

public stating that the FONSI is available for review. If significant effects on the quality of the human environment are subsequently identified and can not be mitigated to a less than significant level, the Corps will initiate preparation of an EIS and afford the public opportunities to participate in the review process. The Corps is inviting the general public to submit comments on potential environmental impact that could result from implementation of the proposal. The public comment period on preparation of an EA for the proposal described above would extend from **February 21 through March 8, 2013**. Please direct your comments to carvel.h.bass@usace.army.mil , or by mail to

Carvel Bass, Asset Management Division
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 915 Wilshire Boulevard, Ste. 11098, Los Angeles, CA, 90017.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact either Carvel Bass, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 213) 452-3392, or Louis Loomis, L.A. City Recreation and Parks at (818) 756-8616.

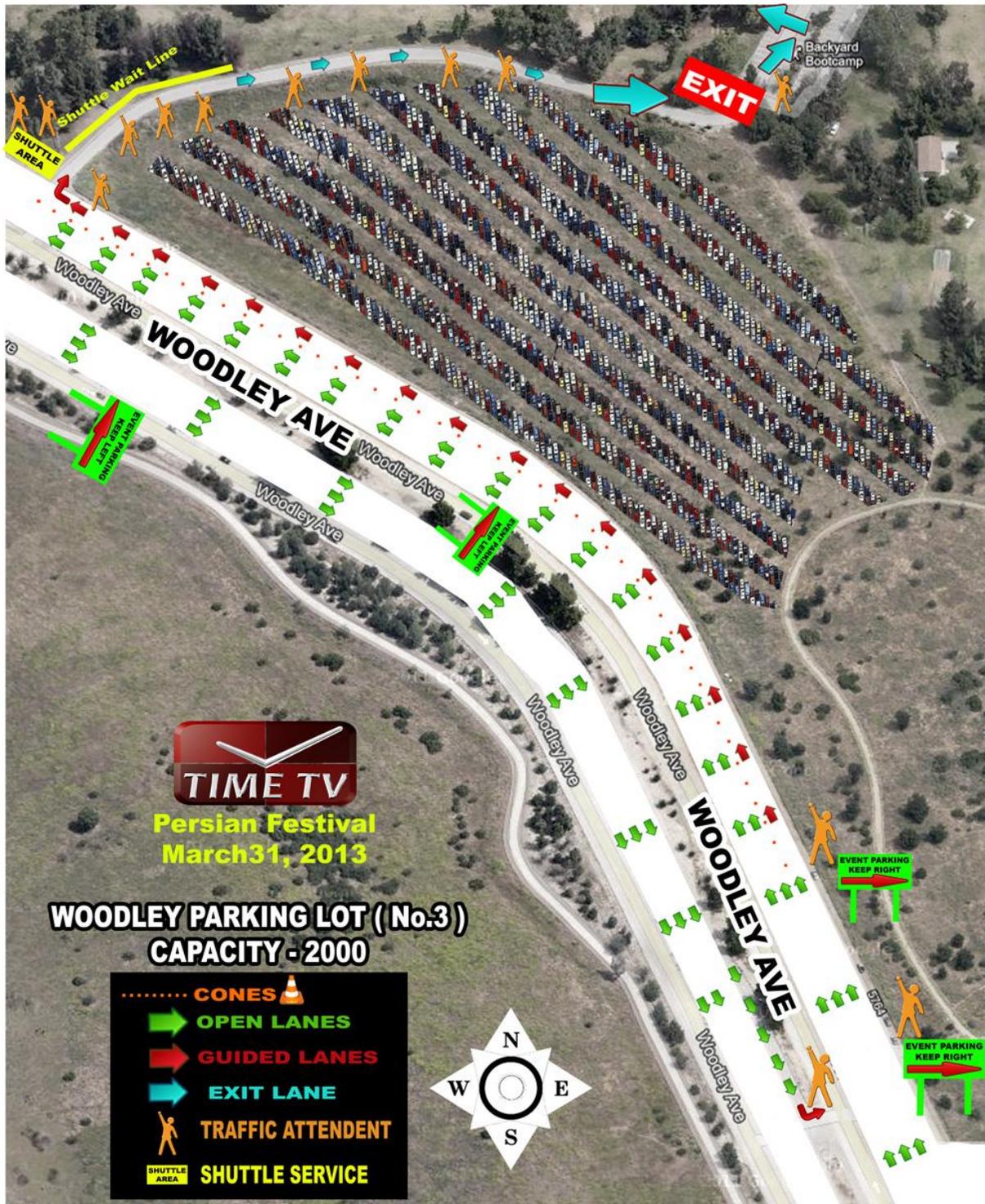
Please note that if you represent an organization with potential multiple responders, all efforts to consolidate your organization’s comments into one note of correspondence will be greatly appreciated.



Proposed Festival Site Plan



Proposed Festival Parking/Shuttle Routes.
(Note Central Parking Area for Handicapped Festival Parking Patrons)



BURBANK BLVD.

Proposed General Festival Parking Area



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Draft ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Nowruz Festival / Persian New Year

Sunday, March 31, 2013

SEPULVEDA DAM BASIN, LAKE BALBOA

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Prepared by

City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (/RAP)

for the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Los Angeles District

P.O. Box 532711

Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325

February, 2013

COVER SHEET

Persian New Year *Nowruz* Festival
March 31, 2013

Sepulveda Dam Basin
Los Angeles County, California

This draft Environmental Assessment (dEA) has been prepared by the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) other Federal laws, Executive Orders, and Corps' guidance. The Corps is the lead Federal agency for the Proposed Action. No other agency is involved in implementing the Proposed Action.

A Promoter has requested the Persian New Year or *Nowruz* celebration be held at the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin. The Festival would provide approximately 7,000 attendees within the San Fernando Valley with the opportunity to participate in this cultural Festival. This is primarily a family-oriented, water-related event with outdoor picnicking and other food availability. The proposed Event would take place in the northern area of the Anthony C. Beilenson Park which is located west of Woodley Golf Course, north of the Los Angeles River, east of Balboa Blvd. and Bull Creek, and South of Victory Blvd. and the Orange Bus Line in the Sepulveda Dam Basin.

The Proponent, Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks (/RAP), is requesting review and approval by the Corps of the proposed Event, which would be held on March 31, 2013.

The draft EA on the Proposed Action (Event) was available for agency and public review and to solicit input, for 15 days (February 22-March 9, 2013). Comments received will be considered in determining whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required, or whether a Finding of No Significant (FONSI) can be issued.

Comments on the draft EA are to be received during the public review period, ending March 9, 2013 by:

Carvel Bass, Ecologist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, CA 90053

Carvel.H.Bass@usace.army.mil

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(Draft) - Project Finding of No Significant Impact (draft FONSI)

Draft Environmental Assessment Persian New Year's Festival at Sepulveda Basin, Encino CA

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This draft Environmental Assessment (dEA) has been prepared by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (City RAP) for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 USC 4321 et seq.) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations published at 42 CFR part 1500.

1.1 PROJECT AUTHORITY

The Corps, pursuant to the specific authority granted by Congress in the Flood Control Act of 1944 is authorized to lease lands at water resources development projects to non-Federal entities for such periods and upon such terms and for such purposes as are deemed reasonable in the public interest. The Corps has leased lands at Sepulveda Dam Basin to the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks (City RAP) for recreational and park purposes. Supplement number 4 to the recreation lease, DACW09-1-67-11, granted by the Corps to the City reserves the right to the District Engineer, Los Angeles District, to approve special events that will have an anticipated attendance in excess of 5,000 people.

The Proponent for this event is City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, and the City's point of contact for information is Mr. Louis Loomis, Special Events Coordinator, at (818) 756-8616.

1.2 LOCATION

Sepulveda Dam Basin (/Basin) is located on the upper Los Angeles River in the San Fernando Valley about 17 miles northwest of the downtown Los Angeles. The Basin is accessible by two freeways, the Ventura Freeway (U.S. Highway 101) and the San Diego Freeway (Interstate 405), and lies at the northwest corner of the junction of these freeways. The Basin is also accessible from several local roads.

1.3 SCOPE OF ANALYSIS

This dEA analyzes likely effects of the Proposed Event by comparing a No Action Alternative with the Proposed Action which considers permitting a 1-day cultural recreation event to occur within the Anthony C. Beilenson Park within the Sepulveda Dam Basin. The draft EA will be made available to resource agencies and to the interested public for review and comment for 15 days.

Through evaluation of the alternatives, the Corps may include conditions, limitations or restrictions as deemed necessary to comply with Federal laws, regulations or policies and to address any concerns relating to the safe operation of the Sepulveda Dam Flood Control Project.

Comments received from the public will be addressed prior to determining whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required or if a Finding of No Significant (FONSI) can be issued.

Background

The Event is primarily for family and cultural entertainment for those of the Iranian or Persian backgrounds and is non-religious in nature. The one-day *Nowruz* Festival is requested by the City to celebrate these local cultures. Pending approval, the Event will include music, arts, crafts, displays, and food and open-space activities. The Event Promoter anticipates attendance from up to approximately 7,000 people, and up to approximately 4,000 vehicles. The City of Los Angeles Fire and Police Departments would provide oversight for Public Safety at this Event, and City Street Services and Department of Transportation will assist the Promoter's parking crew concerning Traffic, including temporary lane closures within the basin as related to parking and shuttle activity. Staff from these departments have met and continue meeting in a series of planning meetings with Corps, RAP, and Festival Promoter in order to develop or to receive and review Parking, Traffic, and Safety Plans. The Festival would result in some minor access restrictions to the general public during the 1-day each of set-up and take-down on the two days surrounding March 31, 2013. Final cleanup will continue through completion on April 1.

The Event would charge admission of approximately \$5-\$10 (child/adult) per person general admission. A parking charge will not be required. Both General and ADA (accessible) Parking will be available at several of the established Sepulveda Recreation Area parking areas, including the Corn Maze area near Woodley Park and, for those with Handicapped cards visible, also at the dirt, overflow parking area just southwest of Victory/Woodley (please see Figures in Public Notice, above).

2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

Nowruz is an ancestral festivity marking the first day of spring and the renewal of nature. It was proclaimed as an official UN observance because it promotes peace and solidarity, particularly in families. The day also focuses on reconciliation and neighborliness as contributing to cultural diversity and friendship among peoples and different communities. In general, *Nowruz* begins around March 21, the annual Spring Equinox although an official local celebration may occur at variable times which are near March 21.

A local television executive who is the Promoter of the Event, has requested use of the northern side of Anthony C. Beilenson Park/Lake Balboa, and for the exclusive use of up to approximately 850 feet of shoreline access, for this annual festival (Event) and which would be held this year on Sunday, March 31, 2013. The City/RAP, which is the primary recreational facility operator and lessee at Sepulveda Dam Basin, has submitted a request to the Corps for approval of a special event. RAP is requesting Corps review and concurrence for the proposed festival.

This Event has been deemed important by the City because of its cultural significance to the large population of San Fernando Valley and other local residents. The Festival would provide the opportunity, for up to approximately 7,000 anticipated attendees (more or less) from the San Fernando Valley and elsewhere, to participate in this Festival.

3.0 RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

3.1 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, The Corps would not provide approval to the City under the terms of the Lease. The Event would not be held at this designated recreation area within the Anthony C. Beilenson Park in the Sepulveda Dam Basin. This alternative would not meet the City's recreation mission which is to provide various types of outdoor recreational opportunities for the diverse southern California recreating community, but is carried forward in this dEA for comparison purposes as required by NEPA.

3.2 Lakeshore Access Action Alternative

The Lakeshore Alternative location is the northern area of the Anthony C. Beilenson Park which is located west of Woodley Golf Course, north of the Los Angeles River, east of Balboa Blvd. and Bull Creek, and South of Victory Blvd. and the Orange Bus Line. This northern area of Beilenson Park within the Sepulveda Recreation Area, including approximately 850 feet of the northern shoreline of Lake Balboa as shown below, would be entirely dedicated on March 30 to the *Nowruz* Festival. This is because *Nowruz*'s cultural roots include some connection to open water.

A portion of the full circumference of the Lake Balboa path would be restricted on this one day, so that Festival participants would be able to enjoy an area devoted to the *Nowruz* festivities at the north lakeshore (approximately 800 feet), while non-Festival park patrons would be able to access the majority of the lakeshore, to the south. The Lake's walking trail which is normally completely open to the public during most days would thus be only partially open to the general public, at the west, south, and east of its total circumference: the majority of the pathway would remain open to the general public, and a minority of the pathway would be open exclusively to Festival patrons.

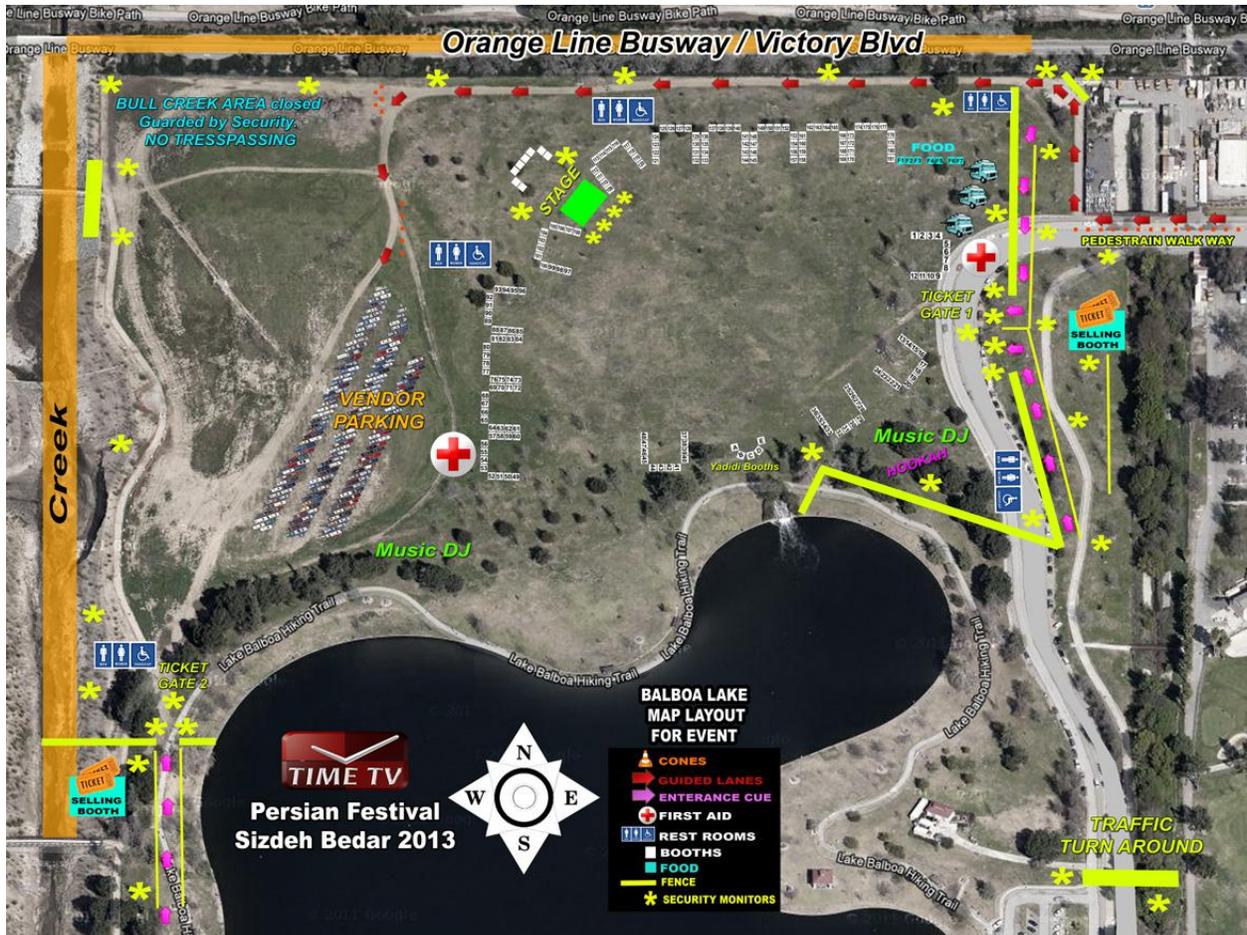


Figure A - General Nowruz Festival Plan. The Event would restrict areas north of the Lake from general park use, as seen in the Figure. Yellow lines indicate *approximate* locations for fence and gate structures which would be utilized to allow paying patrons to enter, and non-paying guests or general Park users to remain in the other adjacent Park areas.

Open Access Action Alternative

The **Open Access Alternative** recognizes the extreme sensitivity sometimes needed to review the use of and access to limited recreation resources among different local cultural or social populations.

Sepulveda Basin’s Recreation Area is managed by City of Los Angeles under lease from the Corps of Engineers, each of which has a strongly-defined recreation mission. The Corps of Engineers is the nation’s largest Federal water resource-based recreation provider, and the City of Los Angeles manages over one hundred parks, from San Fernando Valley to San Pedro, CA, totaling thousands of acres of parkland and including a second Corps of Engineers flood basin park at Hansen Dam’s Recreation Area.

At times, it is difficult to coordinate recreation proposal reviews for public parks from among the vast array of local users in southern California’s current social and natural environment, with no better example than the San Fernando Valley’s highly diversified, cosmopolitan cultural scene.

With limited available public parklands, the key to balancing access to quality recreation experience is development of sensitive alternatives to minimize the risk that one public ‘group’ does not enjoy limited resources at the expense of other ‘groups’. This planning/balancing effort by recreation agencies can be 1) misperceived, 2) miscommunicated, 3) poorly done, or 4) done well but the fact of limited resources implies occasional necessity for tradeoffs at some levels. Still, a recreation review must eventually cease and the show will go on.

In developing this draft Environmental Assessment, a number of potentially significant adverse effects to the human environment were analyzed, as provided below in Section IV. These potential impacts have been well addressed in pre-Event planning meetings, but the impacts from one issue (exclusive lakeshore access) were not yet fully resolved to the satisfaction of planners.

The Open Access Alternative *would allow the exclusive use of a section of the northern Lakeshore for **this year’s** Festival as described above in the **Lakeshore Access Alternative**, but only for the current year (2013).*

*If a future year’s Persian Festival is requested for Sepulveda Basin, the Corps will **not** approve Nowruz if exclusive Lakeshore use is requested and, in addition, a proposed Festival footprint will be provided 60 days in advance of the proposed Event which stipulates that no such exclusive lakeshore use is contemplated. Such a footprint was not submitted in time to fully review as an alternative for this year’s proposed Event.*

This alternative is provided for analysis because in the series of planning meetings among Promoter/Proponent/Corps, considerable discussion has arisen concerning the ‘fairness’ of setting aside any amount of Lakeshore walkway for exclusive use by *Nowruz* participants. This is not a legal issue but an interpretive one as to existing regulations. An array of recreation users, including some local residents, have already (and in the past) expressed conflicting opinions to both City and Corps as to the appropriateness of providing exclusive use of the lakeshore walkway for *Nowruz*. This is because non-Festival participants including some local residents would not be able to circumnavigate the Lake, as they are always able to do, during the proposed festivities at the Sepulveda Recreation Area. The issue has not yet been satisfactorily resolved and some degree of controversy remains. Because direct access to the Lake by all users is desirable, but no satisfactory fencing alignment has yet been fully provided by the Promoter or Proponent, the Corps provides this alternative, to best satisfy the conflicting demands to this portion of the Lakeshore, and is offered here for analysis.

Other Background Information for Lakeshore and Open Access Action Alternatives

Besides the fenced-off Lakeshore area which would be dedicated to this Festival, other exceptions to general, normal Park management include typical large special event management practices including:

- 1) Complete “through traffic” for the general public would be closed during the day, between Balboa Blvd. to the west and Woodley Ave. to the east. This roadway would be closed to prevent traffic jams in this single “through” roadway and in case of a need for emergency vehicle passage.

2) Parking for non-Festival Park patrons will remain as normal, as a first-come-first-served basis, but due to the above closure, there will be fewer total general parking spaces available in the Beilenson Lake area than as usual, where general vehicular access will be minimized to maintain a fire lane along the one through-way between Balboa Boulevard and Woodley Avenue. However, note that the proposed *Nowruz* general parking areas (Corn Maze and Overflow/Handicapped parking areas) are *additional* Festival parking areas not normally utilized during general Park activities. As an extra means to reduce parking congestion, the Promoter is also evaluating and will contract with a choice among two adjacent, large private lots as areas for additional *Nowruz* parking. A three-week, advance notice to the general public regarding the Event parking locations would be made available, by the Event organizer, in early March, 2013.

3) Traffic management would be led by Los Angeles City Street Services, in cooperation with the Promoter's Contractors for Parking. The Promoter will provide appropriate a final, approved contract from their Parking vendor to the City, to indicate adequate coverage in Parking/Traffic planning, prior to the start of this event.

Parking would be provided for over 3,000 cars, in addition to an off-site lot (mentioned above), with free shuttle service as indicated on the Public Notice attachment. Additional shuttle service will also be arranged at whichever offsite parking location is chosen by the Promoter. Use of the Orange Line Busway which terminates near Anthony C. Beilenson Park is also being encouraged as an alternative to use of vehicles. Signs indicating street parking, and/or street or other closures, will be posted during the week prior to the Event. All parking and traffic will be coordinated before and during the Event by Los Angeles Department of Transportation officers and supervisors, including motorcycle officers. Parking areas adjacent to sensitive environmental areas will be monitored and supervised and event-goers will be guided to established roads toward the Event, away from the sensitive areas. All temporary parking areas will be cleaned and shut down within 24-hours following close of the Event.

On-Site Action Alternatives considered and dismissed:

In earlier planning discussions, Woodley Park was considered as a potential location for this event. However, several factors, including ecological sensitivity of the nearby Wildlife Lake Management Area, indicated that the more spacious upper Lake Balboa area would be a more appropriate location and with temporary large event parking at a designated, approved area north of the Wildlife Lake. No other, alternate onsite areas within Sepulveda Dam Basin are being considered at this time, primarily because the Lake Balboa area is designed for the larger number of people to visit and engage in passive recreation of many kinds.

