



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 532711
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90053-2325

April 18, 2012

Office of the Chief
Planning Division

TO INTERESTED PARTIES:

The Los Angeles District Corps of Engineers (Corps) requests your review and comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Santa Ana River Marsh Dredging Project, Newport Beach, Orange County, California. The Corps proposes to remove sediment along the Marsh channels to restore tidal circulation and maintain coastal salt marsh habitat that supports endangered species. The primary benefits from the proposed project would be restoration of design channel depths, which would provide improved circulation and tidal flushing necessary to support the salt marsh habitat. Secondary benefits include replenishment of beach sands with placement of some dredged material in the nearshore at Newport Beach. The remaining dredged material will be placed at the LA-3 Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site. Sediment not compatible for ocean disposal would be excavated and disposed of at an upland landfill. The California least tern island within the Marsh would also be cleared of weedy vegetation to improve nesting habitat for this endangered species.

The proposed dredging and excavation is scheduled between September 2012 and March 2013.

In an effort to conserve paper and resources, the EA may be downloaded at the enclosed web address. Please respond with comments on the Draft EA by Friday, May 18, 2012. Correspondence may be sent to:

Josephine R. Axt, Ph.D.
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
P.O. Box 532711
ATTN: Ms. Erin Jones
Los Angeles, California 90053-2325
OR
erin.l.jones@usace.army.mil

If you have any questions regarding the project or would like to request the document in hard copy or on CD, please contact Ms. Erin Jones, Project Environmental Coordinator, at (213) 300-9723.

Thank you for your attention to this document.

Sincerely,

Josephine R. Axt, Ph.D.
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure