

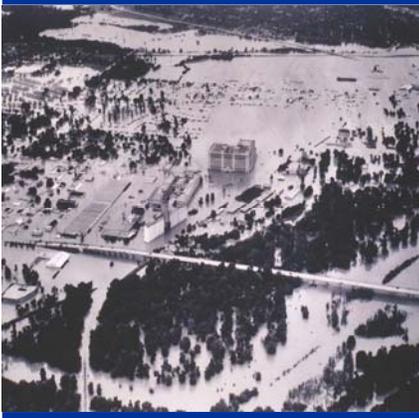
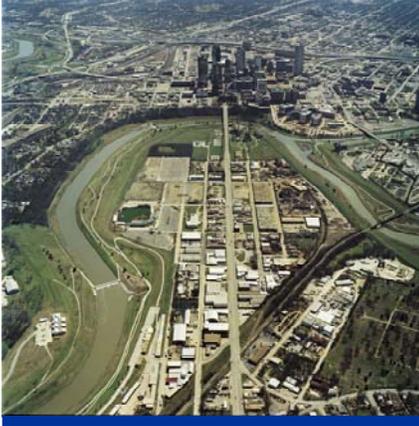
LEGEND

- █ CONSTRUCTION AREAS WITHIN OHWM
- █ NHD WATER FEATURES
- █ EXISTING VEGETATION CLASS: WETLAND

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 SECTION 404(b)(1) ANALYSIS
	CONSTRUCTION AREAS WITHIN WATERS OF THE U.S.
DATE: MARCH 2008	FIGURE 3



Rendering Image courtesy of CDM

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





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
WinSystems Center Building
711 Stadium Drive, Suite 252
Arlington, Texas 76011

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.

- **Planning Aid Letter for the Clear and West Forks of the Trinity River Interim Feasibility Study.** November 3, 2001.
- **Final FWCA Report for the Riverside Oxbow Restoration Project.** May 16, 2003.
- **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.
- **Existing Habitat Conditions Planning Aid Report for the Central City Interim Feasibility Study.** Fort Worth, Texas. June 18, 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.
- **Baseline Fisheries Survey of Ham Branch.** Tarrant County, Texas, July 20, 2005.
- **Final FWCA Report for the Central City Multi-Purpose Project Study.** October 5, 2005.
- **Gateway Park Old Wastewater Treatment Plant Lagoons Existing Habitat**

Conditions. January 10, 2007.

- **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 Giggelman 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 aquatic 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 Giggelman 2004; Giggelman and Lewis 2005a; Giggelman and Lewis 2005b; Giggelman 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.

Central City
Figure 1 - Recommended
Valley Storage Plan
(DRAFT - 8/24/07)

Legend

- BYPASS CHANNEL
- VALLEY STORAGE SITE - CUT
- VALLEY STORAGE SITE - FILL
- VALLEY STORAGE SITE - NEW LEVEE
- VALLEY STORAGE SITE - ROADWAY RAISE
- NO CHANGE (FROM CENTRAL CITY EIS)
- VALLEY STORAGE SITE - BACKUP
- VALLEY STORAGE SITE - POTENTIAL FILL SITE (NO CHANGE FROM CENTRAL CITY EIS)

0 1,750 3,500 7,000 Feet
 Aerial Photography Date: January 2005

N

US Army Corps of Engineers
 Fort Worth District

AT 1007-010
 This project is developed from preliminary information prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. USACE and private contractors shall not be held liable for any errors or omissions, including but not limited to, but not limited to, the use of this information for purposes other than those for which it was intended. The Corps of Engineers disclaims any liability for any damages, including but not limited to, consequential or special damages, arising from the use of this information. AS OF 8/2007



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 Giggelman 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-foot wide and 18-foot 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 (*Sterna 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,



Thomas J. Cloud, Jr.
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

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

Literature Cited

Giggleman, C. and J. Lewis. 2005a. Baseline Fisheries Survey of Marine Creek within the Proposed Central City Multi-Purpose Project Area, Tarrant County, Texas. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Arlington, Texas.

Giggleman, C. and J. Lewis. 2005b. Baseline Fisheries Survey of Lebow Creek within the Proposed Central City Multi-Purpose Project Area, Tarrant County, Texas. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Arlington, Texas.

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Hale, C. 2003. Final FWCA Report for the Riverside Oxbow Restoration Project, Fort Worth, Texas. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Arlington, Texas.

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Hale, C. and C. Giggleman. 2005. Final FWCA Report on the Central City Multi-Purpose Project Study, Fort Worth, Texas. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Arlington, Texas.

Hale, C. and C. Giggleman. 2004. Existing Habitat Conditions and Planning Aid Report for the Central City Interim Feasibility Study, Fort Worth, Texas. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Arlington, Texas.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1980. The habitat evaluation procedures. USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Manual 102. 124 pp.



