Jennings is on deck, please, sir.

BEN LOUGHRY: Colonel Martin, my name is Ben Loughry, and I'm representing the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce. In the interest of time, I won't be redundant on some of the points that have been brought
Adding the Oxbow part of this just incorporates another great area of the east side, and it also gives us an opportunity to increase a connection between the cultural district, the downtown, and east side of Fort Worth. We realize there is going to be a cost increase to it. We also realize it's a much needed flood control project, but the key part of it, it triggers an opportunity for economic revitalization of some areas of this town historically that have been underutilized, commercial and industrial areas.

Our estimates as far as economic impact are -- are substantial. We anticipate that it will add about 10,000 households to the City. We anticipate that it will be close to three million square feet of commercial, educational, office and civic space. The impact over the 50-year period that this will occur from the dollars are about 2.1 billion to the -- to the City.

Overall, it's a critical component to our growth. If we do this, it will ensure our continued recognition as being one of our nations most liveable cities. We ask for your consideration in this, we continue our support for it. And thank you for your time tonight.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Devoyd Jennings, and Urbin McKeever is on deck.
DEVOYD JENNINGS: Thank you, Colonel Martin, for allowing us to be here this afternoon. I'm going to make it real simple. You know Fort Worth -- As the Mayor says, the Fort Worth way is to share in things that make a real difference. Most of you would not go to a book store and buy just one bookend, would you? When you go to a book store, you're buying bookends, you would want the set. Am I right?

It's just like having the Tarrant County Convention Center without the Omni Hotel. The whole of Fort Worth will enjoy what could happen here, so we want two bookends. We want the west side of Fort Worth to enjoy what it has, and we want the east side of Fort Worth to enjoy what it can have. And that's one reason the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber supports this project, because it's a holistic approach.

The second thing I would like to say to you is that this project as of to date has one of the highest percentages for MWBE participation. Not only will we -- will we be able to look at an opportunity to be vendors, we will look at the opportunity to help build this project.

To date 44 percent of what has gone out has been part of the MWBE goal. That's very important to us as chambers, especially minority chambers. So when you get a percentage like this where we could not
only employee people, but create other businesses, it creates a holistic approach well -- well worth while.
So on behalf of the Chamber, we support this project and we want two bookends. Thank you.

COLONEL MARTIN: Urbin McKeever, and Elaine Petrus is on deck.

URBIN McKEEVER: Thank you, Colonel. My name is Urbin McKeever, and I'm currently the Chairman of the Board of Streams and Valleys. I'm here tonight to deliver a message of support representing our board.

Our nonprofit organization has worked for 37 years to protect, promote and enhance the environment along the Trinity River in Fort Worth. We would like to thank our local governmental agencies, the City of Fort Worth, the Trinity Regional Water District and Tarrant County for being our partners with us to deliver the facilities that are now enjoyed by all of our citizens.

We take very seriously our role as the community liaison for the river helping to articulate their concerns and endorsements of projects to our government leaders. We also respect our lengthy history of association with Gateway Park. Through the years, we have helped provide local funds many times to improve its recreational amenities.

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We strongly believe that this modification to the Central City Project will provide our community and region with recreational enhancements that have been presented tonight in the forum, many of which are focused on the Trinity River.
The Streams and Valleys unanimously supports this draft and will provide community assistance to further its progress. Thank you.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Elaine Petrus, followed by Connie Rensink. I hope I say your names right. If I don't, please forgive me.

ELAINE PETRUS: Thank you for this hearing. As a former Fort Worth Trinity Water Chair and a member of the Streams and Valleys Committee, I'm very supportive of the proposed plan for the much desired and needed recreational amenities for Gateway Park for our families and children in this community as well as the positive environmental improvements.

As the tree lady, I love the 70,000 trees that are going to be planted. But in addition to this, my observation of Gateway Park over the last 10 or 15 years that I have observed it, is that it floods significantly on a fairly regular basis about every five to ten years. And when I say significantly, I mean that we can't use the park.

And as development continues to occur to the west as it does today in Parker County and far west Fort Worth, both in the Clear Fork and the West Fork, my fear is that if nothing is done that flooding will continue and it will be more frequent, and we won't be able to use the park even as much as we do today.

