

- Grade control structures;
- Bridges and drainage crossings;
- Utility crossings;
- Trails;
- Building pads;

- Activities associated with construction of a Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) adjacent to the Santa Clara River and required bank protection;
- Water quality control facilities (sedimentation control, flood debris, and water quality basins);
- Ongoing maintenance activities by the LACDPW; and
- Temporary haul routes for grading equipment.

3. *Scope of Analysis.* The DEIS will be a project-level document which addresses a number of interrelated actions over a specific geographic area that (1) would occur as logical parts in the chain of contemplated actions, and (2) would be implemented under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authorities. The information in the DEIS will be sufficient for the Corps to make a decision regarding the issuance of a long-term Section 404 permit for the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan.

The document will be a joint Federal and state document. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act for the same project regarding a state streambed alteration agreement and state endangered species permit. The Corps and CDFG will work cooperatively to prepare a joint DEIS/DEIR document, and to coordinate the public noticing and hearing processes under Federal and state laws.

The impact analysis will follow the directives in 33 CFR part 325 which requires that it be limited to the impacts of the specific activities requiring a 404 permit and only those portions of the project outside of "waters of the United States" over which the Corps has sufficient control and responsibility to warrant Federal review. The Corps will extend the geographic scope of the environmental analysis beyond the boundaries of "waters of the United States" in certain areas to address indirect and cumulative impacts of the regulated activities, and to address connected actions pursuant to NEPA guidelines (40 CFR part 1508). In these upland areas, the Corps will evaluate impacts to the environment and identify feasible and reasonable mitigation measures and the appropriate state or local agencies with authority to implement these measures if they are outside the authority of the Corps. In evaluating impacts to areas and resources outside the Corps' jurisdiction, the Corps will consider the information and conclusions from the Final Program EIR for the Specific Plan prepared by Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning.

However, the Corps will exercise its independent expertise and judgment in addressing indirect and cumulative impacts to upland areas due to issuance of the proposed Section 404 permit.

4. *Issues.* There are several potential environmental issues that will be addressed in the DEIS/DEIR. Additional issues may be identified during the scoping process. Issues initially identified as potentially significant include:

- (a) Surface Water Hydrology, Erosion and Sedimentation;
- (b) Groundwater;
- (c) Water Quality;
- (d) Biological Resources;
- (e) Land Use;
- (f) Cultural and Paleontological Resources;
- (g) Air Quality;
- (h) Noise;
- (i) Traffic;
- (j) Visual Resources;
- (k) Parks, Recreation and Trails.

5. *Alternatives.* Alternatives initially being considered for the proposed improvement project include the following:

- (a) Alternate locations and configurations of various proposed facilities such as buried bank stabilization, bridges, and grade control structures, along each of the major side drainages including Chiquito Canyon, Potrero Canyon, San Martinez Grande, and Long Canyon, as well as the Santa Clara River;

- (b) No Federal action (no construction of facilities within "Waters of the U.S.");

- (c) No Project (no physical changes).

6. *Scoping Process.* A public scoping meeting to receive input on the scope of the DEIS will be conducted on February 19, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at Castaic Middle School, located at 28900 Hillcrest Parkway in Castaic, California. Participation in the scoping meeting by Federal, state, and local agencies, and other interested private citizens and organizations are encouraged.

7. *Availability of the Draft EIS/EIR.* The joint lead agencies expect the Draft EIS/EIR to be made available to the public in the summer of 2004. A public hearing will be held during the public comment period for the Draft EIS/EIR.

Dated: January 7, 2004.

John V. Guenther,
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, Acting District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 04-1671 Filed 1-28-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-92-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before March 29, 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, *e.g.* new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.