

**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
for proposed activities on Corps-managed Federal land**

Noruz - Persian New Year Festival

Proposed Date: Sunday, March 30, 2014

Proponent: City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks

Location: Beilenson Park at Lake Balboa

**Sepulveda Recreation Area,
Sepulveda Flood Control Basin**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
for proposed activities on Corps-managed Federal land

Project Name: Noruz - Persian New Year Festival
Proposed Date: March 30, 2014
Proponent: City of Los Angeles, Recreation and Parks
Location: Beilenson Park/Lake Balboa at Sepulveda Flood Control Basin Recreation Area
County: Los Angeles County

I. Project Authority, Purpose and Scope

a. PROJECT AUTHORITY

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to the specific authority granted by Congress in 16 USC 460d, 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 Basin to the City of Los Angeles 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 1,000 people.

b. PURPOSE AND NEED

The Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (City), the primary recreational facility operator and lessee at Sepulveda Basin, submitted a request to the Corps for approval of a special event. Organizers of the Persian *Nowruz* Festival have requested use of parkland at Beilenson Park near Lake Balboa for this annual festival. The City seeks concurrence from the Corps for approval the proposed festival, which would be held on March, 2014.

This event has been staged at Sepulveda Recreation Area during the past nine years. The purpose of the proposed activity is to provide a Persian Festival to serve up to approximately 15,000 attendees within the southern San Fernando Valley. The festival has a water-based theme and the Persian, as well as the greater Los Angeles, communities have enjoyed water features at Sepulveda Recreation Area.

The Corps will consider and evaluate the City's request for concurrence on the proposed festival, which is a cultural event deemed important by the City of Los Angeles.

c. SCOPE OF ANALYSIS

This Environmental Assessment analyzes likely effects of the proposal by comparing a No Action Alternative, with the Proposed Action which would consider permitting a 1-day cultural recreation event to occur on the Federal land of the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin which is leased to Los Angeles City by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This analysis is offered to the interested public to solicit input on the project and has been made available for review and public input for 15 days.

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

can be issued. The public comment period will be the fifteen (15) days following the Notice of Preparation of March 7, 2014 (thus, posted comments would be postmarked during 7-22 March, 2014). Comments received will be addressed in the Final EA.

II. ALTERNATIVES

a. No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, The Corps would not provide approval to the City under the terms of the Lease.

The requested cultural event, *Nowruz*, would not be held at the Beilenson Park/Lake Balboa area which is one of the City's two primary designated large event areas at Sepulveda Recreation Area.

This would not meet the project purpose under the City's recreation lease with the Corps. However, it is carried forward in the EA for comparison purposes.

b. Onsite

The proposed onsite alternative is presented in detail in Section III of this document, as the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would result in use of the *upper Beilenson Park* area and of several parking areas during the one-day festival. The event would restrict upper Beilenson Park's large open area from general use by the public, and includes the area north of Lake Balboa, and also 2 associated parking areas (overflow dirt lot area east of City administrative buildings; and the Corn Maze parking area, near Woodley Park).

Alternatives considered and dismissed:

At Sepulveda Recreation Area, designated areas within *Beilenson Park and Woodley Park* are the City's sole large-scale event areas, and thus no additional, alternative onsite areas within Sepulveda Basin were considered by the City during the past several years. Additional information is provided in Section III of this EA, and in the *Sepulveda Recreation Area Master Plan* (2011).

Within Sepulveda Basin, *Woodley Park* is often utilized for the large events with attendance over 1,000 individuals and approximately a dozen such events are held here each year. Woodley Park is east of Beilenson Park and a lake (the 'Wildlife Lake' at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Management Area), with walking paths available to users, is also present.