And it's only with the improvements that are outlined in this project with construction
improvements that Gateway will really be able to use its full potential. I'm really excited about the plans for Gateway Park, and I think it's going to be a wonderful asset for this City for years to come. Thank you.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Connie Rensink, and Greg Ricks on deck.

CONNIE RENSINK: You did say that right. Hello, I'm Connie Rensink, and I'm the president of the River Trails Homeowner's Association, and our office is in fact to the east of the park. To begin with, I would like to say that Fort Wuff, which is the dog park that is currently in Gateway Park, has caused many of the residents of Fort Worth to venture to our side of town, and sometimes that's not been so true.

We're very excited about the development of the master plan that would benefit the entire City, and it will make this park even more of a destination for everyone in our town. I have a lot of bicycling enthusiasts in my neighborhood, and they are particularly pleased with the improvement of the trails and we hope for more connections to the Quantum Park behind our neighborhood as well. Thank you.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Greg Ricks, I think. And then followed by Clyde Picht, P-i-c-h-t, I think.

GREG RICKS: My name is Greg Ricks, I'm the newly elected president of the Woodhaven Neighborhood Association, we're also just east of the park, and we're very excited. We've taken a vote and...
we're all in favor of this project. And one of the
tings that we were talking about is the fact that -- as
one of our members said, they went to a seminar one time
and somebody encouraged them to do something in your
ife and with your life that will live beyond you.
And many of us are getting a little older
ow and we're starting to think about those things. And
know I want to do something that will live beyond me.
And this is a pretty small thing as one little
idual, but I get to be a part of something that's
great. I get to be a part of something that is life
changing. I get to be a part of something that will
d the City of Fort Worth like Central Park did for

New York, like Forest Park has done for the West Side.
We have a real unique opportunity, folks,
ting that will live beyond us. And the
woodhaven Neighborhood Association and me personally are
ery much in favor of this.

COLONEL MARTIN: And Clyde Picht.

CLYDE PICH: Good evening, my name is

Clyde Picht and I --

COLONEL MARTIN: Hang on. Jeff Davis,
you're on deck. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

CLYDE PICH: Actually, I wanted to tell
you that I am for the Trinity River Vision. I am
posed to the Trinity Uptown portion of this. And I
ink that this Environmental Impact Statement is
derent in the fact that it does not adequately
The intent of the Supplemental EIS is to address proposed modification to the location of the Valley Storage Mitigation, relocation of Samuels Avenue Dam, and to compare habitat development measures at the Gateway park/Riverside area to those identified in the original Central City EIS. The environmental clean up needs were addressed adequately in the original Central City EIS and methods to accomplish clean up is not proposed for modification by the Supplemental EIS. The local sponsor and project partners are prepared to clean up environmental issues but have chosen not to use the brown fields program. The Municipal Setting Designation is merely one tool that will be used to manage groundwater contaminantation. TCEQ has approved the City of Fort Worth's procedures for managing groundwater contaminants.
16 address the environmental clean-up of the 800 acres of
17 the Trinity Uptown area, that should be treated as a
18 brown field rather than a groundwater issue.
19
20 I am disappointed that eminent domain and
21 the threat of eminent domain of this project has already
22 forced the closure of one business. Yesterday Southwest
23 Brass announced they're closing their doors because they
24 have lost so much business because of the eminent threat
25 of this project that they could no longer survive.
26
27 Well, let me say first. The cost -- The cost issues are
28 a lot of concern to me and a lot of other people. Based
29 on the cost increases of Trinity -- of Tarrant County
30 College, other construction projects in the area, we
31 know that the cost will escalate much greater than
32 the -- the $80 million that linking Gateway Park to this
33 project will cost.
34
35 The Gateway Park issue, though, is very
36 troublesome, because there has been money to improve
37 Gateway Park for many years. The City could have
38 embarked on this a long time ago. And as I recall back
39 at the meeting at the East Side Library sponsored by the
40 Trinity Regional Water District last fall they said that
41 the Gateway Park would flood every five years because of
42 this project.
43
44 Well, the flooding issue is the fault of
45 Trinity Uptown and the bypass channel. If there were no
46 bypass channel, then we wouldn't have a flooding issue
47 downstream, and we could go ahead and improve Gateway
The study underway and the Draft Supplemental EIS under review are being conducted to evaluate a solution to assure that the Central City project does not increase 100 year and SPF water surface elevations within the overall study area which for hydrologic purposes extends well downstream of the Gateway Park area.
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20 Park without tying it to this project. Tying it to this project simply means that as this project is delayed, Gateway Park is delayed a lot longer.
21 So instead of having started five years ago, we're going to be seeing it done maybe 10, 15 years from now, if at all. I would prefer to see the Corps of Engineers and the City and the Water District put their effort into saving the homes of people like Layla Caraway whose home is in danger of sliding into Fossil Creek, and take care of the real flooding issues that we have in this area instead of putting money into this Gateway Park and the Uptown Project. Thank you.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Jeff Davis, and then George Vernon Chiles is on deck.

JEFF DAVIS: My name is Jeff Davis, I used to reside at 725 Putter Drive in Woodhaven, and was proud to live there. It was a wonderful place. I'm here personally, but I'm also representing the Board of Directors of Downtown Fort Worth, Inc., who urges you to consider the Gateway Project favorably as you continue to evaluate the Trinity River Program.

Here is some background on Gateway Park.

Thirty years ago, for the first time since 1957, the citizens of Fort Worth passed a bond election that included parks. This was the first single member district council and each council member reached out to their constituency throughout the City to support this bond. With state matching funds, a generous gift of...
As noted by Colonel Martin in the opening discussion, the Central City project has been Congressionally authorized for construction and funding has been provided to conduct detail engineering design. In essence the Corps has been directed to construct Central City pending a finding of environmental acceptability and it being technically feasible. To date the Corps of Engineers has only study authority for Big Fossil Creek and lacks authority to construct projects within the Big Fossil Creek area mentioned.
planner, the first planner of the City of Fort Worth, the City Council understood that this fabulous corridor had to be preserved as an important urban park.

(Break in meeting.)

JEFF DAVIS: I will continue. Now, we have another moment in time, this plan, its scope, utilitarianism, preservation aspects and economic structure is nothing short of brilliant. I must congratulate the Corps of Engineers. Thank you for being good stewards.

And I have a rhetorical question. Can you do roads as well?

Most cities will never have the opportunity that we have here. My personal support of the project is unqualified enthusiastic, and I have great respect for those that talk about the costs, but this project will serve all the citizens of Fort Worth into the next century and beyond. And I have a letter from the Board of Directors of Downtown Fort Worth, Inc.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. George Vernon Chiles, and then Richard Smith is on deck.

SAJI ALUMMUTTIL: They are checking on that alarm. There is nothing going on that's an emergency right now. I will keep guys posted.

COLONEL MARTIN: Saji is a magic worker.
GEORGE VERNON CHILES: First, I would like to thank the Corps of Engineers for the splendid job they did subsequent to the flood of 1949, which has been brought up by supporters of this project.

My interest in this is somewhat more academic. At that time I was about five years old and lived at 2614 Brook, which is the first -- where the contour of lines start getting closer, they get real close right here where we are, we could look down and see the floodwater on Lancaster, but because we were on the first part of the slope, they didn't reach us.

Now, the Corps of Engineers did such a good job on this that it is uncontroverted that $10 million would take care of all of the flood control, just adding to and repairing the levee the Corps of Engineers patched. So I think that pretty well tells us that what's going on out here is about something besides flood control.

What I think it's about is seeing how much of this 84 million can go right back downtown, and I would like thank the council representative from District Nine for bringing out the aspects of this so I don't have to dwell on it. Money, money, money, development, development, development.

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Now, we hear about Central Park and how
this is going to be -- rival Central Park. Now, it's difficult to believe that grownups talking to other grownups could make the kind of statement I'm going repeat, but when a lot of the same people that are for all of this were for Cabela's moving here, it was actually stated that Cabela's would be as big or bigger a tourist attraction than the Alamo. Serious.

Okay. Cabela's had to give back some of the tiff money they got, because none of their promises worked out. What it amounted to was an interest -- excuse me, a low interest loan from the City of Fort Worth.