February 26, 2008

TERRY W. HARRIS
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 ROBERT L. COOK
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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,

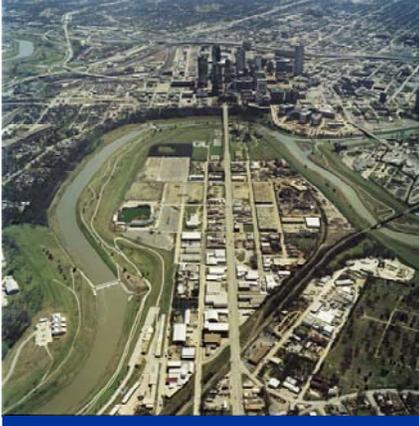
Karen B. Hardin
 Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
 Wildlife Division

kbh/12900(12329, 11137, 11132, and 11032)



Take a kid hunting or fishing

Visit a state park or historic site



Fort Worth Central City Preliminary Design

**Public Review
and Comments**

Final Supplement No. 1
to the Final Environmental
Impact Statement

Appendix H

March 2008

Rendering Image courtesy of CDM



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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

army corps 12408.txt
SPEAKERS

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1 (Public comments prior to presentation.)
2 ROBERT CROWE: I'm Robert Crowe. I'm a
3 member of the Steerling Committee with the Neighborhood
4 Association of South Lake Worth and a member and
5 supporter of the South Lake Worth Alliance. As such, I
6 fully support the objectives of preserving, protecting
7 and enhancing Fort Worth's invaluable and irreplaceable
8 green space and natural habitat area for recreational

9 use and wildlife sanctuaries. The end. Amen.
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5

1 SANDRA AND GEORGE EVERETT
2 (Written statement wrote into record.)
3 Sandra and George Everett, 4218 Kenwood Court, Fort
4 Worth, 76103. In light of all the activity --
5 construction, injection well, et cetera -- related to
6 gas well drilling by Chesapeake on land adjacent to
7 Gateway Park at the intersection of Oakland Boulevard
8 and First Street, an environmental impact study of the
9 effects of runoff from this industrial/construction area
10 and interaction with the floodplain in Gateway Park and
11 surrounding area is essential prior to the decision to
12 go forward with the wonderful plans for improving the

Sequence number: 1

Author: M2PLRBKC

Subject: Sticky Note

Date: 2/25/2008 9:42:44 AM -06'00'



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.

13 park.
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1 TOMMY SIMMONS
2 TOMMY SIMMONS: Tommy Simmons, 2020
3 Windsor, 76110. And connecting -- One of the most
4 important parts of this is connecting the trail -- the
5 Trinity Trail completely to Arlington. Okay. And then
6 one other thing. I think the -- I have already done a
7 bunch of stuff on this, but the Rowing Club have a
8 rowing dock isolated to itself instead of using the
9 trail. That's what they use to dock.

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7

1 (Beginning of presentation.)

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

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

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

19 Here's what we hope to cover tonight.

20 And hopefully you've had a chance to review the displays
21 at the back of the room which describe the changes that
22 we'll address tonight and then discuss them with our
23 staff that's here. They will also be available
24 following the meeting if you have any further questions.
25

So what we're not going to do tonight is
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8

1 a question and answer session. We'll have the experts
2 in the back, and they will be able to address your
3 specific questions at the end of the meeting tonight.
4 They're a lot smarter than I am on this stuff, any way.

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

15 Councilwoman Kathleen Hicks, City of Fort
16 Worth District Eight. Councilman Joel Burns, City of
17 Fort Worth District Nine. And Vic Henderson, President
18 of Tarrant Regional Water District Board. And Jack
19 Stevens, Tarrant Regional Water District Board Member.
20 Marty Leonard, Tarrant Regional Water District Board
21 Member. And Dale Fisseler, City of Fort Worth City
22 Manager.

23 So here's what we're going to cover
24 tonight. You see it on the agenda up here. We're going
25 to briefly describe the purpose of the meeting. You

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1 know, what do we hope to accomplish here in this meeting
2 tonight. We'll describe the project modifications from
3 the incorporation of the two projects and some other
4 things that changed. We'll talk a little bit about what
5 our schedule is for this project. Then the
6 opportunities for public comment, you know, why are we
7 here tonight? What are we going to do with the comments
8 that we get out of here? And then an opportunity for
9 you to make other verbal comments.

10 We are at day 20 in this public comment
11 period, so hopefully now you've had a chance to review
12 the draft supplement to the EIS. So what's the purpose
13 of our meeting then? Well, the National Environmental
14 Policy Act, or NEPA as we call it, requires a 45-day
15 public comment period on a draft Environmental Impact
16 Statement. So we're at day 20 of the 45-day period.

