



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

*Asset Management Division
Operations and Maintenance Branch
915 Wilshire Blvd, 11th Floor
Los Angeles, CA. 90017*

NOTIFICATION: Pursuant to Section II.C.2.b of the May 12, 2017, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District (USACE) and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (LARWQCB), Concerning Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement, and Rehabilitation of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area Project in Waters of the United States.

SUBJECT: Priority of year-round routine vegetation regrowth management, removal of necessary sediment for access roads/inspection purposes, graffiti abatement, and removal of trash and debris in the Los Angeles County Drainage Area (LACDA) system channels.

JUSTIFICATION: Accumulated sediment and vegetation poses the greatest threat to flooding because they are the primary contributing factors to reduced conveyance capacity. Given that the heaviest rains occur in January and February, USACE' has an immediate need to accomplish as much pre-rainy season maintenance work in the channelized portions of LACDA as possible. The highest priority efforts include the ability to ensure passable roadways at the toe of the channels, which function as the current access road; inspection of constructed features for cracks and vulnerabilities; and removal of trash, debris and non-native vegetation. Due to limited resources and staffing, efforts are concentrated to maximize trash, debris and non-native vegetation removal work in the early part of the rainy season (Oct-Dec).

Notably, the Los Angeles River (LAR), approximately a 13 mile stretch located in the Glendale Narrows area, is the highest priority maintenance area within the LACDA flood risk management system. The current capacity of the LAR throughout the Glendale Narrows area capacity manages flood risk for events roughly commensurate with the 7 year event up to the 20 year event. This is substantially more vulnerable than other areas throughout the LACDA flood risk management system. While this notification is more expansive to include routine work in all USACE operated and maintained LACDA channels, it is imperative that work in LAR begin as soon as possible. Further information can be provided to clarify the scope and extent of work in all areas.

CESPL-AM-OM

SUBJECT: Notification of year-round routine vegetation regrowth management, removal of necessary sediment for access roads/inspection purposes, graffiti abatement, and removal of trash and debris in the LACDA system channels.

PROJECT LOCATION: The USACE work will impact approximately the aggregate length of 45 miles of LACDA Channels / Levee Systems to include:

- Alhambra Wash
- Ballona Creek
- Burbank Western Lower Channel
- Compton Creek
- Haines Canyon Channel
- Los Angeles River
- Mill Creek
- Rio Hondo Lower Channel
- San Gabriel River Channel
- San Jose Creek
- San Pasqual Wash
- Sepulveda Basin Channel
- Verdugo Wash

* See Attachment B

Figure 1 – Linear Features

Facility Name	Channel Configuration	Length (miles)
Alhambra/San Pasqual Wash	concrete rectangular	4
Ballona Creek	soft bottom	xxx
Ballona Creek	concrete trapezoidal	1.6
Compton Creek	concrete rectangular	4.5
Los Angeles River	concrete/soft bottom	3
Los Angeles River	concrete rectangular	3.7
Los Angeles River (Glendale Narrows)	soft bottom/reinforced trapezoidal	12
Haines Canyon Channel	concrete rectangular	1.8
Rio Hondo	concrete rectangular	
San Gabriel River (above Whittier Narrows Dam)	soft bottom/armored trapezoidal embankment	1.2
San Gabriel River (above Santa Fe Dam)	soft bottom/armored trapezoidal embankment	3
San Jose Creek	soft bottom/armored trapezoidal embankment	1

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PROPOSED SCHEDULE: Per the Board's request, USACE is furnishing a schedule that provides an estimation of USACE the work described herein. Please see schedule enclosed, Attachment A.

Activities identified in this notification the sooner of (1) 45 days of receipt of this notification or (2) LARWQCB concurs that routine maintenance activities may proceed.

ACTIVITIES DESCRIPTION:

1. Vegetation Removal

- In the proposed reaches, USACE will manage non-native vegetation regrowth, to include such species as: giant reed, castor bean, and palm trees, by cutting with hand tools regrowth to approximately 4" to 6" inches of the surrounding soft bottom soil surface layer, and then treating with herbicides through backpack sprayers.
- Maintenance crews would work monthly between September 15 and March 15 to cut and herbicide treat any re-sprouting areas. Re-sprouts would only be foliar sprayed with herbicides during the migratory bird nesting season (March 15 to September 15) to avoid impacts to avian wildlife.
- The vegetation would be cut using powered (chainsaws, brush-cutters) and non-powered (loppers) hand tools between September 15 and March 15 to avoid impacts to avian wildlife.
- All cuttings would be bagged up and sent to an appropriate landfill facility for disposal. No mulching of vegetation would occur within the channel limits. No staging would occur within LACDA channels.
- Herbicide application would involve the use of pressurized backpack hand applicators, an aquatic-rated herbicide, and a qualified applicator working under the instruction of a licensed applicator.
- An aquatic-rated herbicide would be applied to the freshly cut reed stump within 20 minutes of the fresh cut to ensure that the herbicide is drawn into the rhizome (root ball) via capillary action.

2. Sediment Removal

- The Corps proposes to remove sediment on an as needed basis that has accumulated on the grouted stone toe and concrete surface areas through clean excavation. The determination of need is any sediment that affects access and inspection of the constructed concrete channel, toe, levee, etc. Removal of sediment shall occur by clean excavation using mechanized equipment, such as a backhoe or skid-steer. This material would then be hauled to an appropriate landfill facility for disposal. No stream diversion or dewatering is proposed. No staging or stockpiling would occur within the channel.
- Drainage Structures and Systems: The USACE will maintain side drain and storm drainage systems of the flood risk management channels on an as needed basis. Maintain ditches and side channels within the R/W by keeping detention ponds, drainage ditches clear of weeds, brush, sediment, and other accumulations that obstruct the flow of water.

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3. *Graffiti Removal*

- Graffiti on channel infrastructure would be painted over with paint and roller by hand (no heavy equipment). Graffiti abatement, as needed, will cover wing walls, other channel/levee appurtenances, structures within the flood risk management channel, access road, and levees. Graffiti removal would not occur if rain events or high flows are expected within 24 hours of any planned maintenance activity.

4. *Trash Removal*

- Trash will be removed by hand throughout the USACE areas of responsibility, see Attachment B. Smaller items of trash would be collected and placed into trash bags or into wheel barrows that then haul trash to a flatbed truck situated on the grouted stone toe and will then be hauled offsite and disposed of at an offsite landfill. Care would be taken to minimize impacts to native vegetation during extraction.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be implemented to Avoid and/or Minimize Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters of the United States: All eleven of the recommended BMP's listed under Exhibit B of Attachment A – MOU between the US Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District and the California Regional Water Quality Board, Los Angeles Region concerning Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement, and Rehabilitation of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area Project in waters of the U.S. will be used for this ongoing maintenance activity.

APPROVED BY:

Date: 09/27/2017

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