Now, Cabela's is doing pretty good. If you want visit some of this tiff money, you can go to their new stores, according to their circular in today's Star-Telegram, in Reno, Nevada; Lacy, Washington; Lost Falls, Idaho. Now the citizens of that place will be in charge of paying for more Cabela's stores. So when people start talking about Central Park, let's just remember what was said about Cabela's and how that turned out.

I believe that as much of this that's going to be run -- much of this 84 million isn't going to be wrung out and taken downtown to Trinity Uptown.

like I believe a unicorn is going to come looping up to the front doors of City Hall with a check for the whole 84 million stuck on its horns. This is what this is about. It's money, it's development, that's what this is about.
And I envision when the bourbon starts flowing in the suites, I imagine -- the rhetorical question that I'm going to say or one very close to it, how much revenue is generated by bird watching the tower, nudge, nudge, wink, wink. Thank you.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Richard Smith, and Libby Willis on deck, please.

RICHARD SMITH: Hi, I'm Richard Smith. I'm an architect working with Race Street Properties. Probably why I'm up here is Race Street Properties were a little nervous about getting up here. And I just wanted you to know that we support this project.

The Race Street Project began eight years ago developing Race Street in what is now the Six Points Urban Village. And eight years ago that was pretty big to walk into that area and look at what was there and try to have a vision of what it might be.

Obviously, one of the reasons we support this is the economic benefit to Fort Worth and the whole east side, and some of the efforts that we're trying to -- trying to achieve.

At the same time though, we also support the rights of those who don't approve of this project, there may be portions of the projects they may not agree with. Because of that discourse and those other opinions that will probably ultimately make this the best project that you can have. Thank you very much.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Libby
Willis, and Janice Crandall will follow her.

LIBBY WILLIS: My name is Libby Willis, I am the president of the Oak Hurst Neighborhood Association, and by virtue of that also a delegate to the Riverside Alliance, it is our coalition of nine neighborhood associations in Riverside.

I want to make it clear that I am not representing either organization tonight, because neither organization has really yet had time to study the Corps draft EIS, and we will be doing that within the next few weeks and hopefully make comments on that.

I'm also a student and teacher of history, and I think it's important to just say -- and I think it needs to be clear that we should not forget why we are doing this and considering the questions that we are tonight.

The original plan for the Trinity Uptown Project put flood storage on the west side, on private property. When those properties owners objected and they had environmental consultants study the impact on their property, they threatened to sue, which could have stopped or substantially slowed the project.

At that point, suddenly it was necessary to figure out where else flood storage might occur. That's when the whole issue to combine these projects, the Gateway Park Master Plan, the Riverside Oxbow Restoration with Trinity Uptown came about. The idea came out of necessity about where in the world to put the flood storage.
It did not come about just because someone suddenly realized it would be great to combine federal projects. If this was such a wonderful project that is being presented to combine these projects, the question remains why wasn’t this the plan to begin with?

I think it’s just important that we keep those things in mind as we move forward. Specifically, as I have begun to look at the draft EIS, we, I think, in Riverside will have a lot of questions, and because you said no questions, it will be rhetorical, but we have questions, which I’m sure you will be providing the answers to.

We have a wonderful neighborhood park, Riverside Park, it is scheduled for some flood storage as a result of the reconfiguration of this project, so a few of those rhetorical questions are: Why not excavate other publicly owned land in the 100 year floodplain for this project rather than parkland? Why interfere with an amenity, our neighborhood park, when it is available to the public on a daily basis?

It’s also important to note that the City has just spent thousands and thousands of dollars to upgrade the lights and the ball fields in Riverside Park. And the question is: How do we justify spending the taxpayers’ money to dig a hole in the park which has just seen major improvements? We’ll have to take those out to dig a big hole and start over. The question is: How we can justify that?
Multiple sites have been evaluated for valley storage mitigation. The modified alternative as shown in the Supplemental EIS provides multipurpose benefits that cannot be accomplished in other areas. For example, the establishment of the dense riparian forest cannot be accomplished within the levee reaches of the river due to hydraulic constraints. The proposed construction at Riverside Park would require exclusion to the public for a short time, but redevelopment of the park will be completed promptly.
Now, the big hole may be a nice hole for excavation, but it’s still a hole. And the question remains: How can you justify compromising the Trinity River Greenbelt with this big hole? Proposed improvements, which could come with the big hole could make our neighborhood park a regional park, that may or may not fit with our vision, the neighbors, the property owners, the residential investors, in the area.

