

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This is to inform the general public that the United States Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District (Corps) has preliminarily determined that the following project proposal could be adequately evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) through conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA).

**Proposal Title**            **DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
for Proposed Special Event Activities on Corps-managed land  
at Whittier Narrows Recreation Areas A and B**

**Proponent**                **County of Los Angeles  
Department of Parks and Recreation**

**Proposed Implementation Date**    **March, 2013**

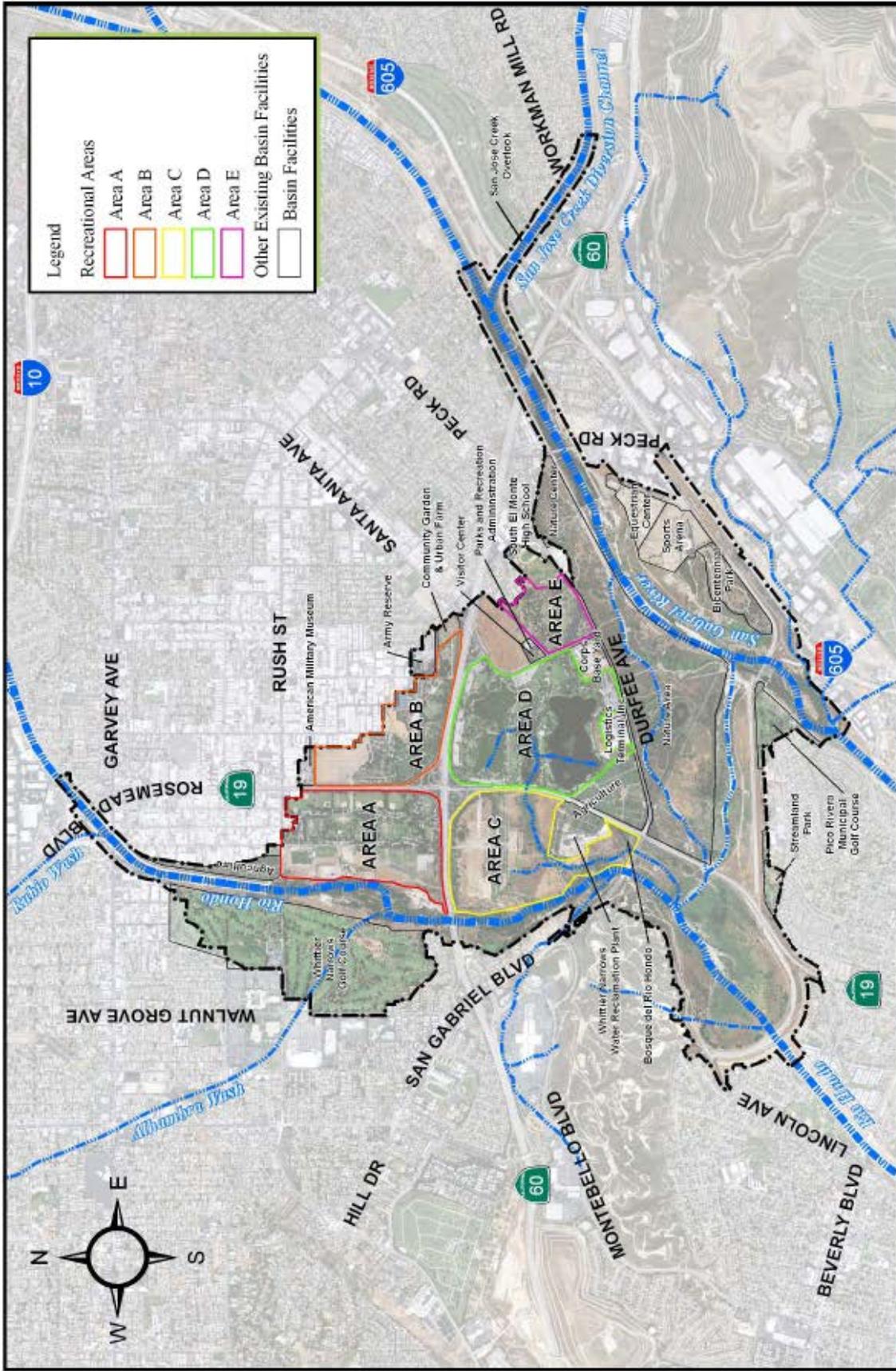
**Proposed Federal Action**            **County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation would  
exercise its Recreation Outgrant from the US Army  
Corps of Engineers.**

This proposal is for a two multi-year concession agreements to manage historic special events at Whittier Narrows Basin in Areas A and B of the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. The events feature cultural ceremonies, carnival rides, live entertainment, informational booths, food and beverage booths, vendor booths and etc. The Corps has reviewed these Special Events for several years.

