



SAN ANTONIO
RIVER AUTHORITY

River Road

KICKOFF MEETING

August 13, 2019 • 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Lion's Field Adult and Senior Center
2809 Broadway St, San Antonio

A RIVER AUTHORITY
PARTNERSHIP WITH



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

MEETING TO DISCUSS:

The San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) is collaborating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to identify the feasibility of an aquatic ecosystem restoration project on the San Antonio River between Mulberry and US Hwy 281 near the River Road neighborhood. The ecosystem restoration feasibility study will develop and analyze alternatives to restore degraded ecological structure and function to the aquatic and riparian habitat of the river. The community is invited to meet the project managers from the USACE and the River Authority and learn about the purpose, scope and schedule for the project.

sara-tx.org



COMMITTED TO SAFE, CLEAN, ENJOYABLE CREEKS AND RIVERS



EXPLORE THE fun!
SAN ANTONIO PARKS & RECREATION

 SAN ANTONIO
RIVER AUTHORITY



Thank You

Senator Jose Menéndez

Representative Diego Bernal

Commissioner Justin Rodriguez

Councilman Robert Trevino

SARA Board Lourdes Galvan



Thank you
Congressman Lloyd Doggett
for all of your hard work and
support for the River Road
Restoration Project.





San Antonio River Authority Team



COMMITTED TO SAFE, CLEAN, ENJOYABLE CREEKS AND RIVERS

Community Coordination

Caitlin Heller
Intergovernmental Coordinator
cheller@sara-tx.org
201-302-3293



COMMITTED TO SAFE, CLEAN, ENJOYABLE CREEKS AND RIVERS

Current and Past Identified Stakeholders

- River Road Neighborhood Association
- Bexar County
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- COSA Parks
- COSA TCI
- COSA Office of Historic Preservation
- Centro San Antonio
- Audubon Society
- Texas Forest Service
- Brackenridge Park Conservancy
- Witte Museum
- DoSeum
- University of Incarnate Word
- Headwaters Coalition
- Brackenridge Golf Course
- First Tee
- Congressman Lloyd Doggett
- Councilman Roberto Trevino
- Councilman Allan Warrick
- Bexar County Commissioner Paul Elizondo
- Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff



Project Area


- Upper San Antonio River from Mulberry Ave to Highway 281
- Brackenridge and Allison Parks
- Ave A and River Road



Project History

- *San Antonio River Improvement Project Feasibility Study*
 - *Brackenridge Biodiversity Study*
 - *Avenue A Traffic Study*
 - *Brackenridge Archaeology Study*
- *TCEQ Water Quality Project*
- *River Road Ecosystem Restoration*





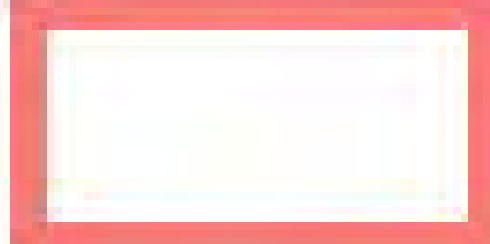
SARA's Goal

Restore the aquatic and riparian ecosystem of the San Antonio River by restoring stream function and habitat.

STUDY AREA




Legend

 Study Area



**River Road Study Area
San Antonio, Texas
July 2019**

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 Miles


MEETING PURPOSE

What is the purpose of this meeting?

NEPA is a public process designed to solicit public and agency comments regarding issues that an environmental document should consider.

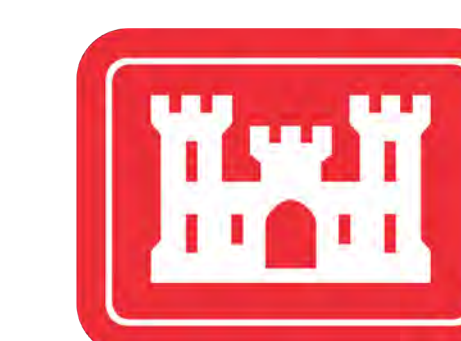
This Information Meeting aims to:

- Share Information
- Seek Input
- Define How You Can be Involved

This is an opportunity for the public to participate and provide comments on:

- Environmental Concerns
- Local Conditions, Issues, Opportunities, etc.
- Alternative Ways to Meet Purpose

We Encourage Your Input During the NEPA Public Review Period!



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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

NEPA Guides the Impact Analysis

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is federal law that requires agencies to evaluate the potential environmental effects of proposed projects, and to inform and involve the public in the decision-making process.

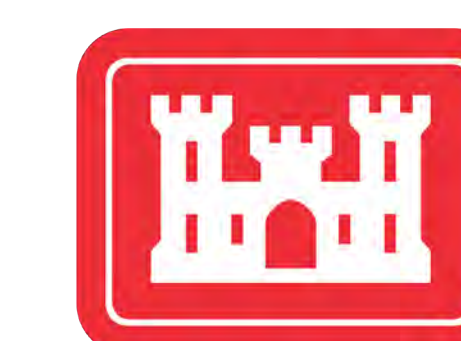
An Environmental Assessment (EA) includes sections describing:

- Purpose and Need
- Existing Conditions
- Alternatives
- Environmental Effects
- Direct Effects
- Indirect Effects
- Cumulative Effects

Impact Analysis Criteria

USACE has identified a broad spectrum of general and project-specific criteria to analyze impacts of the action alternatives, including:

- NEPA
- Council on Environmental Quality Regulation
- USACE Engineering Regulation 200-2-2
- Environmental Laws and the associated Implementing Regulations and Guidance
- National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106)
- Public Comments



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CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM STUDY PROCESS

Federal Interest
Determination

- First Milestone
- Based on existing information
- Identifies problems & opportunities

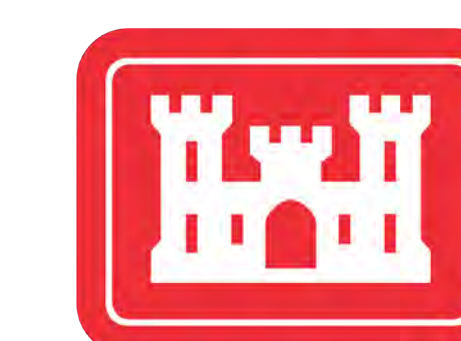
We are
here

Major Subordinate
Command (MSC)
Decision Meeting

- Takes place after alternative plans have been formulated
- Prior to release of Draft Integrated Report and Environmental Assessment
- Ensures plans have been properly formulated, legal and policy issues have been identified, and the MSC concurs with the tentatively selected plan

Final Decision
Document Package

- Results
- Recommended Plan
- Compliance w/ appropriate Federal, State, and local environmental requirements
- Other costs, requirements, and certifications



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RIVER ROAD FEASIBILITY STUDY

Problems

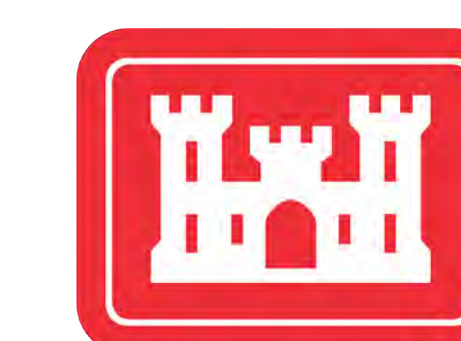
- The aquatic ecosystem is severely degraded from excessive erosion and sedimentation, which has also decreased riparian habitat and proliferated the expansion of invasive species.

Objectives

- To restore aquatic ecosystem function and structure to the River Road section of the San Antonio River for a 50 year period of analysis.

Opportunities

- Provide additional recreation and ecotourism benefits to the community.



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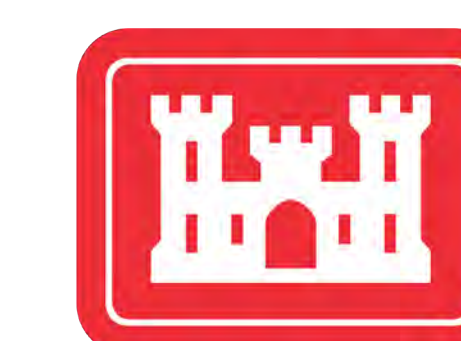
PROBLEM AREAS



EROSION OF RIVER BANK AT INFLOW POINTS



EROSION OF RIVER BANK FROM LOCAL DRAINAGE



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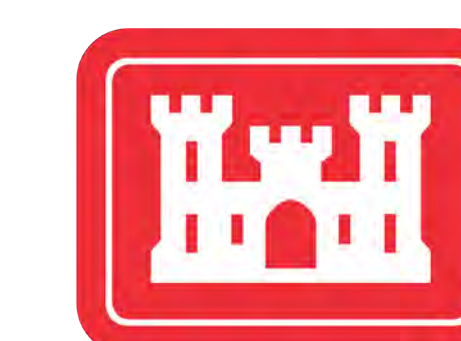
PROBLEM AREAS



VEHICULAR TRAFFIC DAMAGE TO RIPARIAN VEGETATION



LACK OF VEGETATION ADJACENT TO RIVER



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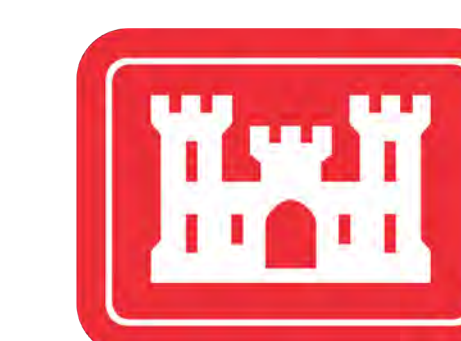
PROBLEM AREAS



LOW WATER CROSSING WITH NON-FUNCTIONING CULVERT



DRY RIVER BED CAUSED BY SAND BAR AND RIVER DIVERSION



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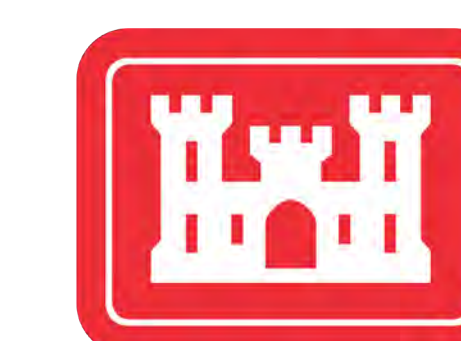


POTENTIAL MEASURES

Invasive species management



Aquatic/Riparian native species plantings

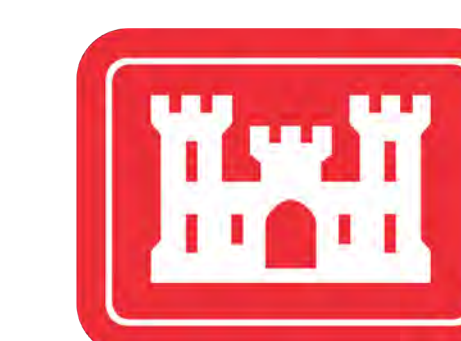


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POTENTIAL MEASURES

Modification of manmade and/or natural structures within the river

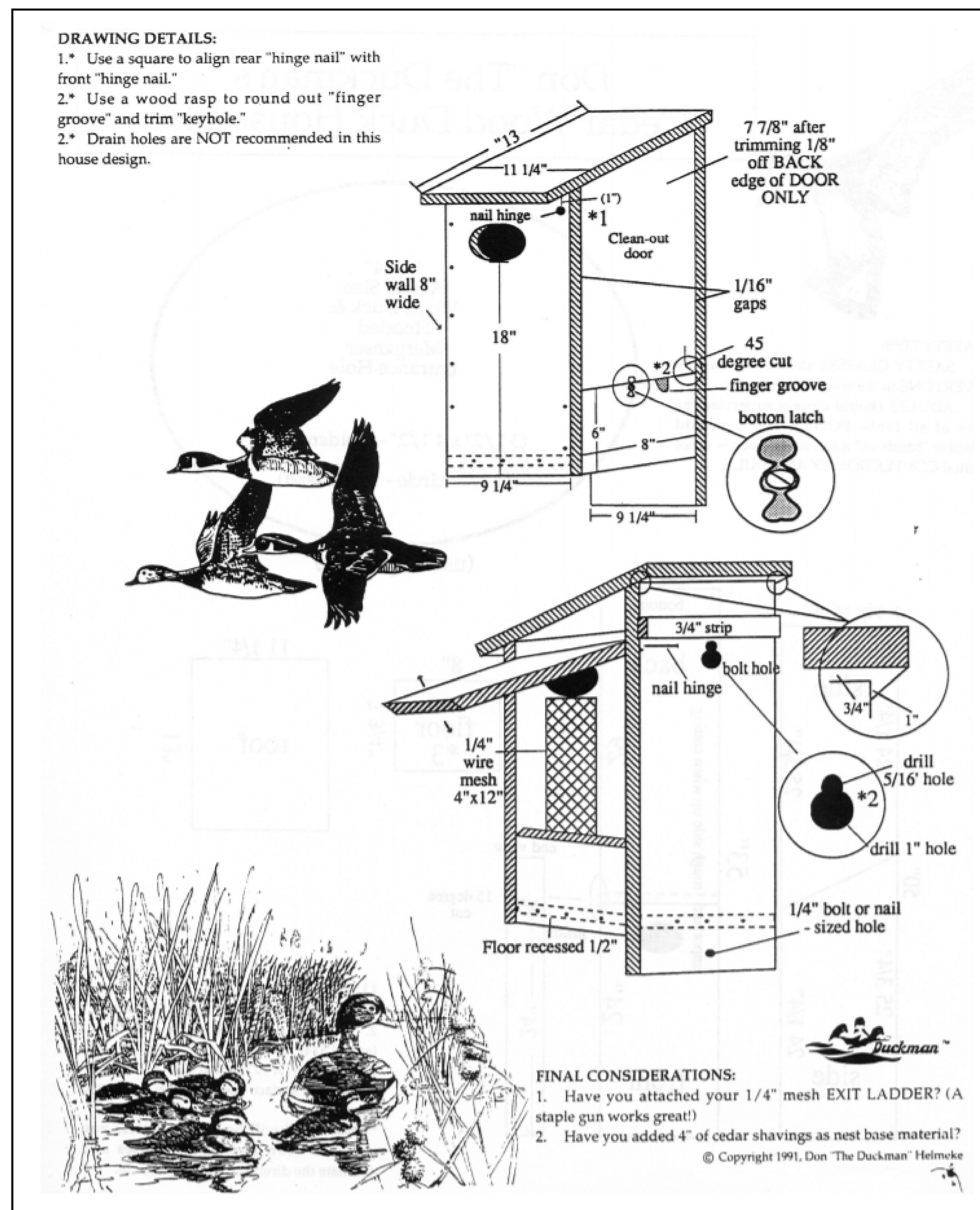


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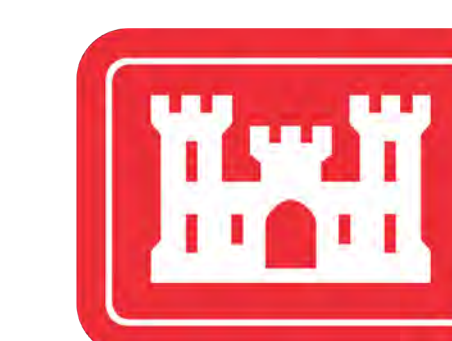


POTENTIAL MEASURES

- Modification of pedestrian access, parking, and fishing areas to reduce harmful impacts, but still allow public access
- Installation of nesting structures for wildlife
- Modification of Avenue A and/or River Road to reduce erosion impacts



EXAMPLE OF NESTING STRUCTURE



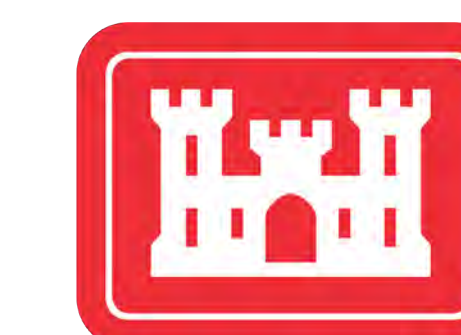
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NEXT STEPS & GENERAL TIMELINE

- Alternative Plan Formulation
- Economic & Environmental Analysis of Alternative Plans
- Selection of Tentatively Selected Plan
- Draft Decision Document
- Public, Legal, and Internal Review of Decision Document
- Complete Feasibility Phase

We currently expect the feasibility phase of the project to be completed by the end of 2020.



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HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

- Submit your written comments by September 12, 2019
 - In-person at the public scoping meeting
 - Mail to:
Justyss Watson
Biologist
Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center
819 Taylor Street, P.O. Box 17300, Room 3A12
Fort Worth, TX 76102-300
 - Email to:
RiverRoadER@usace.army.mil
- Comments must be submitted in writing or they will not be considered



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