Because Woodley Park has been used in the past by Persian Festival proponents, *Woodley Park* was offered to the Event organizers but the current Festival proponent expressed no desire to use Woodley Park this year. However, the adjacent 'Corn Maze' parking area will be used by the Festival attendees for this event, as has occurred in the past.

c. Offsite

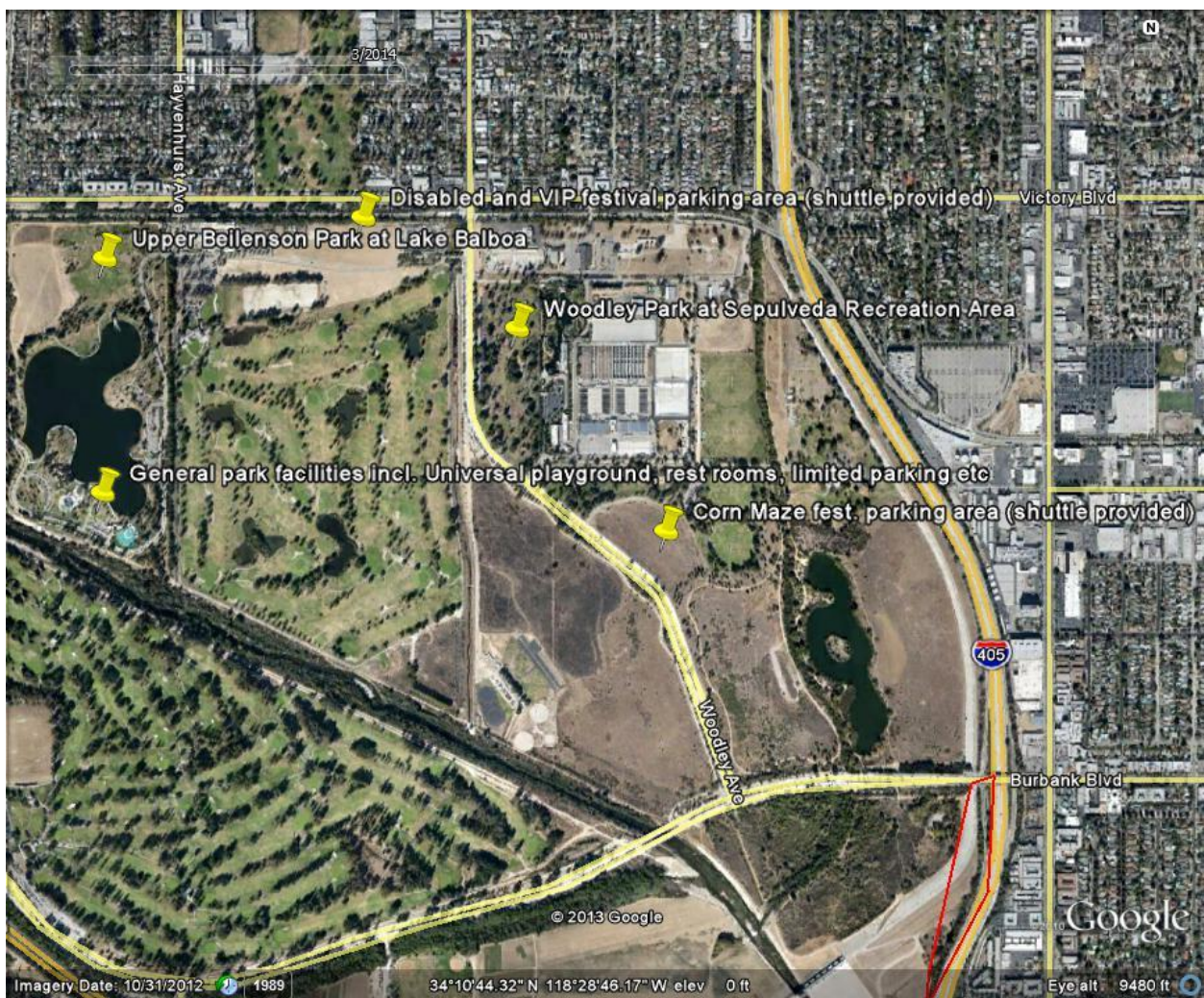
Other alternative locations were considered by the Proponent, but dismissed:

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

Pierce College, which is located approximately 3.5 miles from the Sepulveda Recreation Area, has been used for Persian festival events in the past as recently as October 2013.

Other sizeable parks in the San Fernando Valley metro region include *Griffith Park* (also operated by the City Recreation and Parks) and *Topanga State Park*.

According to the Proponent, sites within these park areas do not meet the needed criteria, and no other areas were identified meeting the needed criteria.



