

**Report to Congress for Future Water Resources Development (WRRDA 7001) Submission
Package**

Proposal Name: Tijuana River Assessment and Feasibility Study

Submission Date: 07/23/2017

Proposal ID Number: 710aea74-6443-4803-9c32-720b9a979654

Purpose of Proposal: Substantial modifications to the Tijuana River watershed have occurred over the last 50 years. The City, assuming the role of the non-federal Sponsor, is proposing the development of a Feasibility Study to assess the potential of a project with a flood risk management, as well as addressing habitat and recreation within the river area. Numerous state and Federally listed threatened and endangered species are residents in the river. The river system and estuary are on the Pacific flyway and host many species seasonally. Water supply and water quality are important in southern California due to long periods of drought and intense storms. During heavy rains, raw sewage flows from Mexico into the river on the U.S. side effecting not only the valuable habitat, but health and safety. Beaches, fundamental to the City's economy, are closed each time this occurs. The proposed study supports the USACE mission to provide flood risk management, navigation, ecosystem and habitat preservation and restoration, water supply, water quality, and passive recreation opportunities for the public. Please see the attachment for additional discussion on this topic. There are substantial Section 404 permitting issues associated with the river system, as well as required permitting from other agencies including the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Section 401 certification), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Section 1600 Permit), and the California Coastal Commission (Coastal Development Permit).

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Tijuana River Assessment and Feasibility Study

by Agency: City of San Diego

Locations: CA

Date Submitted: 07/23/2017

Confirmation Number: 710aea74-6443-4803-9c32-720b9a979654

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
Supplement response.pdf	07/23/2017
Location-map-TR3.pdf	07/23/2017

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
City of San Diego(Primary)	<p>The Tijuana River forms the southern border of the U.S. and Mexico in San Diego. The Tijuana River is an important part of the City’s history and economy and provides some flood protection and water quality benefits, as well as playing a vital role in protecting the multi-layered ecosystem biological resources. The Tijuana River continues to experience flood risks and water-related environmental issues. Sediment, trash and polluted stormwater caused instability of riverbanks, threaten to damage properties, and degraded valuable riparian and estuarine habitats. Historically, major storms along the river resulted in the discharge of millions of gallons of polluted water into the Pacific Ocean causing long periods of beach closures. The City desires to partner with the USACE in determining the best approach and plan to improve flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, water supply, floodplain management, erosion and sediment management, water quality, re-establishment of connectivity between the degraded riparian and salt marsh habitats, and other related water resources purposes in the Tijuana River watershed, including water resources impacts originating in Mexico. The City will partner with the USACE and provide the necessary resources, including staff time and funding, for the completion of this project.</p>

3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

Feasibility Study

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

Substantial modifications to the Tijuana River watershed have occurred over the last 50 years. The City, assuming the role of the non-federal Sponsor, is proposing the development of a Feasibility Study to assess the potential of a project with a flood risk management, as well as addressing habitat and recreation within the river area. Numerous state and Federally listed threatened and endangered species are residents in the river. The river system and estuary are on the Pacific flyway and host many species seasonally. Water supply and water quality are important in southern California due to long periods of drought and intense storms. During heavy rains, raw sewage flows from Mexico into the river on the U.S. side effecting not only the valuable habitat, but health and safety. Beaches, fundamental to the City's economy, are closed each time this occurs. The proposed study supports the USACE mission to provide flood risk management, navigation, ecosystem and habitat preservation and restoration, water supply, water quality, and passive recreation opportunities for the public. Please see the attachment for additional discussion on this topic. There are substantial Section 404 permitting issues associated with the river system, as well as required permitting from other agencies including the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Section 401 certification), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Section 1600 Permit), and the California Coastal Commission (Coastal Development Permit).

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation (if necessary)

The purpose of the study will be to identify a comprehensive, integrated plan to address the needed improvements for flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, water supply, floodplain management, water quality and passive recreation consistent with USACE guidelines.

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

The study will benefit the public by providing a comprehensive assessment and determination of the best approach to provide flood risk management, ecosystem protection and restoration, wetland and habitat protection and restoration, water supply, floodplain management, water quality and provide for passive recreation opportunities for the public. Monetary benefits would include the reduction of flood fighting, beach closures, habitat destruction, health and safety concerns with raw sewage and contaminants flowing in the river. Costs associated with operations and maintenance within the river would be reduced. These issues cost the City several hundred thousand dollars each year and lost revenue from tourism. A study of the watershed, updating the hydrology and hydraulic analysis may reveal multi-benefit options that could support flood risk management and habitat and water quality objectives.

7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

This application is being submitted by the City of San Diego. The City is the local project sponsor, and fully supports the submission of this application. There are no other local or regional agencies directly involved with the project.

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

(As uploaded)

Supplement response.pdf

Separate document to supplement response to Question No. 4:

The proposed project supports the USACE mission in the following areas:

- *Section 404 of the Clean Water Act*
- *Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act*
- *Civil Works Program under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)*

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

Substantial dense vegetation has accumulated in the Tijuana River. The Manning's roughness factor increased due to the vegetation, thereby increasing the risks for flood damages and environmental disaster. An objective of this project will be to determine if there are alternatives to maintain the existing vegetation while also providing the desired level of flood risk management.

Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act

The Rivers and Harbors Act regulates the excavation and fill and condition of navigable waters of the U.S. Alternatives may involve sediment and water quality infrastructure improvements along the coastline.

Civil Works Program and Water Resource Development Act

The Civil Works program supports the protection and restoration of the nation's waters. These objectives are achieved while providing flood damage reduction, flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, water supply, water quality, disaster preparation and response, recreation, and navigation. The City is requesting planning assistance in identifying an array of alternatives, environmental, and economic analyses to solve the complex water resources issues associated with the vital resources within and along the river and the coastal outlet. Each of the objectives will be balanced as a part of the proposed feasibility study utilizing the expertise and proven planning process of the USACE.

Map Document

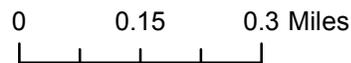
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Location_map_TR3.pdf



Legend

- TR 3 Levee System
- Leveled Area



Source: National Levee Database

**TIJUANA RIVER 3
LEVEE SYSTEM**

LOCATION MAP



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT