



US Army Corps
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Seattle District

Notice of Preparation

Emergency Management Branch
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Seattle, WA 98124-3755
ATTN: Tim Shaw (NWS-PM-CP)

Public Notice Date: 26 June 2007
Expiration Date: 11 July 2007
Reference: PL-07-03
Name: Cedar River 205 Levee Rehabilitation

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) plans to prepare, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental assessment (EA) for a proposed levee repair on the Cedar River, in the City of Renton, King County, Washington.

AUTHORITY

This is a federal levee authorized under Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948, as amended (33 U.S.Code 701s). The levee is active in the Public Law (PL) 84-99 Rehabilitation and Inspection Program

PROJECT LOCATION

The Federally Authorized Cedar River project is located on the Cedar River from approximately river mile (RM) 0 to RM 1.5, in the city of Renton, in King County, Washington. The project includes earthen levees combined with steel and concrete floodwalls, along both banks of the river. The two damaged areas (Sites A and B) are on the riverward side of the left bank of the lower Cedar River near River Mile 1 in Section 7, Township 23 North, Range 5 East of the Willamette Meridian, King County.

PROPOSED ACTION

The public sponsor, City of Renton, has requested assistance from the Corps of Engineers under the PL 84-99 Program to repair the 700 lineal feet (LF) of levee damaged by the 2006 flood events on the Cedar River.

DESCRIPTION OF DAMAGE: In early November 2006 a large rainfall event fell over Western Washington, including 3.29 inches of rain over a 24-hour period at SeaTac Airport. Areas similar to the upper Cedar basin, such as the upper Green River basin saw 24-hour precipitation totals of approximately 8-inches. The combination of excessive rainfall and rise in freezing level produced high water on the Cedar River for a number of days. The rainfall resulted in approximately a 9-year frequency flood event on the Cedar River in the City of Renton, Washington which peaked at approximately 6,100 cfs (as measured at USGS gage #12119000, Cedar River in Renton, Washington at 2100 hours on 11/07/06).

The flood protection project experienced toe scour for a total length of about 700 lineal feet (LF) in two locations. Site A is located adjacent to the sheet pile and concrete cap structure and experienced about 300 LF of scour to a depth of approximately four feet (FT). Site B is

located upstream of site A and consists of about 400 LF of extensive toe scour roughly 18 FT wide by about 10 FT High.

PROPOSED REPAIR: The District considered multiple repair alternatives, including the repair to Pre-Flood Condition alternative. The no-action and non-structural alternatives were evaluated. The recommended structural alternative is the Locally Preferred Plan. The no action alternative could eventually result in a breach and subsequent failure of the levee. Due to the costs of buying out all property owners for the non structural alternative compared to the level of benefit, this alternative was not investigated further.

The recommended repair plan consists of armoring the toe scour with riprap over the damaged lengths. At site A, the recommended alternative is a three foot blanket of class IV riprap placed on quarry spalls. The post-flood scour pocket is vertical, and re-establishment of the lost embankment at site A will require a significant placement of quarry spalls for stability. Slopes will be re-graded on a 2 horizontal (H) on 1 vertical slope to insure no loss of conveyance and adequate slope stability. Riprap above the ordinary high water line (OHWL) will have a lift of topsoil placed on it and will be hydroseeded and appropriate shrubs will be planted where applicable. All bank protection material will consist of clean, non-contaminated material. At site B, the repair will require re-grading the eroded bank to a more stable slope, and placing a wedge of class IV riprap on a 2H:1V slope in the eroded section of the embankment. The entire slope will be covered with a 3 FT thick blanket of class IV riprap and the riprap will be covered with a 1FT lift of soil above the OHWL and hydroseeded. The levee repair will be tied into the levee upstream and downstream at the same slope grade. All bank protection material will consist of clean, non-contaminated material.

In water work is anticipated to be completed during the fish window from July 1 to August 31. Due to the emergency nature of this work, construction must be completed as soon as possible. The local sponsor is responsible for all costs in excess of the least cost alternative.

The Corps has made a preliminary determination that the environmental impacts of the proposal can be adequately evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act through preparation of an environmental assessment (EA). Preparation of an EA addressing potential environmental impacts associated with the levee rehabilitation project is currently underway.

The Corps invites submission of factual comment on the environmental impact of the proposal. The Corps will consider all submissions received before the expiration date of this notice. The nature or scope of the proposal may be changed upon consideration of the comments received. The Corps will initiate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and afford all the appropriate public participation opportunities attendant to an EIS, if significant effects on the quality of the human environment are identified and cannot be mitigated.

Comments should reach this office, Attn: Environmental Resources Section, not later than July 11, 2007 to ensure consideration. Requests for additional information should be directed to Tim Shaw, Project Manager, at 206-764-6978.