III. PROPOSED ACTION

The annual, one-day Noruz Festival celebrates the Persian New Year. Up to approximately 10,000 or more people and 3,000-4,000 vehicles may be expected. The Event will include

music, arts, crafts, displays, and food, with all such activities stressing Persian/Iranian culture and history. The City of Los Angeles Fire Department provides oversight for Public Safety at this event.

Event organizers would charge \$10 for entry and no charge for parking which is planned to be available at two on-site and at up to 2 additional off-site parking areas. Parking at two temporary off-site parking areas, for up to approximately 4,500 spaces and with free shuttle service provided by festival promoters, will be provided at nearby locations which have been mentioned as potential off-site parking areas. Use of the Orange Line Busway which terminates near Beilenson Park is also being encouraged as an alternative to use of vehicles.

The City and Event organizers will notice parking areas, and/or street or other closures, during the week prior to the Sunday event and will be coordinated before and during the event by Los Angeles Department of Transportation officers and supervisors, including motorcycle officers. Parking areas next to sensitive environmental areas will be bounded by barricades, rope, and/or orange tape. Any such temporary parking or other Event areas will again be open for general park use within 24 hours following close of the event.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

N = Not present or No Impact will occur.

Y = Impacts may occur (if yes, explain in detail under Potential Impacts).

IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT		
DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE AND BASELINE CONDITION	POTENTIAL DIRECT AND INDIRECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES	SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACTS
<p>1. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No unusual soils or geology are present at this site as the area requested for use is a concrete feature of a flood risk management project. - The event is held at turfed areas with no special features or soils 	<p>Proposed Action: 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 vehicular use on turfed areas may be anticipated. Park and other City staff will provide logistical support. The park area must be restored to –pre-event conditions by close of business April 4.</p> <p>No Action: Park use would continue as on average April Sundays. Lake Balboa area is not negatively impacted significantly by park user foot traffic.</p>	<p>No significant adverse impact to geology or soil resources.</p>

<p>2. WATER Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No streamflow or groundwater surface resources are present at this site although Lake Balboa is adjacent to Beilenson Park turfed areas. 	<p>Proposed Action: This proposal includes no activities at or changes to surface- or groundwaters; the activity would occur at turfed areas. The Lake itself will be off-limits to event-goers: no water contact and no impact to water. No changes to the local water budget are anticipated. The adjacent Bull Creek Restoration Area will be available for all Park users as usual. 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 4. No additional mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>No action: No more than minor impacts to water resources are anticipated from normal park use and this is not significantly adverse.</p>	<p>No significant adverse impacts to water resources.</p>
<p>3. AIR QUALITY:</p> <p>Presently, the local Encino auto traffic including the nearby 405 and 101 Freeways, provide auto exhaust/emissions during both weekday commute and weekend commute/other trips. During both weekday and weekends at the recreation areas, several thousand people and up to at least 1000 vehicles, at minimum, may be present on any day.</p>	<p>Proposed Action: The Event will have on-site parking for up to approximately 3,000 vehicles and offsite parking for more. Special events such as this draw large crowds for which the City prepares at this large urban park. <i>This event</i> is one of the 4 largest special events on the City calendar. The activity would occur at a location within 1.5 miles of both the 405 and 101 freeways, at City streets nearest Victory/Balboa Blvd.</p> <p>The event would not appreciably affect local air quality conditions which are</p>	<p>No significant adverse impacts to air quality.</p>

	<p>largely controlled by local freeway and Park/City baseline traffic activity. The event Traffic Plan provided for public notification during the week ahead of Nowruz as to street or parking closures and location of overflow parking. Shuttle service will be provided from overflow parking areas and vehicle usage in the immediate area will be minimized. All Park patrons may use any City parking area or shuttle as needed, to enter the Park on this day. The Site is adjacent to an MTA Busway station and event media encourages use of any public transit. Park and other City staff will provide logistical support. No additional mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>No action: Conditions would be similar to baseline conditions and are not significantly adverse.</p>	
<p>4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:</p> <p>The site is a landscaped, turfed Park with shade trees</p>	<p>Proposed Action: Impacts to vegetation would not be considered significant. Turf may be compacted by high foot traffic and temporary vehicular use on grassy areas. Riparian vegetation (Bull Creek and Los Angeles River) is nearby but beyond the bounds of this event, which is blocked off from other Park areas.. Activities will not occur in naturally-vegetated areas. Park and other City staff will provide logistical support. The proponent must restore the area to pre-event condition by close of business, April 2nd.</p> <p>No additional mitigation measures are needed.</p>	<p>No significant adverse effects to vegetation.</p>