And so I think that we need to also consider that as well as the impact of the project on our beloved Oak Hurst scenic drive and various impacts about how that will affect our whole area. I’m concerned about the lack of public input that has been sought from the residents of Riverside on this, and I think a lot of us want to participate in plans for our neighborhood park, Riverside Park.

And so I hope that these concerns and others that we will bring forward with the flood storage that is proposed and the impact on our neighborhood will be seriously considered and we will find ways to mitigate these.

I want to also note that I did note -- I began reading today online the 102 page draft EIS. I have made a copy of it on disk, and tomorrow I’m going to take it Kinko’s and have a copy made -- a hard copy, and I’m going to keep reading until I can read the whole document.

But I do think that it will be important that all of us working together to find answers and
Riverside Park is a Community park and even with the proposed changes it will remain accessible to the community. The proposed changes would replace the existing facilities with better newer facilities. The greenbelt is not compromised by excavation. The green belt would still remain intact. The proposed grading scheme would make the river more accessible to a diverse range of potential recreational uses originating from Riverside Park. Since the project has not been fully designed or master planned by the City of Fort Worth there are a range of potential opportunities to enhance the park.
solutions in mitigation to these very important questions as this federal project affects us locally, where we live, which in our case is Riverside. Thank you very much.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Janice Crandall, and Lee D. Smith is on deck. Okay. And then

LEE D. SMITH: Thank you, Colonel. I'm Lee Smith, I'm with the Fort Worth Rowing Club. And we're here to speak in favor of combining these projects. With the Fort Worth Rowing Club, we row on the water right out the window, if it was daylight you could see us rowing. We live here, this is our home, and we are really talking about where we live.

Last year we had 1,480 passenger seats in our boats on the river, so we are a user of the river. I'm in favor of this program because it increases the conservation in the Oxbow. I'm in favor of this combination because it increases the use of the river and its shores. But most important, I'm in favor because it is a great idea. Thank you.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Mark Presswood, and then Layla Caraway is on deck, please.

MARK PRESSWOOD: Colonel, first I've got to tell you that I'm very appreciative of your use of Page 39
army corps 12408.txt

The effort to clean up the Trinity began 30 years. The river twists and turns from the west central direct, the Riverside Oxbow to our neighbors in the east. We support any and all developments that will enhance the Trinity and make access easier for recreation and enjoyment.

We trust the Corps of Engineers to bring value to this project and make the vision a reality.

The Fort Worth Cats have always opened our gates to the river and access to LaGrave Field where people can come enjoy our outdoor venue and the bike and hike trails behind the field.

We're proud to be a pioneer in this effort in the Central District and fully support the funding efforts to the Riverside Oxbow and the enhancements to bringing the Trinity back to the people of Fort Worth. Thank you, sir.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you, Layla Caraway, and on deck is Thad Brundrett. Hopefully I said that right. Layla, please.

LAYLA CARAWAY: Yes. I just wanted to address everyone. I find it somewhat embarrassing that our elected officials would pass this project on a bill that was called Foreign Operations Export.--

COLONEL MARTIN: Can you pull your mike
in so that -- I'm having a hard time hearing you.

LAYLA CARAWAY: That it was passed on a bill called Foreign Operations Export Financing and Related Projects. It was also -- Funding was approved prior to an Impact Study being done, which from what I understand is a requirement. It's also appalling that this is taking precedent in a county where there has been major flooding this year where there are many left homeless, parks left standing empty because they are not able to be used. They were flooded during the tornado, which was April 13, and a child actually lost her life.

So I'm having a hard time understanding why the Corps studied our area for seven plus years and nothing has been done. You were handed this addition to add to this in June, '06, and we're going to be ready to go by fall. So I'm getting conflicting messages on that as well as on what I hear on flood control, but I hear economic development, one of the councilman adding that 10,000 housing units will be -- will be coming in with this project.