17 Public comment is required for the Corps
18 to make an informed decision on the project, and this is
19 an effective way for us to receive comments. And we
20 will have the court reporter over here who will be
21 recording our comments throughout the night, and we'll
22 have a transcript of the meeting that will be produced
23 following the meeting here.

24 For those of you who have had the
25 opportunity to look at this you know this already, we'll

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1 cover the project modifications. And there are three of
2 them.

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

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

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

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

25 Now, what does that mean, a hundred year

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1 flood? Well, that means that on average you have a

2 one percent chance of having that kind of flood in any
3 given year. Not that it's going to happen every 100
4 years or only once in a hundred years, but on any given
5 year, you have a one percent chance of that type of
6 flood occurring.

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

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

21 Next slide.

22 Now, let's talk about the Samuel's Avenue
23 Dam changes. The Samuel's Avenue Dam was moved from
24 downstream of the Marine Creek mouth to just upstream of
25 Marine Creek due to some geotechnical and environmental

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1 considerations. Our guys originally had it more up
2 here, and now moved it to where it's shown on the yellow
3 area because of some factors that they were able to --
4 you know, as we got to understand more about them,
5 recognized that it made better sense to move it further

6 south there.

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

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

22 So this is the schedule that we're
23 looking at now. Following this meeting, you should
24 provide any additional comments by the end of the 45-day
25 comment period, which is February 19th. The target

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1 dates for the Final Supplement -- Again, this is just a
2 draft that you have out right now. So the Final
3 Supplement to the EIS should be published in late
4 March to early April. And then following that a
5 complete record of the decision around mid May or the
6 end of May sometime with construction scheduled to begin
7 of the fall of 2008.

8 So that's a pretty aggressive schedule.

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

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

23 We have that for the Central City Project
24 now, and then rely every year on funding in order for us
25 to make that project go. It's not that we receive a pot

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1 of discretionary money. It is an appropriations bill
2 from the Congress that specifically allocates money to a
3 given project and does not allow us to move money around
4 from project to project.

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

9 The opportunities for public comment are
10 as shown here. Verbal comments tonight will be recorded
11 and then the transcript prepared. That's why we have
12 the court reporter over to the right. And then you can

13 provide written comments tonight on those forms that
14 have been provided over on the side tables there, or you
15 can send written comments by February 19th to the Corps
16 Project Manager whose address is on the handout over
17 there.

18 And you can e-mail comments, again, by
19 February 19th to the address also listed on the handout.
20 And we will incorporate those into the final EIS as we
21 go through and do our review. And then finally, the
22 draft supplement to the EIS is also available for
23 download on our Fort Worth District website, and we put
24 it up here, so I'll list it www.swf.usace.army.mil.
25 It's www.swf.usace.army.mil.

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

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

11 What I will do is I will get a stack of
12 the people who registered to make comments and I will
13 call out, you know, someone to come up, and then I'll
14 say who is on deck. And we use baseball terms -- that's
15 something I know, we use baseball terms, you're on deck.

16 And you will be ready to go when their time is up.

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

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

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

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

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

16 And with that, we're going start here
17 with the comments right about now. Again, three minutes
18 per person. We're going to start first with the Mayor.
19 Sir, if you would come up here, please. Mayor Mike

20 Moncrief, and you're on the clock. And, Danny Scarth,
21 sir, you're on deck.

22 MAYOR MONCRIEF: Colonel, thank you.

23 Thank you very much. And if you would, before you --
24 before you start the -- try again.

25 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.

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23 What's more, the modified project also
24 will remove levees allowing our citizens to reconnect
25 with our most valuable natural asset, the Trinity River.

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

5 Adding the Riverside Oxbow and Gateway
6 Park to the overall Trinity River Project will make a
7 great plan even better, and it just makes good sense
8 given the extensive need for park space within our City.
9 And I'm not sure if you're aware, but Fort Worth is
10 3,500 acres short of regional park land.

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

20 Fifteen miles of trails, an amphitheater,
21 playgrounds, athletic fields and basketball courts, boat
22 launches, a skating park, equestrian trails. The list
23 goes on and on. And there is something for everyone,
24 young and old alike, so I applaud the Corps for taking
25 the time to host this meeting, listen to the needs,

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1 wants, and concerns of those who live here.

2 And I thank all of you who came out
3 tonight on this cold evening to make your voices heard.
4 Colonel Martin, I urge you and the Corps to take note of
5 what our citizens have to say. We look forward to our
6 continued partnership as we move forward with this
7 historic project. Thank you for the time. I'm
8 delighted to be here with my fellow colleagues. I'm
9 glad to be here with Becky, our former colleague, and to
10 represent this great community. Thank you all.