	<p>No Action: Park use is anticipated to include typical park activities, such as walking, picnicking, jogging, and playing. No more than minor, and insignificant, impacts to vegetation are anticipated.</p>	
<p>5. WILDLIFE: Is there substantial use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish?</p> <p>The lakeside turfed area, with shade trees, is not used significantly by wildlife at this location. In adjacent areas and especially vegetated areas such as Bull Creek and LA River, some wildlife and particularly birds, do maintain a presence.</p>	<p>Proposed Action: No impacts to wildlife are anticipated. Park and other City staff (Dept. of Public Safety /DPS) will provide logistical support to include maintenance of event boundaries and general oversight. Event attendees are advised by the event sponsor not to feed birds at the park. Because of the proximity of the Corn Maze parking area to the Wildlife Reserve, physical barriers and/or personnel may be used to ensure the Wildlife Reserve is not damaged by users of the Corn Maze area. No additional mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>No Action – During normal park use, wildlife areas are monitored by City staff and local parties to insure no significant impacts to wildlife or their habitat.</p>	<p>No significant adverse effects to vegetation and other natural resources.</p>
<p>6. THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES:</p> <p>Within 0.5 mile SE of Lake Balboa during April-August exist known territories for the Federally-listed bird, the least Bell's vireo.</p>	<p>Proposed Action: No such species are anticipated at or near the proposed <i>Nowruz</i> site, which does not offer habitat elements for this species. The wildlife reserve will be divided from the Corn Maze parking area, noted above. No additional mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>No Action: no impacts are identified. No significant impacts as a general rule from normal park use in the subject areas.</p>	<p>No significant adverse effects to listed species or their habitat.</p>

<p>7. WETLANDS:</p> <p>No jurisdictionally special aquatic sites are located at the Festival area. Nearby wetlands include areas at the adjacent Bull Creek and nearby Los Angeles River.</p>	<p>Proposed Action: No wetlands are found at the site proposed for the Naruz Festival. DPS and other LA City staff will be present for oversight. No additional mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>No Action -</p>	<p>No significant adverse effects to wetlands.</p>
<p>8. CULTURAL RESOURCES:</p> <p>No cultural resources are found above the ground surface at the proposed location. Ground disturbance at this site is not anticipated.</p>	<p>Proposed Action: No cultural resources are found at the site proposed for the Nowruz Festival. No additional mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>No action: no impacts identified and no significant impacts likely during normal park use.</p>	<p>No significant adverse effects to cultural resources.</p>
<p>9. AESTHETICS:</p> <p>Lake Balboa is a significantly noticeable topographic feature</p>	<p>Proposed Action: Lake Balboa is a focal point of the proposed Festival but would remain open to all park users. Aesthetic impacts are anticipated to be temporary only, with fencing and temporary facilities near the lake. The Festival would not impact this Lake with excessive noise or light. Noise would be anticipated to increase somewhat for the duration of the event, but the City's noise ordinance is maintained by Los Angeles City Fire Department. Park and other City staff will provide logistical support. No additional mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>No action: No significant aesthetic impacts identified during normal park use as the City manages park grounds in a pleasing and practical manner.</p>	<p>No significant adverse effect to aesthetics.</p>