3.3 Offsite Alternatives

Alternatives considered and dismissed:

Hansen Dam Flood Control Basin, which is the second Corps' Basin under City recreation lease, is considered too distant for most Valley users to attend and also does not possess sufficient infrastructure for the proposed number of attendees.

One other sizeable City park in this metro region is Griffith Park. However, Griffith Park does not meet the needed criteria for open space and infrastructure.

No additional areas were identified as meeting the requisite size, open space, and proximity to water criteria.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND ANALYSIS

4.1 GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE

No unusual soils or geology are present at this site as the area requested for use is a landscaped area of the flood risk management project. The Event is held in an area with no special topographic features or soils.

Alternatives Analysis

Lakeshore Alternative

The impacts are consistent with large Park events in heavy-use areas. Some minor impacts to soils (compaction) associated with equipment setup and takedown, high foot traffic, and supervised vehicular use on turfed areas during move-in and tear down may be anticipated. Park and other City staff will provide logistical support. The park area would be restored to pre-Event conditions by close-of-business on April 1. There is no significant impact to these resources.

Open Access Alternative

There is no difference, between this and the Lakeshore alternative, in impacts to Geology and Soils resources.

No Action

Park use would continue as on average Easter Sunday. The Lake Balboa area would not be impacted by Festival traffic or additional park users.

Determination of Impacts

No significant adverse impacts to geology or soil resources are anticipated.

4.2 WATER RESOURCES

No stream flow or groundwater surface resources are present at this site although Lake Balboa is adjacent to Anthony C. Beilenson Park turfed areas. The Lake is not to be used except for viewing.

Alternatives Analysis

Lakeshore: This proposal includes no activities at or changes to surface- or groundwaters; the activity would occur at turfed areas with some activities near the lakeshore. The Lake itself will be off-limits to event-goers: no water contact and no impacts to water. No changes to the local water budget are anticipated.

The nearby Bull Creek Restoration Area is outside the Event area and will be available for all Park users, as usual, as well as fenced off from Festival-goers. Trash may not be disposed of in Lake Balboa. Park and other City staff will provide logistical support. The park area must be restored to pre-Event conditions by close of business, April 1. No additional mitigation measures are needed.

Open Access: There is no anticipated difference in impacts to this resource as compared with the Lakeshore alternative.

No Action

No more than minor impacts, if any, to water resources are anticipated from normal, Easter Sunday park use, absent a large special event (such as *Nowruz*) in north Lake Balboa parkland. Several thousands of people do attend the Park on weekends, including Easter, and this would be absent the expected 7,000 Festival attendees. Whether on weekdays, weekends, or holidays, each typical Park attendance level is within safe levels regarding impacts to water resources because City RAP manages its Park attendees to avoid impacts to water resources.

Determination of Impacts

No significant adverse impacts to water resources are anticipated.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

Presently, the local Encino auto traffic including the nearby 405 and 101 Freeways, provide auto exhaust/emissions during weekday and weekend commute/other trips; weekday commuting is far more intense an impact than during weekends and most other holidays. During weekday and weekends at the recreation areas, several thousand people and up to at least 1,000 vehicles, at minimum, may be present on any day.

Alternative Analysis

Lakeshore: The Event will require parking for up to approximately 4,000 vehicles. Special events such as this draw even larger crowds for which the City prepares at this large urban park. This Event is one of the 4 largest special events on the City's calendar. The Event would occur at a location within 2 miles of both the 405 and 101 freeways and with the nearest City streets of Victory and Balboa Boulevards. Event parking will be provided at the Corn Maze parking area as well as at the dirt, overflow parking area; most Festival-related parking needs can be satisfied at these lots and the Promoter will also contact 2 other, local nearby parking lots for additional spaces.

The Event would not appreciably affect local air quality conditions which are largely controlled by local freeway and Park/City baseline traffic activity. The Event Traffic Plan will be provided for public notification during the week prior to the Balboa Music Festival regarding street or parking closures and the locations of overflow parking. Shuttle service will be provided from the overflow parking areas and vehicle usage in the immediate area will be minimized.

The Site is adjacent to an MTA Busway station and Event media encourages use of any public transit. In combination with the Promoter's contracted staff, RAP and other City staff will provide logistical support. No additional mitigation measures are needed.

The Festival will feature three portable "restaurants" which will include several gasoline generators, and charcoal and/or butane grills, for food preparation. A number of self-contained food trucks will also be on site. Due to the temporary nature of the one-day event, there will be no significant impact to air quality. The one-day Festival will have negligible impact on climate change.

Open Access: There is no anticipated difference in impacts to this resource as compared with the Lakeshore alternative.

No Action

Conditions would be similar to baseline conditions.

Determination of Impacts

Local air quality impacts from adjacent freeway traffic is lower than during weekdays and non-holiday dates. The Park is utilized by several thousands of people each weekend regardless of special event or holidays. No significant adverse impacts to air quality are anticipated.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The area of the Proposed Event is a typical park/turfed landscaped area with annual grass turf and a variety of non-native shade trees. The area is not generally used by wildlife. There is some wildlife use, particularly by migratory birds and waterfowl, in adjacent areas and especially vegetated areas such as Bull Creek, the Los Angeles River, and Wildlife Management Area and Lake.

Within 0.5 miles southeast of Lake Balboa, several territories for the Federally-listed migratory bird, the least Bell's vireo, are known to exist along the Los Angeles River's north bank, in an area downstream of the proposed Festival grounds. No jurisdictionally special aquatic sites are located at the Event area. Nearby wetlands include areas at the adjacent Bull Creek and nearby Los Angeles River.

Alternative Analysis

Lakeshore:

Impacts to vegetation would be less than significant. Turf may be compacted by high foot traffic during the Event with temporary, limited, and supervised vehicular use during set up and tear down of the Event; however, this is normal for large events at Beilenson Park. Riparian vegetation (Bull Creek and the Los Angeles River) is nearby, but beyond the boundary of this Event, which would be fenced off from other Park areas. Activities would not occur in naturally-vegetated areas. The proponent must restore the area to pre-Event condition by close of business, April 1, 2013. No additional mitigation measures are needed. No impacts to wildlife are anticipated. Event attendees would be advised by the Event sponsor not to feed birds at the park or to throw things into the Lake.

Because of the proximity of the “Corn Maze” parking area to the Wildlife Reserve, physical barriers and/or personnel or signage would be used to ensure the Wildlife Reserve is not damaged by users of the “Corn Maze” area. No wetlands are found at the site proposed for the Music Festival. DPS and other LA City staff would be present to provide logistical support. No additional mitigation measures are needed.

Open Access: There is no anticipated difference in impacts to this resource as compared with the Lakeshore alternative.

No Action

Park use would be anticipated to include typical park activities, such as walking, picnicking, jogging, and playing. No more than minor impacts to vegetation are anticipated.

Determination of Impacts

No significant adverse effects to vegetation are anticipated. No significant adverse effects to listed species or their habitat are anticipated.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES:

No cultural resources are found above the ground surface at the Event location. Ground disturbance at this site is not anticipated.

Alternative Analysis

Lakeshore:

No cultural resources are found at the site proposed for the Music Festival. No additional mitigation measures are needed for this non-ground-invasive activity.

Open Access: There is no anticipated difference in impacts to this resource as compared with the Lakeshore alternative.

No Action:

No impacts have been identified where non-Event Park use occurs.

Determination of Impacts

No significant adverse effects to cultural resources are anticipated.

4.6 AESTHETIC QUALITY

Anthony C. Beilenson Park and Lake Balboa are significant visual resources within the Basin. Open water attracts people, as well as waterfowl, and makes the area a calm and serene setting.