And that makes the question: How many will be taken by eminent domain from the people that are already here and probably don't have the resources to stop it? And as all of you know, when you do building upstream that affects people downstream. The building and the development is what has partly affected us.
For clarification, the Big Fossil Creek Study was initiated February 2001 and the studies leading to the construction authorization of Central City began in July 2002. As a point of further clarification as indicated in Colonel Martin's opening address, the Corps of Engineers was directed by Congress to construct the Central City Project in December 2004. The proposed modifications are being addressed at this time for technical feasibility and environmental acceptability. As fellow citizens we share the concern for health and safety and will respond as directed by Congress.
downstream, it's partly what affected the trailer park in Haltom City downstream.

And again, over a hundred people are still homeless seven months later, that family lost their little girl. And all of it could have been prevented with proper flood control measures. So I think instead of spending $519,205,000 on projects, we should spend the money on the -- in the county where it's needed. Thank you.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Thad Brundrett, and Mark Bielamowicz, I hope I said that right, on deck.

THAD BRUNDRETT: Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight. My name is Thad Brundrett, and I'm a resident of the City of Fort Worth and city executive for Carter Burgess, but I'm here speaking as a board member of the Greater Fort Worth Real Estate Council.

The Greater Fort Worth Real Estate Council represents the commercial real estate profession which comprised to develop within the legal, financial title of engineering, architecture and construction partners. Over 225 local companies and organizations comprise the council membership.

Your favorable consideration of the Gateway Park Improvement Plan is respectfully requested. We need your favorable consideration so our Oxbow restoration project can be funded again. This project is very important to our City, the east side of our community and Gateway Park.
Our City has long sought improvements to this area and in Gateway Park. Now unlike any time in the past, we really have an opportunity to implement and fund a plan, so we need your partnership.

We need to replace the gravel pits and the old sewage treatment center with new athletic fields, outdoor entertainment and the planned 15-mile trail system. We can accomplish this and much more through our partnership with you.

From our successful partnership, we can expect responsible development on the east side of town. In fact, the east side will experience the renaissance that will benefit the citizens without encroaching on the citizens.

There is strong community support, there is will power in the initial proofs of our project, which will benefit so many. It is time to move forward. We all stand ready to make our partnership the envy of communities throughout the country. But more importantly, our partnership will serve our citizens, especially those here in East Fort Worth.

On behalf of the Greater Fort Worth Real Estate Council, we encourage you to join us in the productive partnership. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Mark Bielamowicz, and looks likes James. That's all it says.

MARK BIELAMOWICZ: I'm Mark Bielamowicz,
I reside in Cedar Hill, Texas. I was the mayor at one time when my counterpart was Cliff Overcash here in Fort Worth, that was 34 years ago. I own property on East Vickery, and I hear -- I find it amazing that everyone thinks that we need to do something to beautify what's already beautiful.

I have, like I said, property on East Vickery Street, and my intent is to revitalize three warehouses that -- that I bought and to move my own business in there. The thing that I find real wrong about this project is that our national debt -- each one of you, Colonel, also, and every one of you in here owe $33,000 on the national debt.

And we talk about young people enjoying the river, but I don't know -- somewhere, somehow we're going have to start addressing the cost of government. And we are not funneling dollars, federal dollars, into our neighborhood, we're funneling federal debt into our neighborhoods.

Sometimes I wonder why I am so tired, and it's because of working to scratch out and to get past all this debt and government regulation. Now I really understand why Amon Carter used to carry a sack lunch to Fort Worth -- I mean, from Fort Worth to Dallas when he visited Dallas, because this City has so much more character than any place, I think in North Texas, South Texas.

And I have seen wildlife -- I purposely drive through Gateway Park in that area, even when we...
had all these torrential rains, I used to park my truck beyond the -- the bridge and watch the water flow under the bridge, you know, just watch the river run.

I think that it's the -- it's a beautiful setting. I didn't know it was in such disgrace or needing special treatment. What -- What is there right now is just magnificently beautiful, and I don't think -- I think the citizens of Fort Worth if they want to do this, they need to vote on it themselves, and myself. If it's voted on, I would have to pay that portion, too.

But to go to the federal government and get 400 million dollars when we already, each citizen, owes $33,000 plus all the other debt we have created, consumer debt.