**Location**                            The location is Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. The location is dirt and turfed special event area north of I-60 freeway. A map showing event activity locations is provided.

**Public Involvement**            The Corps is inviting the general public to submit comments on potential environmental impacts 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 17 January-19 February, 2013.** Please direct your comments or questions to Carvel Bass, US Army Corps of Engineers at 213 452 3392 or at [carvel.h.bass@usace.army.mil](mailto:carvel.h.bass@usace.army.mil) or by mail at 915 Wilshire Boulevard, Ste. 11098, Los Angeles, CA, 90017. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Carvel Bass, Ecologist, Asset Management Division at (213) 452-3392.

The Corps will actively consider any comments timely received. The results of this consideration would be reflected in a memorandum for record placed in the Administrative Record, unless consideration of the comments was reflected directly in the EA, either through a modification of the document prompted by the comments or an appendix to the EA articulating responses to the comments. Once the EA is complete and if a FONSI is determined to be appropriate based upon the analysis contained in the EA, pursuant to the last cause of 33 CFR § 230.11, a separate notification will be sent to concerned agencies, organizations and to the interested 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 environmental review process.



**Whittier Narrows Dam Basin  
Existing Recreation**

Data Source: Corps 2010  
Aerial Source: NAIP 2009



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

**Whittier Narrows Recreation Area:  
Operation by Los Angeles County of Special Events in Areas A/B**

**Proposed Implementation Period:  
January 2013-2017/2027**

**Proponent:  
County of Los Angeles,  
Department of Parks and Recreation**

**Location:  
Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, Areas A and B  
San Gabriel Flood Control Basin  
South El Monte, California  
Los Angeles County**

**January 2013**

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**U.S.ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**Whittier Narrows Recreation Area: Operation by Los Angeles County of Special Events in Areas A/B  
Whittier Narrows Dam and Basin  
South El Monte, CA**

I have reviewed the attached Final Environmental Assessment (EA) which was prepared to describe and analyze effects should the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) approve the County of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation proposal (County) to permit use of the leased Areas A and B at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area for several types of historically scheduled annual special events which will continue to be requested in future years. The County, which is the master recreation lessee at Whittier Narrows Basin, has routinely and successfully permitted such special events as those described here, at the specific locations of Areas A and B which are the designated large events areas as described in the Corps Whittier Narrows Master Plan (2011). Park areas adjacent to sensitive environmental areas are excluded from these event footprints, but all County-leased recreation and wildlife viewing areas remain open and accessible to the public. Events are considered here because each may individually meet at least one threshold level for some critical parameter (size or duration) as outlined in the Whittier Narrows Special Event Policy (Corps Master Plan, 2011).

The County is now requesting approval for the use of a Special Event concession agreement with term limits, to facilitate long-range planning for continued management of two groups of these annual events. This EA analyzes the County proposal to issue a Special Event permit to concessionaires for these two types and, in addition, analyzes effects of a third group which consists of several smaller annual events at Areas A/B which may also need environmental review. In each case, these events have been reviewed, approved, and held at Areas A/B for many years. While some differences exist, the three types of proposed events share comparable to lesser environmental effects, and any differences are shown to be insignificant, not substantive, and primarily reflect only difference in the proposed term limit for each of the two proposed permits. Assessment for this EA/FONSI was based on determination of the maximum level of environmental impact anticipated to occur from any such event, including due to the proposed cumulative term limit(s). The events are listed below and more fully described in the attached EA.

The Cinco de Mayo and the Fiestas Patrias are two (2) one-day events with a proposed concessionaire term of three (3) years (January 2013-December 2015) with an additional proposed option of up to two (2) additional consecutive one-year terms (through 2017). The County's Spring and Fall Fairs are each 2-week events with low weekday attendance and higher attendance during each of two weekends, with a proposed concessionaire term of 10 years (through 2022) and an option for a 5-year additional term (through 2027). In addition, several smaller annual events or types of events which do not require long-term concession agreement are also included in this EA/FONSI for the term of 2013-2017 should they meet similar size or duration thresholds; examples include Truck Show Job Fair and Buddha's Birthday, among others traditionally held at these locations. For all such events, fees for admission and parking vary and are described in the EA, but range by event from admission of free to \$5-8 per person admission, and free to up to \$15 per car parking fee. These smaller events would be reviewed through 2017 which is the proposed length of term for the smaller of the two concession proposals (Cinco de Mayo/Fiestas Patrias). Appendix B of this EA provides a draft 2013 proposed special event calendar as provided by the County for planning purposes.

