

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FOR

**SOUTHWEST VALLEY FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION
Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico**

The Southwest Valley feasibility study was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1941 (Public Law 228) as contained in House Document No. 4911, 77th Congress, 1st Session, dated 18 August 1941. The purpose of the integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Assessment is to present the results of a feasibility study undertaken to evaluate technical and economic aspects of a comprehensive flood reduction program for the Southwest Valley in Bernalillo County and portions of Albuquerque, New Mexico. This report provides planning, engineering, and construction details of the recommended flood damage reduction measures plan to allow final design and construction to proceed subsequent to the approval of the plan. An additional objective of the report is to determine the environmental affects of proposed flood damage reduction measures.

Originally, twenty-two alternatives were evaluated that would reduce valley-wide flood damages in the Southwest Valley. Due to cost and a limited benefit base they were eliminated from further consideration. As a result of further studies, a No Action (Future Without the Project) and four action alternatives were formulated. The Recommended Alternative was selected as the National Economic Development (NED) plan and meets all Corps flood reduction criteria. The Recommended Alternative would capture West Mesa flood flow utilizing existing Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) surface drain facilities. The main features of the proposed work would involve utilizing existing easements, widening existing drains, constructing a large storm water detention ponding area, and constructing two new channels.

The proposed project would not affect waters of the United States regulated by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; therefore, a Section 404 Department of the Army permit would not be needed for the work. Construction of a new discharge outlet in the floodplain of the Rio Grande would not alter any natural feature or use of the area. Therefore, the planned action is consistent with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management). The proposed work complies with Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) as no wetlands are within the project limits.

Special status species under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with potential to occur in the project area include the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*), and the Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*). The survey and analysis for these species determined that the proposed work would have no effect on the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

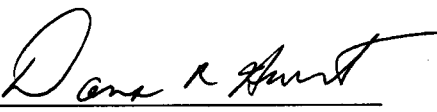
However, the work may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Bald Eagle and the silvery minnow. Concurrence on these determinations was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A cultural resources survey of the project was conducted and several isolated artifacts and one historic structure were recorded. The material was documented in accordance with the New Mexico standards, and the report was provided to the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer.

The following additional elements of the local environment were considered in analyzing impacts associated with the proposed project: Physiography and geology; soils; climate; hydrology and water quality; biological resources; air quality and noise levels; socioeconomic characteristics; land use and recreation considerations; and Indian trust assets. The impact analysis determined that the work would have no significant effects on these resources.

The planned action has been fully coordinated with Federal, State of New Mexico, tribal, and local governments with jurisdiction over the ecological, cultural, and hydrological resources of the project area. Based upon these factors and others discussed in detail in the Environmental Assessment, the planned action would not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, and Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for Southwest Valley Flood Damage Reduction in Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

20 April, 2004
Date



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