And then even when the drug dealers in Italy want to take Euros, and some of the Middle Eastern countries want to take Euros instead of dollars for their money -- I mean, for the oil, we have got to really start questioning how much government we need.

And I hope you-all can think of this and consider that. Thank you.

COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. James, and on deck is Jason Smith. Okay. Jason Smith. James is not here. Jason Smith are you here?

JAMES COLE: I think that's me.

COLONEL MARTIN: You're James?

JAMES COLE: Yes.
COLONEL MARTIN: Okay. Thanks.

JAMES COLE: I’m James Cole, 341 Nursery Lane. I live and work in Fort Worth. I submitted my comments to the record, but I am going to read the final paragraph to clear some things up. Some cynics have said it may be too costly. Well, the opposite is actually true.

The combined project as now envisioned will assure a long term, high quality of life, environmental quality and a sustainable economy for the Central City. The project will more than pay for itself. Thank you.

ROSS STEPHENS: I am Ross Stephens with Link our Trail city to city, north, south, east, west, the shortest distances. I would just like everybody here to know that we would like to work together with everyone on linking our trails, trying to link up Arlington, Fort Worth, Haltom City, Richard Hills, North Richland Hills and Grand Prairie.

We’re looking at the sidewalks, we’re looking at the bicycle routes, we’re looking at the off-street trails and utility lines, as well as the river trails. Basically, we want to go north, south, east and west of the lands central section, which is the central section for 16 counties or more and that being hundreds if not thousands of people will be bicycling here.
The north, south cross is Handley Ederville, Bridgewood Drive and Randol Mill Road. The distance in Fort Worth is one to two miles to link up to the other cities. Each city has about a similar or shorter distance to link up, so literally we will have over a hundred miles of trails to hike and bike on.

Which means people can commute to and from work, recreate, and have a great improvement in their life and in the quality of life in Fort Worth. Also, in some of the other cities they have activities that go on once a month, sometimes once a year, sometimes four cities get together to have activities and events. We would also like to see that take place as well.

Council of Governments, North Central Texas Council of Governments also supports the idea of this effort because it means we can cut down on the number of traffic accidents, number of vehicles out there, clean up our air, which helps us live, divying up our federal money for highways and what have you. It's also the cheapest thing we can do to improve the quality of life throughout the region.

And from my side of town, what we also say that they would really like to be able to have access to Gateway Park. They have been waiting decades for that access. And that's part of the reason I got back into this. Any way, we would just like to work with you in linking up our trails. We are very, very
positive in wanting to have them linked up.

Also, we have a volunteer effort where we also build trails. Whatever we can do to get people out safely as soon as possible, we'll need people from home -- you can get outdoors and use these areas seven days a week. And that is very exciting to a lot of people.

And I have talked to many thousands, over 6,000, so I will give you an idea. That's basically it.

Thank you-all.

COLONEL MARTIN: That was our last comment registration form. Does anyone have a form that for some reason we did not get to? If you would like to bring it up here now and make your comment. If not, we'll wrap it up. Any other comments out there? All right.

Well, thank you for coming here.

Remember this is day 20 of the 45-day period ending February 19th. Get your comments in by then so we can address them. Thank you for showing up tonight.

(Public meeting concluded at 8:03 p.m.)
COUNTY OF TARRANT

This is to certify that I, Carolyn H. Gayaldo, Certified Shorthand Reporter, reported in shorthand the proceedings conducted at the time and place set forth in the caption hereof, and that the above and foregoing 54 pages contain a full, true and correct transcription of the Public Hearing.

Witness my hand and seal of office on this the 28th day of January, 2008

Carolyn H. Gayaldo, CSR
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Fort Worth, Texas 76117
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### COMMENT REGISTRATION FORM

**Fort Worth Central City Project**

**January 24, 2008**

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- [ ] I support the Central City Project – Gateway Park Improvement Plan
- [x] I wish to present oral comments during the public forum (limit: 3 minutes)
- [ ] My written comments are on the back of this form
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Please note that all comments are given equal consideration, whether in person or in writing.

Written comments may also be submitted as follows:

- **Mail:** Saji Alummutil CESWF-PER-P, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth TX 76102
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E-mail Address: ________________________________

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January 24, 2008

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