11 COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you, Mayor.
12 Councilman Scrath, and then, Councilman Burns, you're on
13 deck.

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

25 And I came a little bit farther, and I

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1 went by the fields that are there today, and then turned

2 the corner and came up Beach Street and imagined the
3 equestrian center and the -- the preservation and
4 restoration of what is just a scar today of what the
5 river was 50 years ago, and 70,000 new trees planted
6 there.

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

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

23 But we appreciate the work that you've
24 done. We hope that you take to heart the comments of
25 the people here tonight, and we -- we really do look

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1 forward to working together as partners with the -- the
2 Regional Water District, the County, the Corps of
3 Engineers, and the City of Fort Worth to make this a
4 possibility. Thank you for your time.

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

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

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

19 They're -- We're going to hear a lot of
20 things tonight about why it's important to -- to look at
21 combining these two important projects. It certainly
22 impacts downtown, which is in District Nine. It impacts
23 practically all of our City. One of those things that
24 I've look at critically, I read the Fort Worth
25 Star-Telegram articles, I've talked with the folks from

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1 the Trinity River Vision Authority, and it truly is a
2 situation where we have an opportunity to combine two
3 projects, the sum of which is greater than the
4 individual parts are. And I really want to look at it
5 from that framework.

6 I also want to remind everyone here about
7 the economic impact of potential -- the potential impact
8 of this project. We're talking about more than 10,000

9 residential units coming into the City of Fort Worth in
10 its urban core. We're talking about \$2.7 million square
11 feet of office, retail and commercial space. Think
12 about the economic impact that makes on our City, think
13 about the lifting of the property tax burden off the
14 shoulders of existing property taxpayers.

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

22 The net new tax revenue over 40 years is
23 predicted to be over 1.15 billion dollars in real
24 property tax revenues just to the City of Fort Worth,
25 that doesn't include our other taxing jurisdictions, an

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1 estimated 600 construction workers jobs a year and more
2 than 16,000 permanent jobs to this project.

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

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

9 BARBARA RAGLAND: Colonel Martin, I have
10 a letter from the Congresswoman that I would like read.

11 "I'm writing to offer my strong support
12 for the Central City Project, Gateway Park Improvement

13 Plan. I appreciate your holding the public meeting and
14 regret that I am not able to attend in person.

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

23 "This is certainly not what our citizens
24 want for Gateway and for the City. The Central City
25 Project, Gateway Park Improvement Plan allows

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1 construction to begin this year on improvements to the
2 park including building athletic fields, expanding the
3 trail system, planting thousands of trees, and many
4 other improvements.

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

13 "In addition, this revitalization will
14 result in an estimated 16,000 jobs and a billion dollar
15 increase in tax base for the schools, roads, and other

16 community projects. It is important to note that
17 federal tax dollars are being used only for public
18 infrastructure, such as the bypass channel and bridges.

19 "There has also been a significant
20 investment by private industry in this area. In fact,
21 over a billion dollars of private investment has already
22 broken ground, including Radio Shack, Pier One, Trinity
23 Bluffs, LaGrave Development and Tarrant County Community
24 College. It is clear that the project has already
25 spurred economic development in the surrounding area,

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1 and it's reasonable to expect that this is only the
2 beginning.

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

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

11 VIC HENDERSON: Colonel Martin, and
12 interested members of the community. I want to thank
13 the United States Army Corps of Engineers for giving me
14 and the rest of the public a chance to comment on
15 combining the Trinity River Vision Plan with the
16 Riverside Oxbow Plan. I believe that the rapport that
17 you have produced creates a great opportunity not just
18 for the east side residents of Fort Worth, but residents
19 of all the surrounding communities.

20 Gateway Park has long been an
21 underutilized piece of land that has badly needed
22 serious environmental restoration. Your report gives us
23 the necessary tool to not only clean up this land but
24 also create an environmental habitat and recreational
25 facility that my grandkids and their kids will be able

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1 to enjoy.

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

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

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

19 BEN LOUGHRY: Colonel Martin, my name is
20 Ben Loughry, and I'm representing the Fort Worth Chamber
21 of Commerce. In the interest of time, I won't be
22 redundant on some of the points that have been brought

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23 forward. But I would like to formally state that at the
24 Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce our support is unwavering
25 on the Trinity River Vision.

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1 Adding the Oxbow part of this just
2 incorporates another great area of the east side, and it
3 also gives us an opportunity to increase a connection
4 between the cultural district, the downtown, and east
5 side of Fort Worth. We realize there is going to be a
6 cost increase to it. We also realize it's a much needed
7 flood control project, but the key part of it, it
8 triggers an opportunity for economic revitalization of
9 some areas of this town historically that have been
10 underutilized, commercial and industrial areas.