Alternative Analysis

Lakeshore:

The north side of Lake Balboa is a focal point of the proposed Event. Aesthetic impacts are anticipated to be temporary with temporary facilities to support the Event located near the lake. Some fencing would be installed temporarily for traffic safety only. The Event would not impact

the area with excessive light as it would be held during daylight hours only. Noise would be anticipated to increase somewhat for the duration of the Event, but the City's noise ordinance (the same db level as the Corps') is maintained by Los Angeles City Fire Department. Noise levels would be in compliance with City of Los Angeles ordinances and with the Corps' Special Events Policies (no more than 100 dbl at 20 feet from the source). Park and other City staff will provide logistical support. No additional mitigation measures are needed.

Open Access: There is no anticipated difference in impacts to this resource as compared with the Lakeshore alternative.

No Action

No impacts to aesthetic resources would occur.

Determination of Impacts

There would be minor, but temporary impacts to aesthetic resources during the one-day event.

4.7 NOISE

The City of Los Angeles enforces the City noise level ordinance at all City Parks, from dawn to dusk, including at Sepulveda Dam Basin. The Event hours are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Event would officially end at 7 p.m. and be winding down at that time, to be enforced by City Fire Department.

Alternative Analysis

Lakeshore Alternative

Noise anticipated includes amplified sound from public speakers as well as musicians. The stage would be placed toward the south end of the event area, away from neighboring residential areas. Some minor impacts from noise may be experienced in adjacent areas of the park. City Fire Department will enforce the City noise ordinance and the Corps' Special Events Policy (not to exceed 100 dbl within 20 feet from source) as well as other safety parameters, in conjunction with Proponent. City and Proponent have met regularly to plan this Event. No additional mitigation measures are needed.

Open Access: There is no anticipated difference in impacts to this resource as compared with the Lakeshore alternative.

No Action

No noise impacts, other than on a normal Easter Sunday, would be anticipated.

Determination of Impacts

General noise levels in the immediate, north Beilenson Park area would increase during daylight hours, but would be temporary, managed by the Proponent, and be non-significant.

4.8 RECREATION RESOURCES

The location of the Proposed Event is the north side of Lake Balboa in the Anthony C. Beilenson Park. The area is generally used for picnicking, jogging, walking, and other passive recreation

activities. A certain number of local users enjoy circumnavigating Lake Balboa by way of the walking path, some of which is proposed here to be reserved for the *Nowruz* event.

In past public reviews of Sepulveda special events, many locals have stated that they enjoy living in a neighborhood where special events, as well as the basin itself, are available to them and that they consider much of these special cultural activities to be an amenity for their area. They have also stated that they appreciate efforts made to curb local traffic impacts, wherever possible, should such impacts result from Proponent-sponsored special events such as this, or other such, festivals or gatherings.

Alternative Analysis

Lakeshore: The use of the north lake area of Beilenson Park for the Event would restrict use by other general park users for the hours of the Event, 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on Sunday, March 31, and to a lesser degree during some portions of the set-up and take-down/cleanup period of one day before and afterwards. The City has communicated to the Event sponsor that in general, all non-Event areas of the park must remain open and unobstructed for public use. Parking for golf, the Model Airplane Field, and the Wildlife Lake Area would remain free and those area activities unchanged.

Traffic in areas for recreation users near Beilenson or Woodley Park may become congested although Event parking and management is to be designated and advertised for the Corn Maze location and other areas. With good traffic controls as planned, other Basin recreation areas would be little affected by the Event itself; temporary parking areas ('Corn Maze' or other areas) would again be closed within 24 hrs of the Event's end.

Open Access: This alternative would allow a presently unknown number of general Park users to be able to circumnavigate Lake Balboa during Festival hours (without the need to stop walking at one of two areas at the north Lakeshore as proposed by the Promoter). This is normal condition at Sepulveda Recreation Area.

There is no anticipated significant difference in impacts to this resource, as compared with the Lakeshore alternative, although some general Park use would be curtailed for some users in this restricted area.

No Action

There would be no additional impacts.

Determination of Impacts

In the case of large special events, especially on Easter Sunday, some impacts to general recreation resources may be both expected and be temporary.

While some non-Event park users, and even local residents who are driving on local City streets, may be temporarily affected by this large event, nearly all of the Sepulveda Recreation Area and adjacent City streets will still be available for both general and for special event usage.

The impacts are not significant.

4.9 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Human health and safety conditions are consistent with those of a large, relatively urban park. City agencies oversee and monitor safety issues at Sepulveda Dam Basin.

Alternative Analysis

Lakeshore:

Attendance of 7,000 attendees can result in some potential for dehydration/overheating, for basic medical needs, and other health and safety considerations consistent with a large event. Crimes of opportunity (pick-pocketing, etc) may also be possible at large events. Various forms of oversight for Safety, to address large crowd impacts, health and safety provisions, are as follows:

- Two First Aid stations will be available and general safety precautions will be enforced. (See Figure in Public Notice, above).
- Los Angeles City Fire Department and other City Safety agencies monitor Safety issues at Sepulveda Dam Basin generally and at special events in particular. Besides City staff, Event organizers would provide additional security and parking lot staff.
- Use of tobacco is enforced by City staff and regulations, as appropriate. A Hookah Lounge is proposed for one, restricted area.
- Two main entrances/exits are provided to allow safe entry and exit.
- Universal Access parking would be provided in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Open Access: There is no anticipated difference in impacts to this resource as compared with the Lakeshore alternative.

No Action

If the Corps did not approve the Event, the park would continue to be used by general users and policing would occur as usual.

Determination of Impacts

No significant adverse effects to Health and Safety are anticipated. This is because the City has been working with its staff and with the Promoter on all issues related to health and safety at large public events.

4.10 FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

The primary authorized purpose of the Sepulveda Dam Basin is flood risk management. The Event location is above the 50-year flood event inundation line.

Alternative Analysis

Lakeshore:

The Event would not generally be expected to affect flood control efforts/facilities, particularly because the proposed Event date falls during the springtime and near the end of flood season (Nov. 15-April 15) and also because the proposed event's location is located relatively high in the basin (above 50-year inundation line). In case of an extreme rain event, the City is notified by the Corps through a standard procedure and would then notify Park users including Event participants. The City is responsible for notifying the sponsor of evacuation requirements. Park and other City staff will provide logistical support. No additional mitigation measures are needed.

Open Access: There is no anticipated difference in impacts to this resource as compared with the Lakeshore alternative.

No Action

The Park would be operated as usual. No additional mitigation measures are needed to reduce significant adverse impacts to insignificance.

Determination of Impacts

No significant adverse effects to the flood risk management project are anticipated.

4.11 SOCIOECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The surrounding area has been developed for residential and commercial use, but development for residential use is prohibited within the Basin. Housing is not a factor in this recreation area or for this special event. No minority or low-income communities would be disproportionately affected by implementation of the Proposed Action.

Alternative Analysis

Lakeshore:

No new permanent jobs would be created, moved, or eliminated and there is no differential treatment proposed as a result of local socioeconomic conditions. There would be some additional time/labor, on the part of RAP and other City employees, which would be temporary. Those providing food, crafts and other retail booths at the Event would represent a temporary work force. No additional mitigation measures are needed.

Open Access: There is no anticipated difference in impacts to this resource as compared with the Lakeshore alternative.

No Action

In the case of no *Nowruz*, there would be no additional impacts. There is no anticipated impact to lower income and/or minority groups.

Determination of Impacts

There would be no impacts to environmental justice or other socioeconomic issues.

4.12 TRAFFIC and TRANSPORTATION

The Sepulveda Dam Basin is located in the northwest corner of the intersection of the San Diego (405) and the Ventura (101) Freeways. Local street access is by Balboa Blvd. on the west,

Burbank Blvd. to the south, Woodley Avenue to the east and Victory Blvd. to the north. The Orange Bus line runs between Victory Blvd. and the Park area. An access road runs from Woodley Avenue through the Anthony C. Beilenson Park to Balboa Blvd. with several accessible parking areas within the park. A parking lot is also located north of Woodley Golf Course and an overflow parking area is just north of the park access road, to the northeast of Anthony C. Beilenson Park.

Alternatives analysis

Lakeshore:

Although Event parking would be available on both sides of Woodley Avenue, some traffic congestion is likely to occur this day as a result of this event in addition to many families' plans to spend part of Easter Sunday at Sepulveda Basin.

Traffic impacts would include some temporary delays on roads in and around Sepulveda Dam Basin during the Event hours. Traffic for this Event will be handled by the Los Angeles City Departments of Transportation and of Street Services, in cooperation with Promoter staff. *To alert residents and park users of the upcoming Event, signs would be posted during the preceding week to alert local residents.* Free shuttles from parking areas will be provided; traffic will be handled by City DOT. Parking areas next to sensitive environmental areas will be bounded by barricades, rope, and/or orange tape and any such temporary parking areas will again be closed within 24 hours following close of the event. As there are approximately 4,000 parking spaces needed, at least 10% or 400 parking spaces would be reserved for Universal Access parking, as shown on Figures in the Public Notice, above.

The Event will require parking for up to approximately 4,000 vehicles. Special events such as this draw even larger crowds for which the City prepares at this large urban park. This Event is one of the 4 largest special events on the City's calendar. The Event would occur at a location within 2 miles of both the 405 and 101 freeways and with the nearest City streets of Victory and Balboa Blvds. Event parking will be provided at the Corn Maze parking area as well as at the dirt, overflow parking area; most Festival-related parking needs can be satisfied at these lots and the Promoter will also contact 2 other, local nearby parking lots for additional spaces.

The Event Traffic Plan will be provided for public notification during the week prior to the Persian Festival regarding street or parking closures and the locations of overflow parking. Shuttle service will be provided from the overflow parking areas and vehicle usage in the immediate area will be minimized.

All Park patrons may use any open City parking area as needed, to enter the Park on this day although as on busy holidays, parking may become limited later in the day. Golf course parking lots will be monitored in favor maintaining adequate spaces for golfing visitors. The Site is adjacent to an MTA Busway station and Event media encourages use of any public transit. In combination with the Promoter's contracted staff, RAP and other City staff will provide logistical support. No additional mitigation measures are needed.

Open Access: There is no anticipated difference in impacts to this resource as compared with the Lakeshore alternative.

No Action

Park use would not be anticipated to result in additional traffic impacts. Existing parking is generally considered to be sufficient for general park users.

Determination of Impacts

Impacts to local traffic would be temporary and minor in nature. Traffic will be managed in agreement by the Promoter and Proponent, and be limited to the day of the Event.

4.13 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

NEPA documents “should compare the cumulative effects of multiple actions with appropriate national, regional, state, or community goals to determine whether the total effect is significant” (CEQ 1997). The Environmental Assessment references various uses in the Basin while also specifying the narrow range of activities at the Event location.

- Past – what impacts have past projects had on the surrounding resources
- Present – what impact would the proposed action have on existing resources?
- Future – will the proposed action contribute to the degradation of the environment?

a. PAST In previous years, a number of mostly 1-day special events have been held at the south side of Lake Balboa within the Anthony C. Beilenson Park within the Sepulveda Dam Basin Recreation Area which is leased by the Corps of Engineers to the Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks. The Balboa Music Festival is one of the 4 largest annual events programmed by LA City recreation planners.

Recreation has been a part of the basin’s approved activities following construction of the Dam in 1941. In the interim, many Basin improvements have been made for the local recreational public. The Sepulveda Dam Flood Control Basin and its internal and surrounding areas have been the location of a number of civil works projects including a variety of developments within the Basin as well as externally, adjacent to the Basin. Internal developments include the construction of numerous recreation projects by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and the Corps, including Lake Balboa, the Sepulveda Dam Basin Wildlife Lake, the Bull Creek Restoration project, various ball-fields and other recreation-based initiatives as well as the Donald C. Tillman Wastewater Reclamation Plant, several military Reserve unit locations, and a variety of other developments including roadways. The Sepulveda Dam Basin is also bordered by major thoroughfares; the 405 and 101 Freeways as well as Victory, Balboa, and White Oak Boulevards and the local, neighborhood of Encino, California.

b. PRESENT Approximately 12 to 18 large (over-1,000 person) events are held at Sepulveda Dam Basin each year, with four of these events averaging over 10,000 attendees. The majority of special events occur at Woodley Park, with a smaller number and the largest events occurring at Anthony C. Beilenson Park. Similarly-sized events average one to two days, with additional short periods of set-up and take-down/restoration of the areas. Maximum time for set up and tear down is not to exceed 48 hours. These events reduce opportunities for recreational

activities by general park users for temporary periods with associated temporary impacts. These special events tend to occur on weekends, as with the present proposal. The Proponent of these special events (Los Angeles City RAP) continues to practice and to incorporate new lessons for appropriate management of Sepulveda basinlands, throughout the year.

Other impacts within Sepulveda Dam Basin recently include restoration projects and additional recreational development. These projects temporarily displace park users. Most recently the Bull Creek Restoration project was implemented during 2008 and 2009. At present, the opening of a new Sports Complex on the west side of Balboa Boulevard has occurred. Also, a new vegetation management project was recently initiated on Corps Operations-managed lands on the south side of Burbank Boulevard. The surrounding Encino area is largely built to completion.

c. FUTURE The Corps will continue to review special event proposals and anticipates that the number of special events annually will remain roughly the same. The Corps will continue to examine resource needs and conflicts in the area.

Several proposed, small sports areas, now being utilized as agricultural lease areas may be developed by the City of Los Angeles in the lower Sepulveda Dam Basin, although these have not yet been approved nor designed.

This subject special event will not add to adverse cumulative effects at the Sepulveda Dam Basin because if conducted and supervised as described, no adverse effects to the environment are foreseen.

5.0 APPLICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The dEA fulfills the requirements of NEPA and other pertinent laws and regulations discussed below.

5.1.1 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance

NEPA is the nation's primary charter for protection of the environment. It establishes national environmental policy which provides a framework for Federal agencies to minimize environmental damage and requires Federal agencies to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of their proposed actions. Under NEPA, a Federal agency must prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) describing the environmental effects of any proposed action having a significant impact on the environment. The EA must identify measures necessary to avoid or minimize adverse impacts resulting from the proposed action or determine if further analysis is required and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This Event is in compliance with the Act.

5.1.2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661)

This Act requires Federal agencies to coordinate with the USFWS and local and state agencies when any stream or body of water is proposed to be modified. The intent is to give fish and wildlife conservation equal consideration with other purposes of water resources development

projects. The proposed Event would not involve modification of a body of water, therefore, formal coordination and preparation of a Coordination Act Report is not required.

5.1.3 Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Public Law 93-205), as amended.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) protects threatened and endangered species, as listed by the USFWS, from unauthorized take, and directs Federal agencies to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of such species. Section 7 of the Act defines Federal agency responsibilities for consultation with the USFWS. The Act requires preparation of a Biological Assessment to address the effects on listed and proposed species of a project. Due to the disturbed, park like landscape of the proposed location, there would be no impacts to listed or proposed species. This Event would be in compliance with the Act.

5.1.4 Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act prohibits the taking or harming of any migratory bird, its eggs, nests, or young without an appropriate Federal permit. Almost all native birds are covered by this Act and any bird listed in wildlife treaties between the United States and several countries, including Great Britain, Mexican States, Japan, and countries once part of the former Soviet Socialist Republics. A “migratory bird” includes the living bird, any parts of the bird, its nests or eggs. The take of all migratory birds is governed by the MBTA’s regulation of taking migratory birds for educational, scientific, and recreational purposes and requiring harvest to be limited to levels that prevent over-utilization. Section 704 of the MBTA states that the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and directed to determine if, and by what means, the take of migratory birds should be allowed and to adopt suitable regulations permitting and governing take. Disturbance of the nest of a migratory bird requires a permit issued by the USFWS pursuant to Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). This Event would be in compliance with the Act.

5.1.5 Clean Water Act

Section 404 (b) prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill materials into the waters of the United States, including wetlands, except as permitted under separate regulations by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Waters of the U.S.: Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Corps regulates discharges of dredged or fill material into “Waters of the United States”, including wetlands. “Waters of the United States” is defined in 33 CFR 328.3 as

- All waters which are currently used, or were used in the past or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce;
- All interstate waters including interstate wetlands;
- All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams, (including intermittent streams), the use, degradation or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce;
- All impoundment of waters otherwise defined as Waters of the U. S. under the definition; and

- Tributaries of waters, defined above.

The Corps does not require or issue itself permits although nation-wide permits may be applied to Corps projects and thus considered when addressing compliance under Section 404 (b) (1). Pursuant to 40 CFR Section 230.10, for all waters of the U.S. only the Least environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) can be permitted. The proposed Event does not involve discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the US, therefore a 404 (b)(1) permit is not required.

For the same reason, the Event does not require State Water Quality Certification under Section 401 of the Act. The Event would not require a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System under Section 402 of the Act. This Event is in compliance with the Act.

5.1.6 Clean Air Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.)

1977 Amendments to the Clean Air Act enacted legislation to control seven toxic air pollutants. USEPA adopted National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), which has been designed to control Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAP) emissions to prevent adverse health effects in humans.

1990 Amendments to the Clean Air Act determine the attainment and maintenance of NAAQS (Title I), motor vehicles and reformulation (Title II), hazardous air pollutant (Title III), acid deposition (Title IV), operating permits (Titles V), stratospheric ozone protection (Title VI), and enforcement (Title VII).

General Conformity. Under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) of 1990, the Lead Agency is required to make a determination of whether the Proposed Action “conforms” to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Conformity is defined in Section 176(c) of the CAAA as compliance with the SIPs purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the NAAQS and achieving expeditious attainment of such standards. However, if the total direct and indirect emissions from the Proposed Action are below the General Conformity Rule “*de minimis*” emission thresholds, the Proposed Action would be exempt from performing a comprehensive Air Quality Conformity Analysis, and would be considered to be in conformity with the SIP.

The proposed Event would not have a significant impact on air quality. The total emissions of each criteria pollutant either meets or is below *de minimis* levels as prescribed in 40 CFR 93.153(b). The action is not considered to be regionally significant. Although there would be an increase in vehicle use, it would be temporary for one day in duration and emissions are expected to be minimal and below the *de minimis* thresholds and thus would not violate National or state standards. As a result, the proposed Event would have no long-term impacts on local or regional air quality.

Therefore, this proposed Event conforms to the Federal Clean Air Act as amended 1990 and, as required. This Event is in compliance with the Act.

5.1.7 Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended (42 USC 4901 et seq.)

Noise generated by any activity, which may affect human health or welfare on Federal, state, county, local, or private lands, must comply with noise limits specified in the Noise Control Act. The Corps has determined that, by complying with the Corps' Special Events Policy to minimize impacts during the Event, the Event is in compliance with the Act.

5.1.8 National Historic Preservation Act (Public Law 89-665; 16 U.S.C. 470- 470m, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 460b, 470l-470n)

The Proposed Event is in compliance with Section 106 of this Act, as implemented by 36 CFR 800. The Proposed Event would not impact cultural resources

5.1.9 Archeological Resources Protection Act, as amended

The Act requires oversight when cultural resources may be impacted when working on Federal lands or in case of other, work-related Federal connections. The Act allows for the preservation of historical and archeological data (including relics and specimens) which might otherwise be irreparably lost or destroyed. The Event is in compliance with the Act because it is not anticipated that buried or other cultural resources will be affected by the Event.

5.1.10 Uniform Fire Code

The Uniform Fire Code (UFC) contains provisions regarding the storage and handling of hazardous materials. These provisions are contained in Articles 79 and 80, most recently revised in 1997 (UFC 1997). These articles contain minimum setback requirements for storage of materials. The proposed Event would be in compliance with the act.

5.1.11 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) provides the USEPA with the authority to identify and clean up contaminated hazardous waste sites. Individual states may implement hazardous waste programs under RCRA with USEPA approval. California has not yet received this USEPA approval; instead, the California Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL) is administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CALEPA) to regulate hazardous wastes. While the HWCL is generally more stringent than RCRA, until the USEPA approves the California program, both the state and Federal laws apply in California. CERCLA also contains enforcement provisions for the identification of liable parties. It details the legal claims that arise under the statute, and provides guidance on settlements with the USEPA. Section 120 of this Act addresses hazardous waste cleanups at Federal facilities, and requires the creation of a Federal Agency Hazardous Waste Compliance Docket, which lists facilities that have the potential for hazardous waste problems. In addition, a Hazardous Substance Superfund was established to pay not only the USEPA cleanup and enforcement costs and certain natural resource damages, but also to pay for certain claims of private parties. Conformance with this law would only be engaged if unforeseen waste

was found or was abandoned on site. The Event is in compliance with this Act because no such CERCLA substances are involved with or locally stored due to the Event's activities.

5.1.12 National Flood Insurance Program

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Flood Insurance Administration. The flood control capacity of the Basin would not be impacted by the proposed Event and therefore there would be no impact to NFIP users.

5.1.13 Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965, as amended

This Act requires that any Federal water project must give full consideration to opportunities afforded by the project for outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement. The Proposed Event would be temporary in nature and normal park use would resume within 48-hours, per the Corps' Special Events Policy.

5.1.14 Federal Land Policy and Land Management Act of 1976 (43 USC 1701 et seq.)

The Act regulates management of the public lands and their various resource values so that resources are utilized in a combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people. The proposed Event would provide recreation and cultural opportunities to the public, therefore meeting the intent of the Act.

5.1.15 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (42 USC 126, et seq.)

The Act prohibits public entities, defined as any state or local government, or division thereof, from excluding any individual with a disability from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity. A "qualified individual with a disability" is an individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable modifications to rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services or the participation in programs or activities provided by a public entity. By providing the appropriate number of Universal Access (UA) parking spaces, by having the appropriate number of UA "porta-potties" available, and in other ways making the Event accessible, the Event would be in compliance with the Act.

5.1.16 Executive Order 11988: Floodplain Management

Executive Order 11988, signed by President Jimmy Carter on 24 May 1977, and published in 42 FR 26351. Its purpose is to "...avoid to the extent possible the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative."

Each agency shall provide leadership, take action to reduce the risk of flood loss, and to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare. Agencies shall restore and preserve natural and beneficial values served by the floodplains. Each agency also has the responsibility to evaluate potential effects of Federal action that may be made within floodplains. Each agency will ensure planning and budget requests reflect consideration of flood hazards and floodplain management. This Event would not adversely impact floodplain management or add to excessive floodplain development, because this recreational Event to be located in the large-event Beilenson Park recreation area is anticipated by planners as appropriate usage for the area.

5.1.17 Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards

The head of each Executive agency is responsible for ensuring that all necessary actions are taken for the prevention, control, and abatement of environmental pollution with respect to Federal facilities and activities under control of the agency. Enactment of environmental commitments to minimize pollution impacts during the Event would meet the standards of this Act.

5.1.18 Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations) was signed on February 11, 1994. This order was intended to direct Federal agencies “To make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing... disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the [U.S.]...”

No minority or low-income communities would be disproportionately affected by implementation of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is in compliance with the Executive Order.

6. PREPARERS

This document has been prepared by Louis Loomis of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and has been reviewed by Civil Works Branch (Asset Management Division) staff of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District.

7. SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND OF ALTERNATIVES

The Proposed alternative, for the Corps to allow LA City RAP to approve the Event under the City’s Recreation lease, has been conditioned by a series of measures designed to mitigate adverse impacts to the human environment, as required by NEPA.

Avoidance and minimization measures have been described in appropriate environmental impact sections (Section IV). The measures were provided by the City and Event organizers to reduce and to avoid significant adverse effects resulting from a festival of this size being held within Sepulveda Basin.

As mentioned earlier, measures will be taken in continued planning sessions by Promoter and by Recreation and Parks and Department of Transportation groups, as well as Los Angeles Police and Fire Departments, to provide the necessary plans for Traffic and Parking, as well as to monitor noise effects during the Event. Shuttle buses and off-site parking, as well as some reliance on and advertising with respect to use of public transportation, has occurred. Regular planning meetings have continually provided the needs assessment to successfully plan for reducing impacts for this event.

8. AGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC REVIEW

City agencies were consulted and did provide information for the preparation of this EA. Corps Planning, Asset Management, and Counsel staff provided feedback to this document. A notice of preparation for this Environmental Assessment was to be issued between February 22 and March 9, 2013, and posted at the Corps website for over 15 days, as well as at the City's website, with posters posted within the Sepulveda Recreation area, and to select neighborhood organizations.

9 Public Involvement, Coordination, and Consultation

9.1 *Project Delivery Team*

The Corps' Project Delivery Team for review of this Proposal is composed of a variety of Corps specialists from different backgrounds, including such staff as recreation planner, landscape architect, biologist, and real estate specialist in conjunction with City staff. Other specialists, including staff managers and Office of Counsel, may also provide consultation as needed during such reviews. In addition, Corps staff members coordinate with a variety of other agencies including representative Federal, State, or local agencies, as needed.

9.2 *Agency Coordination*

Other than the specific Los Angeles City agencies which are being coordinated among Los Angeles Recreation and Parks's lead in coordinating the proposed event with the Promoter, no additional, external agencies were consulted or will be noticed. City agencies which are participating in interagency meetings and planning for a role in the event include: Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Los Angeles Street Services, Los Angeles Police Department and Public Safety staff, and Los Angeles Fire Department.

9.3 *Public Involvement*

Public involvement is a process by which interested parties and affected individuals, organizations, and government agencies (Federal, state, and local), are consulted and included in

the decision-making process of a planning effort. The NEPA among other Federal laws and regulations mandates public involvement.

Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
312 N. Spring St. Suite 1748
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
11111 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Honorable Brad Sherman
House of Representatives
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Tony Cardenas
City of Los Angeles
Council Member District 7
City Hall Office
200 N. Spring Street, Room 455
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Encino-Tarzana Branch Library
18231 Ventura Boulevard
Tarzana, CA 91356

Sherman Oaks Branch Library
14245 Moorpark Street
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

Local Neighborhood Councils –
Reseda, Lake Balboa, Encino, Van Nuys, and Sherman Oaks neighborhood councils at,
respectively, at:

rnc@resedacouncil.org; board@lakebalboanc.org; info@encinocouncil.org and
ENC@socal.rr.com ; vannuysnc@gmail.com; and jbarad@roadrunner.com

In addition, the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Lake Management Area Steering Committee is notified by email to two sitting members at: glennbaileysfv@yahoo.com, akotin@earthlink.net

A more complete email notification list which will be utilized is also available, upon request.

DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Nowruz Festival/Persian New Year
Sunday, March 31, 2013
in the
Sepulveda Flood Control Basin
Los Angeles County, California

I have reviewed the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) which was prepared to describe and analyze effects of the annual Persian New Year Nowruz Festival and for Corps review and approval of the City of Los Angeles' Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) proposal to permit the Festival. The Nowruz Festival is proposed to be held on Saturday, March 30, 2013, at the recreation area north of Lake Balboa in Anthony C. Beilenson Park within the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin. The Festival is a one-day Event that will host approximately 7,000 individuals and up to approximately 4,000 vehicles and will primarily feature family gathering and picnicking, with a water-related observation at the Lake Balboa shoreline. The Event's cleanup is planned to be completed by close of business on April 1, 2013.

Supplement Number 4 to the recreation lease, DACW09-1-67-11, granted by the Corps to the City, reserves the right to the District Engineer, Los Angeles District, to approve special events that will have an anticipated attendance in excess of 5,000 people. The current Sepulveda Dam Master Plan, in addition to certain conditions which have been stipulated, also allows events of this scope to be held in this portion of the basin.

The proposed Festival will temporarily affect recreation at Sepulveda Basin as it will affect such recreation management issues as trash generation, noise, and traffic/parking in several Basin areas. RAP has committed that all other Basin areas will remain accessible to the general public and including the recreation trail around Lake Balboa just south of the Festival. Free parking for general recreation will be preserved. The City Department of Transportation and Event Coordinator are finalizing a Traffic and Parking Plan for this event which includes use of off-site parking, shuttle buses between parking and Event, and use of public transportation. Noise, Parking, Traffic, and any other safety issues will be regulated in accordance with the Corps' Special Events Policy and with the City's regulations and regulating agencies. Noise is anticipated to increase in the basin temporarily due to the number of attendees and amplification of music at a stage. Periodic interagency coordination meetings have been held at the City's Sepulveda Basin offices between January and March, 2013. A Public Notice was to be circulated during February 22 and March 9, 2013.

In response to comments and event input received during the public review period of the draft FONSI and supporting EA, the following commitments have been included:

Corps staff will attend the Event and note any issues and conflicts with the Special Events Policy and this EA;

An after Event meeting shall be held between the Corps, the City RAP, and the Event Sponsor to resolve any issues identified by each party;

A final fee schedule for goods and services at the Event shall be submitted within 30-days of the close of the Event; and

A final cost analysis identifying all fees collected and all expenses shall be prepared by the Event sponsor and submitted to the Corps within 30 days of the close of the Event.

Consideration of all the significant factors and all pertinent environmental legislation, in addition to comments and coordination with concerned agencies as discussed in the EA, indicate that the proposed action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment nor would there be significant adverse environmental effects to the human environment. The Proposed Event, with the incorporation of the measures identified above and in this EA, is in compliance with all applicable Federal laws, Executive Orders and applicable Corps' policies. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required, pursuant to 33 CFR 230.11.

Prepared by:

Carvel Bass
Ecologist, Civil Works Branch
Asset Management Division

Date

Approval Recommended by:

Theresa M. Kaplan
Chief, Asset Management Division

Date

Approval by:

R. Mark Toy, P.E.
Colonel, US Army
Commander and District Engineer

Date