<p>10. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:</p>	<p>Proposed Action: The proposal would not result in loss of limited local resources. Impacts would be temporary in nature. Similar impacts occur approximately four times a year for four large special events generally held in the park. The upper walking trail around Lake Balboa will be available to general Park users, but the lower trail and Rest Room facilities will be within the marked-off area and unavailable to general public. Portable restrooms including ADA restrooms will be available and the locations will be signed during days prior to the Festival. Parking and shuttle service is provided on this day to all Event users to access the Event area. See general Mitigation Measures at end of this document.</p> <p>No Action – Significant impacts to special resources is not a normal issue at this recreation Area. No such impacts.</p>	<p>No significant adverse effect to these resources.</p>
<p>11. WATERS/NAVIGABLE WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES:</p> <p>As with the Wetlands parameter, the use of waters of the US, or the addition of fill to such waters, is not a part of this event’s project description. There are no jurisdictional waters at the Festival site to be used by the public.</p>	<p>Proposed Action: Park and other City staff will provide logistical support. No additional mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>No Action - Park staff monitors activities in Park’s waters as normal course of management. No such impacts.</p>	<p>No significant adverse effects to ‘waters’ or its statutes.</p>
<p>12. NOISE:</p> <p>Noise levels at City of Los Angeles enforces the City noise level ordinance at all City Parks, from dawn to dusk, including at Sepulveda Basin. The event hours are from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. The event is to officially end at 7 p.m. and be winding down at that time, to be enforced by City Fire Department.</p>	<p>Proposed Action: Noise anticipated includes amplified sound from public speakers as well as musicians. Some minor impacts from noise may be experienced in adjacent areas of the park. City Fire Department will enforce the</p>	<p>No significant adverse noise impacts.</p>

	<p>City noise ordinance as well as Safety parameters, in conjunction with Proponent. City and Proponent have met regularly to plan this event. No additional mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>No Action – No significant noise impacts occur during normal course of Park management.</p>	
<p>13. IMPACTS TO EXISTING FEDERAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT:</p> <p>The Sepulveda Basin has as its primary purpose flood risk management. The exact event location is a lakeside area at a relatively high elevation within Sepulveda Basin which is controlled for flood risk by the Sepulveda Dam, a flood risk management project feature.</p>	<p>Proposed Action: The event would not be expected to affect flood control efforts or facilities. In case of an extreme rain event, the City is notified by Corps through a standard procedure. 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 to avoid impacting flood risk management efforts or facilities.</p> <p>No Action – The Basin is managed to avoid significant impacts to flood risk management.</p>	<p>No significant adverse effects to flood risk management project.</p>
<p>14. IMPACTS ON OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:</p> <p>There are no other known studies, plans, or projects on this tract. Neither dam nor flood risk management studies are presently underway for this feature.</p>	<p>Proposed Action: No mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>No Action – Environmental resources are typically monitored for their conservation during normal park management with no significant impacts reported as a general rule.</p>	<p>No significant adverse effects are expected.</p>
DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCE AND BASELINE CONDITION	[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES	
<p>15. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:</p> <p>Human health and safety conditions are</p>	<p>Proposed Action: Attendance of 10,000 or more attendees will result in</p>	<p>No significant adverse</p>

<p>consistent with a large, relatively urban park. City agencies oversee and monitor safety issues at Sepulveda.</p>	<p>a potential for overheating, basic medical needs, and other health and safety considerations consistent with a large event. Crimes of opportunity such as pickpocketing are also possible at large events, although none have been brought to the Corps' attention at past large events. To address large crowd impacts, health and safety provisions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -First Aid will be available and safety precautions enforced. A medical clinic will be sited in one of the Beilenson parking lots. -Los Angeles City Fire Department and other City Safety agencies monitor Safety issues at Sepulveda Basin generally and at this event in particular. Besides City staff, Festival organizers provide security staff and parking lot attendees. -Use of tobacco or alcohol is enforced by City staff as appropriate. - Two main entrances/exits are provided to allow safe entry and exit. <p>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, with no significant impacts to safety.</p>	<p>effects to Health and Safety.</p>
<p>16. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:</p> <p>No such activities are anticipated to these parameters, from this one-day cultural event.</p>	<p>Proposed Action: There is no effect to such activities or production. No additional mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>No Action – No such significant impacts.</p>	<p>No significant adverse effect to these parameters.</p>
<p>17. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:</p> <p>The proposed Park use would provide</p>	<p>Proposed Action: In general, jobs would not be created, moved, or eliminated. No additional</p>	<p>No significant adverse</p>

<p>temporary employment for Proponent staff as well as additional work for City Park staff. Local commerce will be positively affected in that concessionaires will provide goods and services at the event.</p>	<p>mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>No Action – Los Angeles City management at the Park is a stable management system with few immediate changes in quality and distribution of employment, resulting in no significant impacts to this parameter.</p>	<p>effects would result.</p>
<p>18. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:</p> <p>The subject Lake Balboa/Beilenson Park is an outdoor recreation area leased by City of LA for Recreation. Parts of the basin are generally designated for conserving natural processes and resources. Sensitive areas are generally provided with barriers or signage in contrast with other recreation areas. The Wildlife Reserve is to the east of the site and near one temporary parking area.</p>	<p>Proposed Action: The use of the Beilenson Park area for the event will restrict use by other general park users for the hours of the event, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Sunday, April 3. The southern portion of the trail around Lake Balboa will be inaccessible during that time. The City has communicated to the permittee that the non-fenced areas of the park must remain open and unobstructed from public use. Because of the size of the event, some parking areas will be unavailable without paying the \$5 fee. Although some naturally vegetated areas exist upstream of the Spillway, no wilderness areas are nearby. Nearby recreational areas would not be affected by the activity and any newly opened parking area ('Corn Maze area') will be closed within 24 hrs of the event's end. Additional mitigation measures are not needed.</p> <p>No Action – The City monitors these sensitive areas so that there is no significant impact to such resources.</p>	<p>While some non-Event park users will be temporarily affected by this large event, the park is provided for both general and special cultural event usage. Impacts are temporary and do not rise to the level of significance.</p>

<p>19. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:</p> <p>The surrounding area has been developed for residential and commercial use but additional development for residential use is prohibited within the Basin. Housing is not a factor in this recreation area or for this special event.</p>	<p>Proposed Action: The temporary nature of the proposed use will result in no effect to housing or population. No additional mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>No Action – Park usage results in no significant impact to local housing etc.</p>	<p>No significant adverse effects to population etc.</p>
<p>20. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:</p> <p>Traffic is consistent with an urban park adjacent to two major freeways and several residential areas.</p>	<p>Proposed Action: Traffic impacts would include delays on roads in and around Sepulveda basin during the event hours. Traffic for this event will be handled, by LA City Department of Transportation. Traffic impacts are temporary. To alert residents and park users of the upcoming event. The streets are to be Signed 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.</p> <p>No additional mitigation measures are needed.</p> <p>No action: Absent the Persian Festival, park use would be anticipated to result in normal traffic impacts and management needs. Existing parking is generally more than sufficient for general park users.</p>	<p>No significant adverse impacts to traffic.</p>

V. 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 subject Spillway location. What “cumulative impacts” would the proposed action have? What is the incremental impact?

- 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?

PAST - The Sepulveda Flood Control Basin is bordered by major thoroughfares such as the 405 and 101 Freeways as well as Victory, Balboa, and White Oak Boulevards which serve the local, populous neighborhoods which border the basin on 4 sides.

Sepulveda Basin and its internal and surrounding areas has been the location of a number of past and present civil works construction projects, including a variety of developments within the Basin, as well as external, high development environment in areas 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 Corps of Engineers, including Lake Balboa, the Sepulveda 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. An MTA busway traverses the north Basin.

In the past each year, a number of mostly 1-day special events have been held at the present location (Beilenson Park) within the Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area which is leased by the Corps of Engineers to Los Angeles City Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP). Recreation became a part of the basin’s approved activities following the Dam’s construction in 1941 and in the interim, many Basin improvements have been made for the local recreational public.

The Noruz event is one of the 4 largest annual events which has been regularly programmed, at either Woodley or Beilenson Park areas, by LA City recreation planners.

- a. **PRESENT** – Approximately 12 to 18 large (greater-than-1,000 persons but usually fewer-than-5,000 person) events are held at Sepulveda 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 occurring at Beilenson Park. Typical events average one to two days, with additional short periods of set-up and take-down/restoration of the areas. These events reduce opportunity for recreational activities by general park users for temporary periods with associated temporary impacts. These special events tend to occur on weekends.

Other impacts at Sepulveda recently and currently include restoration projects and additional recreational development. These projects may temporarily displace

park users. Most recently at the Sepulveda Basin and mentioned above, the Bull Creek Restoration project was implemented between 2008-2009. Construction on a new Sports Complex near Balboa Boulevard is largely completed with some use of that newly developed recreation area. A Park and Ride location, off Victory Boulevard in the upper Basin, was recently re-surfaced with some remodeling. The surrounding Encino area is largely built to completion.

The Corps has updated (2011) its Sepulveda Basin Master Plan (from 1981) to reflect current trends by local populations at this location. In this master plan update process, large Special Events as Nowruz are being considered in light of current trends, user needs, and values.

- b. **FUTURE** - The Corps will continue to review special event proposals and anticipates that the number of special events annually will remain roughly the same. Construction work is continuing to develop capabilities at the Basin's (northeast corner) Tillman Water Reclamation Plant. The Corps continues to examine resource needs and conflicts in the area and as mentioned earlier has just completed a new master plan (2011) to help guide future development and activities at Sepulveda Recreation Area.

Several proposed, small sports areas, now being utilized in agricultural lease, may be developed by City of Los Angeles in the lower Sepulveda Basin although these have not yet been designed. This subject, special event is not likely to not add to adverse cumulative effects at the Sepulveda Basin because if conducted and supervised as described, no adverse effects to the environment are foreseen.

VI. SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES OF THE PROPOSED ACTION. THE NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE IS NOT DISCUSSED:

Mitigation measures include those for parking, traffic, recreational access, restroom facilities, and site restoration, as discussed below in Substantive Issues from Past Special Events, Section VIII, below.

Los Angeles City RAP and other agency staff will be onsite at all times to ensure that there are no impacts to any Corps structures or resources.

VII. AGENCY COORDINATION

A notice of preparation for this Environmental Assessment was issued on 4 March, 2011 and was open until 22 March, 2011. Corps and City staff provided information for and reviewed this draft Environmental Assessment, which notice was listed at the Corps and City website.

VIII. SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES FROM PAST SPECIAL EVENT REVIEWS

Issues raised in earlier years have been addressed in current event planning sessions (EA Section given for reference)

Traffic problems (Sections III, IV)

Parking Issues including parking fee (Sections III, IV)

No Smoking Allowed (Section IV)
No Trash in sensitive areas including no sprouted plants put into lake (Sections III, IV)
Non-recreational event which detracts from recreational Park users (Section I)
Non-event participants being unavailable to use Park facilities (Sections III, IV)
Public notification procedures for this event (Sections I, VII)
Parking fees and other impacts to local Park users (Section III)
Impacts including noise impacts (Section III)
Use of 'corn maze' area for overflow parking (Sections III, IV)
Adequate inspection by City Health Department staff (Section III)
'Over-use' of City staff to host events (Sections III, IV)

Commentary responses are as follows:

1. Traffic problems. Response: The Corps recognizes that a large event poses traffic concerns for park users (event attendees and general park users) and for neighboring residents. The Corps has communicated to the City the need that a traffic plan be developed for any large special event. Parking areas with shuttle service to the gate entrances are intended to relieve some of the traffic pressures. Use of public transportation is also encouraged.
2. Vendors selling items. Response: The City addresses sales at events through its agreement with the event sponsor.
3. Parking restrictions, areas, and fees. Response: (1) Any parking restrictions will be temporary. Two Basin parking areas, including the Administrative Overflow Parking and parking at the Corn Maze site, will be utilized for event parking with shuttle service available for Festival attendees. (2) The event promoter shall post signage indicating directions to Event parking areas. (3) The use of a temporary parking in the Corn Maze field near the Wildlife Reserve shall be clearly separated from the Wildlife Reserve Areas. The Corps has discussed the concerns with the City, and physical barriers and/or personnel will be used to ensure that cars do not enter the wildlife reserve from the Corn Maze temporary parking area. (4) An overall parking plan will be overseen for public safety concerns by LAPD/LAFD and OPS. Use of the designated event parking areas is encouraged through proximity to the event and through provision of shuttle service directly from the parking areas to the event. The Event is also accessible via the Orange Line and other public transportation.
4. Smoking. Response: The City is in charge of enforcing its smoking ordinances regarding possible Hookah Lounge or electronic tobacco smoking.
5. Trash and plants in lake. Response: The Corps agrees that no trash and discarded vegetative material should be placed in Lake Balboa. Trash facilities are provided for at the event. The City has communicated trash restrictions to the event proponent.
6. Allowing large public events on land that designated is for recreational purposes. Response: Some special events are considered to be consistent with the recreational and public park purposes for which the area is leased. This festival is one of a few large special events held each year that result in limitations on use of the Lake Balboa area for a limited period (one day in the proposed action). Other special events are more commonly held at Woodley Park.
7. Restriction on access to Universal Playground. Response: The Universal Playground and other recreation facilities south of Lake Balboa at Beilenson Park will be available for all users including Event and non-Event users, as is consistent with park use under the recreation lease.

8. Monitoring of event. Response: The Corps will not have official monitors on site during the event. However, the Corps will discuss the event and any related concerns with the City in its April meeting. Any specific concerns noted at the time of the event may be provided via email or letter to the Corps for the Corps' information.
9. Public notice of event and EA preparation. Response: The Corps and City will each post notice to the public and during a 15-day public comment period, at their respective websites and in standard locations. The City and Corps make effort to improve the public notice process and are open to suggestions on possible improvements. Comments received during the comment period for this draft EA will be evaluated and responded to in the Final EA.
10. Past event impacts. Response: The concerns that have been expressed in the past are general in nature but have been considered in planning this year's event, and information related to the subject areas is included in the impacts analysis of the EA.
11. "Unrestricted use" of the park by special event participants. Response: Any approval by the City and Corps for a public festival proponent to use Beilenson Park at Lake Balboa includes certain restrictions on activities, as outlined in this EA and in the City's agreement with the festival proponent. Other areas of Sepulveda basin remain accessible and open to non-attendees of the event.
12. Food provided at the event and lack of food inspection. Response: The City has verified that the City Health Services inspects food provided at the event.
13. Parking planning. Response: The Corps evaluates the adequacy of parking as part of its evaluation process in this EA. Temporary overflow parking is commonly used for an event of this size, but impacts are minimized by limiting use of these areas to special events only. The City has evaluated parking needs and has worked with proponent to provide adequate parking and shuttle service from both on- and off-site parking locations.
14. Safety and crowd management. Response: The Corps communicates to the City the need to ensure adequate security and policing commensurate with a large group of up to 15,000 or more people. Staffing decisions for the LAPD are made by the LAPD. Policing events with large attendance at public areas is part of regular police duties.

IX. APPLICABLE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

For each of the following, please provide a brief description of any consultation efforts made, and the results of those consultation efforts. Any supporting documents are included in Appendices.

a. Endangered Species Act (ESA): The proposed action is in compliance with the ESA. Endangered Species are not anticipated being located in the Beilenson Park area or in adjacent, event-related areas. No consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service is required.

b. Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA): The proposed action is in compliance with the MBTA in that implementation of the proposed project would avoid potential impacts to migratory birds. The Wildlife Reserve is adjacent to, but different from, the Corn Maze area.

c. Section 404 of the CWA. The proposed action is in compliance with the Section 404 of the CWA. No jurisdictional waters will be affected by the Proposed Action.

d Section 401 of the CWA. As above, the proposed action is in compliance with the Section 401 of the CWA because no such waters will be affected. A 401 permit is not required for this action.

e. Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The proposed action is in compliance with the CZMA in that the project area is outside of the coastal Zone.

f. Section 176(C) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) General Conformity Rule Review. The proposed action is in compliance with the CAA due to insignificant impacts, from a small number of vehicles, to local air quality.

g. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The proposed action is in compliance the NHPA. The proposed activity has been reviewed by the Corps Los Angeles District's Chief Archaeologist and has determined that implementation of the project has no potential to affect cultural resources.

i. Other applicable federal laws/regulations: With the incorporation of mitigation measures the proposed project would be in compliance with applicable federal laws and regulations that apply to the project area.

X. REFERENCES (if applicable)

Sepulveda Basin Recreation Master Plan, (US Army Corps of Engineers, 2011).

XI. Additional Information

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 Impact (FONSI) can be issued.

The public comment period will be the fifteen (15) days following the Notice of Preparation of March 7, 2014 (thus, any comments would be postmarked during 7-22 March, 2014) and will be addressed in the Final EA.