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

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

24 COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Devoyd
25 Jennings, and Urbin McKeever is on deck.

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1 DEVOYD JENNINGS: Thank you, Colonel
2 Martin, for allowing us to be here this afternoon. I'm
3 going to make it real simple. You know Fort Worth -- As
4 the Mayor says, the Fort Worth way is to share in things
5 that make a real difference. Most of you would not go
6 to a book store and buy just one bookend, would you?
7 When you go to a book store, you're buying bookends, you
8 would want the set. Am I right?

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

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

23 To date 44 percent of what has gone out
24 has been part of the MWBE goal. That's very important
25 to us as chambers, especially minority chambers. So

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1 when you get a percentage like this where we could not

2 only employee people, but create other businesses, it
3 creates a holistic approach well -- well worth while.
4 So on behalf of the Chamber, we support this project and
5 we want two bookends. Thank you.

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

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

12 Our nonprofit organization has worked for
13 37 years to protect, promote and enhance the environment
14 along the Trinity River in Fort Worth. We would like to
15 thank our local governmental agencies, the City of Fort
16 Worth, the Trinity Regional Water District and Tarrant
17 County for being our partners with us to deliver the
18 facilities that are now enjoyed by all of our citizens.

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

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1 We strongly believe that this
2 modification to the Central City Project will provide
3 our community and region with recreational enhancements
4 that have been presented tonight in the forum, many of
5 which are focused on the Trinity River.

6 The Streams and Valleys unanimously
7 supports this draft and will provide community
8 assistance to further its progress. Thank you.

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

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

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

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

7 And it's only with the improvements that
8 are outlined in this project with construction

9 improvements that Gateway will really be able to use its
10 full potential. I'm really excited about the plans for
11 Gateway Park, and I think it's going to be a wonderful
12 asset for this City for years to come. Thank you.

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

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

23 We're very excited about the development
24 of the master plan that would benefit the entire City,
25 and it will make this park even more of a destination

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1 for everyone in our town. I have a lot of bicycling
2 enthusiasts in my neighborhood, and they are
3 particularly pleased with the improvement of the trails
4 and we hope for more connections to the Quantum Park
5 behind our neighborhood as well. Thank you.

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

9 GREG RICKS: My name is Greg Ricks, I'm
10 the newly elected president of the Woodhaven
11 Neighborhood Association, we're also just east of the
12 park, and we're very excited. We've taken a vote and

13 we're all in favor of this project. And one of the
14 things that we were talking about is the fact that -- as
15 one of our members said, they went to a seminar one time
16 and somebody encouraged them to do something in your
17 life and with your life that will live beyond you.

18 And many of us are getting a little older
19 now and we're starting to think about those things. And
20 I know I want to do something that will live beyond me.
21 And this is a pretty small thing as one little
22 individual, but I get to be a part of something that's
23 great. I get to be a part of something that is life
24 changing. I get to be a part of something that will
25 define the City of Fort Worth like Central Park did for

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1 New York, like Forest Park has done for the West Side.

2 We have a real unique opportunity, folks,
3 to do something that will live beyond us. And the
4 Woodhaven Neighborhood Association and me personally are
5 very much in favor of this.

6 COLONEL MARTIN: And Clyde Picht.

7 CLYDE PICHT: Good evening, my name is
8 Clyde Picht and I --

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

11 CLYDE PICHT: Actually, I wanted to tell
12 you that I am for the Trinity River Vision. I am
13 opposed to the Trinity Uptown portion of this. And I
14 think that this Environmental Impact Statement is
15 deficient in the fact that it does not adequately

Sequence number: 1

Author: M2PLRBKC

Subject: Sticky Note

Date: 2/25/2008 10:39:42 AM -06'00'



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 I am disappointed that eminent domain and
20 the threat of eminent domain of this project has already
21 forced the closure of one business. Yesterday Southwest
22 Brass announced they're closing their doors because they
23 have lost so much business because of the eminent threat
24 of this project that they could no longer survive.

25 I think that the -- the park issue --

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1 Well, let me say first. The cost -- The cost issues are
2 a lot of concern to me and a lot of other people. Based
3 on the cost increases of Trinity -- of Tarrant County
4 College, other construction projects in the area, we
5 know that the cost will escalate much greater than
6 the -- the \$80 million that linking Gateway Park to this
7 project will cost.

8 The Gateway Park issue, though, is very
9 troublesome, because there has been money to improve
10 Gateway Park for many years. The City could have
11 embarked on this a long time ago. And as I recall back
12 at the meeting at the East Side Library sponsored by the
13 Trinity Regional Water District last fall they said that
14 the Gateway Park would flood every five years because of
15 this project.

16 Well, the flooding issue is the fault of
17 Trinity Uptown and the bypass channel. If there were no
18 bypass channel, then we wouldn't have a flooding issue
19 downstream, and we could go ahead and improve Gateway

Sequence number: 1

Author: M2PLRBKC

Subject: Sticky Note

Date: 2/25/2008 10:06:33 AM -06'00'



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.

20 Park without tying it to this project. Tying it to this
21 project simply means that as this project is delayed,
22 Gateway Park is delayed a lot longer.

23 So instead of having started five years
24 ago, we're going to be seeing it done maybe 10, 15 years
25 from now, if at all. I would prefer to see the Corps of

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1 Engineers and the City and the Water District put their
2 effort into saving the homes of people like Layla
3 Caraway whose home is  to slide into Fossil Creek,
4 and take care of the real flooding issues that we have
5 in this area instead of putting money into this Gateway
6 Park and the Uptown Project. Thank you.

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

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

16 Here is some background on Gateway Park.
17 Thirty years ago, for the first time since 1957, the
18 citizens of Fort Worth passed a bond election that
19 included parks. This was the first single member
20 district council and each council member reached out to
21 their constituency throughout the City to support this
22 bond. With state matching funds, a generous gift of

Sequence number: 1

Author: M2PLRBKC

Subject: Sticky Note

Date: 2/8/2008 4:25:55 PM -06'00'



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.

23 land from the Amon Carter Foundation and the
24 contribution by the City of the odorous sewage
25 treatment plant, the citizens and staff lead by the

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1 planner, the first planner of the City of Fort Worth,
2 the City Council understood that this fabulous corridor
3 had to be preserved as an important urban park.

4 (Break in meeting.)

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

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

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

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

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

25 COLONEL MARTIN: Saji is a magic worker.

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1 GEORGE VERNON CHILES: First, I would
2 like to thank the Corps of Engineers for the splendid
3 job they did -- the splendid job they did subsequent to
4 the flood of 1949, which has been brought up by
5 supporters of this project.

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

13 Now, the Corps of Engineers did such a
14 good job on this that it is uncontroverted that
15 \$10 million would take care of all of the flood control,
16 just adding to and repairing the levee the Corps of
17 Engineers patched. So I think that pretty well tells us
18 that what's going on out here is about something besides
19 flood control.

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

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1 Now, we hear about Central Park and how

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

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

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

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

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1 like I believe a unicorn is going to come looping up to
2 the front doors of City Hall with a check for the whole
3 84 million stuck on its horns. This is what this
4 is about. It's money, it's development, that's what
5 this is about.

6 And I envision when the bourbon starts
7 flowing in the suites, I imagine -- the rhetorical
8 question that I'm going to say or one very close to it,
9 how much revenue is generated by bird watching the
10 tower, nudge, nudge, wink, wink. Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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1 to -- trying to achieve.

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

8 COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Libby

9 Willis, and Janice Crandall will follow her.

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

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

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

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

6 At that point, suddenly it was necessary
7 to figure out where else flood storage might occur.
8 That's when the whole issue to combine these projects,
9 the Gateway Park Master Plan, the Riverside Oxbow
10 Restoration with Trinity Uptown came about. The idea
11 came out of necessity about where in the world to put
12 the flood storage.

13 It did not come about just because
14 someone suddenly realized it would be great to combine
15 federal projects. If this was such a wonderful project
16 that is being presented to combine these projects, the
17 question remains why wasn't this the plan to begin with?

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

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

8 It's also important to note that the City
9 has just spent thousands and thousands of dollars to
10 upgrade the lights and the ball fields in Riverside
11 Park. And the question is: How do we justify spending
12 the taxpayers' money to dig a hole in the park which has
13 just seen major improvements? We'll have to take those
14 out to dig a big hole and start over. The question is:
15 How we can justify that?

Sequence number: 1

Author: M2PLRBKC

Subject: Sticky Note

Date: 2/25/2008 10:11:38 AM -06'00'



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.

16 Now, the big hole may be a nice hole for
17 excavation, but it's still a hole. And the question
18 remains: How can you justify compromising the Trinity
19 River Greenbelt with this big hole? Proposed
20 improvements, which could come  the big hole could
21 make our neighborhood park a regional park, that may or
22 may not fit with our vision, the neighbors, the property
23 owners, the residential investors, in the area.

24 And so I think that we need to also
25 consider that as well as the impact of the project on

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1 our beloved Oak Hurst scenic drive and various impacts
2 about how that will affect our whole area. I'm
3 concerned about the lack of public input that has been
4 sought from the residents of Riverside on this, and I
5 think a lot of us want to participate in plans for our
6 neighborhood park, Riverside Park.

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

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

18 But I do think that it will be important
19 that all of us working together to find answers and

Sequence number: 1

Author: M2PLRBKC

Subject: Sticky Note

Date: 2/25/2008 10:21:26 AM -06'00'



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.

20 solutions in mitigation to these very important
21 questions as this federal project affects us locally,
22 where we live, which in our case is Riverside. Thank
23 you very much.

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

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1 Mr. Lee D. Smith, please, followed by Mark Presswood.
2 Or if you've written comments on the back of these,
3 these will go into the record also, so some folks did
4 leave comments on the back of them. Okay. Go ahead.

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

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

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

21 MARK PRESSWOOD: Colonel, first I've got
22 to tell you that I'm very appreciative of your use of

army corps 12408.txt
23 baseball terms. My name is Mark Presswood and I'm
24 representing the Fort Worth Cats Baseball Team. I'm
25 here today on behalf of the principal owner, Carl Bell.

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1 The effort to clean up the Trinity began
2 30 years. The river twists and turns from the west
3 central direct, the Riverside Oxbow to our neighbors in
4 the east. We support any and all developments that will
5 enhance the Trinity and make access easier for
6 recreation and enjoyment.

7 We trust the Corps of Engineers to bring
8 value to this project and make the vision a reality.
9 The Fort Worth Cats have always opened our gates to the
10 river and access to LaGrave Field where people can come
11 enjoy our outdoor venue and the bike and hike trails
12 behind the field.

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

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

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

25 COLONEL MARTIN: Can you pull your mike

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1 in so that -- I'm having a hard time hearing you.

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

12 So I'm having a hard time understanding
13 why the Corps studied our area for seven plus years and
14 nothing has been done. You were handed this addition to
15 add to this in June, '06, and we're going to be ready to
16 go by fall. So I'm getting conflicting messages on that
17 as well as on what I hear on flood control, but I hear
18 economic development, one of the councilman adding that
19 10,000 housing units will be -- will be coming in with
20 this project.

21 And that makes the question: How many
22 will be taken by eminent domain from the people that are
23 already here and probably don't have the resources to
24 stop it? And as all of you know, when you do building
25 upstream that affects people downstream. The building

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1 and the development is what has partly affected us

Sequence number: 1

Author: M2PLRBKC

Subject: Sticky Note

Date: 2/25/2008 10:46:47 AM -06'00'



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.

2 downstream, it's partly what affected the trailer park
3 in Haltom City downstream.

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

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

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

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

25 Your favorable consideration of the

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1 Gateway Park Improvement Plan is respectfully requested.
2 We need your favorable consideration so our Oxbow
3 restoration project can be funded again. This project
4 is very important to our City, the east side of our
5 community and Gateway Park.

6 Our City has long sought improvements to
7 this area and in Gateway Park. Now unlike any time in
8 the past, we really have an opportunity to implement and
9 fund a plan, so we need your partnership.

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

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

20 There is strong community support, there
21 is will power in the initial proofs of our project,
22 which will benefit so many. It is time to move forward.
23 We all stand ready to make our partnership the envy of
24 communities throughout the country. But more
25 importantly, our partnership will serve our citizens,

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1 especially those here in East Fort Worth.

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

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

8 MARK BIELAMOWICZ: I'm Mark Bielamowicz,

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

15 I have, like I said, property on East
16 Vickery Street, and my intent is to revitalize three
17 warehouses that -- that I bought and to move my own
18 business in there. The thing that I find real wrong
19 about this project is that our national debt -- each one
20 of you, Colonel, also, and every one of you in here owe
21 \$33,000 on the national debt.

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

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1 our neighborhood, we're funneling federal debt into our
2 neighborhoods.

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

11 And I have seen wildlife -- I purposely
12 drive through Gateway Park in that area, even when we

13 had all these torrential rains, I used to park my truck
14 beyond the -- the bridge and watch the water flow under
15 the bridge, you know, just watch the river run.

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

24 But to go to the federal government and
25 get 400 million dollars when we already, each citizen,

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1 owes \$33,000 plus all the other debt we have created,
2 consumer debt.

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

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

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

13 JAMES COLE: I think that's me.

14 COLONEL MARTIN: You're James?

15 JAMES COLE: Yes.

army corps 12408.txt
COLONEL MARTIN: Okay. Thanks.

16
17 JAMES COLE: I'm James Cole, 341 Nursery
18 Lane. I live and work in Fort Worth. I submitted my
19 comments to the record, but I am going to read the final
20 paragraph to clear some things up. Some cynics have
21 said it may be too costly. Well, the opposite is
22 actually true.

23 The combined project as now envisioned
24 will assure a long term, high quality of life,
25 environmental quality and a sustainable economy for the

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1 Central City. The project will more than pay for
2 itself. Thank you.

3 COLONEL MARTIN: Thank you. Jason Smith
4 I believe is gone, right? Not here. And Ross Stephens.

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

12 We're looking at the sidewalks, we're
13 looking at the bicycle routes, we're looking at the
14 off-street trails and utility lines, as well as the
15 river trails. Basically, we want to go north, south,
16 east and west of the lands central section, which is the
17 central section for 16 counties or more and that being
18 hundreds if not thousands of people will be bicycling
19 here.

20 The north, south cross is Handley
21 Ederville, Bridgewood Drive and Randol Mill Road. The
22 distance in Fort Worth is one to two miles to link up to
23 the other cities. Each city has about a similar or
24 shorter distance to link up, so literally we will have
25 over a hundred miles of trails to hike and bike on.

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

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

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

23 positive in wanting to have them linked up.

24 Also, we have a volunteer effort where we
25 also build trails. Whatever we can do to get people out

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1 safely as soon as possible, we'll need people from
2 home -- you can get outdoors and use these areas seven
3 days a week. And that is very exciting to a lot of
4 people.

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

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

14 Well, thank you for coming here.
15 Remember this is day 20 of the 45-day period ending
16 February 19th. Get your comments in by then so we can
17 address them. Thank you for showing up tonight.

18 (Public meeting concluded at 8:03 p.m.)

19

20

21

22

23

24

25 STATE OF TEXAS)

1 COUNTY OF TARRANT)

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

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

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Carolyn H. Gayaldo, CSR
Expiration Date 12/09
Allied Court Reporters
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Fort Worth, Texas 76117
(817) 335-5568

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COMMENT REGISTRATION FORM

Fort Worth Central City Project

January 24, 2008

Name: Mayor Mike Moncrief

Representing: FW

Mailing Address: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

- I support the Central City Project – Gateway Park Improvement Plan
 - I wish to present oral comments during the public forum (limit: 3 minutes)
 - My written comments are on the back of this form
- I oppose the Central City Project – Gateway Park Improvement Plan
 - I wish to present oral comments during the public forum (limit: 3 minutes)
 - My written comments are on the back of this form

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 Alummuttil CESWF-PER-P, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth TX 76102

E-mail: Saji Alummuttil@usace.army.mil

COMMENT REGISTRATION FORM

Fort Worth Central City Project

January 24, 2008

Name: Danny Saarth
Representing: District 4, City of Fort Worth
Mailing Address: 1000 Twookmorton
Daytime Telephone: 817-392-8801
E-mail Address: district4@fortworth.gov.org

- I support the Central City Project – Gateway Park Improvement Plan
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 - My written comments are on the back of this form
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Mail: Saji Alummuttil CESWF-PER-P, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth TX 76102
E-mail: Saji Alummuttil@usace.army.mil

COMMENT REGISTRATION FORM

Fort Worth Central City Project

January 24, 2008

Name: Joel Burns

Representing: COG FW City Council

Mailing Address: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

- I support the Central City Project – Gateway Park Improvement Plan
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Mail: Saji Alummuttil, CESWF-EC-D, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102

E-mail: Saji.Alummuttil@usace.army.mil

COMMENT REGISTRATION FORM

Fort Worth Central City Project

January 24, 2008

Name: Barbara Ragland

Representing: Cong. Kay Granger

Mailing Address: 1701 River Run Rd.

Daytime Telephone: (817) 338-0909

E-mail Address: barbara.ragland@mail.house.gov

- I support the Central City Project -- Gateway Park Improvement Plan
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E-mail: Saji.Alummuttil@usace.army.mil

COMMENT REGISTRATION FORM

Fort Worth Central City Project

January 24, 2008

Name: VIC HENDERSON

Representing: TARRANT REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT

Mailing Address: 800 E. NORTH SIDE DRIVE, FORT WORTH, TX 76102

Daytime Telephone: 817, 335-2791

E-mail Address: vhenderson@pandai.com

- I support the Central City Project – Gateway Park Improvement Plan
 - I wish to present oral comments during the public forum (limit: 2 minutes)
 - My written comments are on the back of this form
- I oppose the Central City Project – Gateway Park Improvement Plan
 - I wish to present oral comments during the public forum (limit: 2 minutes)
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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 Alummuttil, CESWF-EC-D, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102

E-mail: Saji.Alummuttil@usace.army.mil

COMMENT REGISTRATION FORM

Fort Worth Central City Project

January 24, 2008

Name: Ben Laughry
Representing: Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce
Mailing Address: 777 Taylor Street, Suite 900 Fort Worth, TX 76102
Daytime Telephone: 817-336-2491
E-mail Address: bloughry@ivr.com

- I support the Central City Project – Gateway Park Improvement Plan
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- I oppose the Central City Project – Gateway Park Improvement Plan
 - I wish to present oral comments during the public forum (limit: 2 minutes)
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E-mail: Saji.Alummuttil@usace.army.mil