The purpose of the EA was to determine whether the request for approval of the County's proposal to utilize a multi-year special events permit for large events, and to provide advance review for smaller annual events at the same location for the same period, would result in significant environmental impacts requiring development of an Environmental Impact Statement. The No-Action Alternative was evaluated in the EA, as required by NEPA. A notice to the public that the Corps is considering approval of the proposal to utilize a Special events permittee to operate the event(s) was circulated 18 January-22 February, 2013, and \_\_\_ *letters of comment were received from the public.*

Resources identified as potentially temporarily affected by the Proposed Action include recreation/access, noise, and traffic/parking. The special event Areas A/B is restricted from general public use for the event's duration so that activities which generally occur at these areas, including picnicking and general park use, would not occur here during the annual event, although all other Basin recreation areas remain open to the public. All clean-up would be required to be completed by a specified period related to the end of each Event or Event day. Noise is anticipated to increase in the basin temporarily, due to amplification of music or speakers during certain events, but the noise is localized within the

large recreation areas, and during daytime hours. Sound speakers are directed away from residential areas, and County noise ordinance would be followed. While the particular special event does and would bring traffic to Basin recreation areas, the County utilizes a parking plan in the subject areas to address traffic and parking logistics.

Although no temporary, significant adverse impacts were identified, avoidance and minimization measures as listed in the EA are expected to reduce to insignificance any adverse impacts associated with the proposed action. The proposal does not contribute significantly to cumulative or other impacts.

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. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required, pursuant to 33 CFR 230.11.

Prepared by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approval Recommended by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Theresa M. Kaplan  
Chief, Asset Management Division

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approval by:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

**Proposal Name:** Whittier Narrows Recreation Area: Operation by Los Angeles County of Special Events in Areas A/B

**Proposed Implementation Period:** Various: 2013-2017; 2013-2027; other annual events 2013- 2017.

**Proponent:** County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation

**Location:** Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, South El Monte, CA  
Area A – Event and Parking  
Area B – Event and/or Parking only

**County:** Los Angeles County, CA

**I. PROJECT AUTHORITY, PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

**a. Authority**

Whittier Narrows Flood Control Dam (Project) was authorized pursuant to the Flood Control Act (FCA) of 1941 (Public Law (P.L.) 77-228). The project purpose is to provide flood risk management, initially referred to as flood control, to communities along the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo downstream of the Basin; other activities that may occur within the Basin must not impede or compromise the primary project purpose of flood risk management.

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 Whittier Narrows Basin, which refers to the lands acquired by the federal government to support the Project, to the County of Los Angeles for recreational and park purposes. Pursuant to the terms of the lease, the County is required to request written approval from the Corps for any development proposals within the leased premises. The Corps is required to evaluate development proposals in accordance with applicable federal laws, regulations and policies.

**b. Purpose and Need**

The County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation (County) is the primary recreational facility operator and lessee, administering the recreation outgrant at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area to provide recreation opportunities to the general public. Under this recreation lease from the Corps, the County provides a range of recreation opportunities to the general public. To provide effective analysis and planning for these familiar, but near-future, uses of Areas A/B under the existing outgrant, the County proposes use of a longer-term Special Events agreement/concessionaire for each of the two largest pairs of Events and for such review to occur in one, programmatic document rather than in annually-repeated documents, because of a significant savings in administrative time and expense needed to preview, review, and approve these predictable, annual events. In addition, several similar, known, predictable smaller annual events, but *not* anticipated to be managed by a particular concessionaire, are also included in this analysis, for the same reasons of efficiency.

### **c. Scope of Analysis**

This draft EA analyzes potential effects of the proposed Operation by comparing a No-Action Alternative with the Proposed Action, which would provide approval to the County for the proposed Operation as described of a Cinco de Mayo/Fiestas Patrias, and for a Spring/Fall Fair concession and for other future special events of similar or lesser scope at the Whittier Narrows Recreation Areas A/B.

No other alternatives, such as shorter concession terms, are analyzed here because only these specific concession terms are presently being analyzed and under discussion, based on County recreation planning objectives and constraints.

This analysis is offered to the interested public to solicit input on the project and will be made available for review and public input for 30 days. Comments received from the public in the thirty (30) days following the Notice of Preparation will be addressed prior to determining whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required and if a Finding of No Significant (FONSI) can be issued.

## **II. ALTERNATIVES**

**a. No Action** – Under the No Action alternative, the Corps would not provide its approval to the County for Special Events permitting for the four named special events or for other events of lesser scope. The County would continue to review each special event on an individual basis. However, because of additional required paperwork effort needed to review these annual events, each of known scope, the No-Action alternative does not meet the County's need, but is carried forward to comply with requirements of NEPA.

### **b. Onsite Alternative: Operation to provide for large special events at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area**

The County has submitted a request to the Corps, for environmental analysis and approval, of the use (Operation) of a Cinco de Mayo/Fiestas Patrias concession agreement which would precede a concessionaire agreement to hold these two annual events at Areas A and B where they have been held for many years. Approval would allow the County permittee to conduct concession services for Cinco de Mayo/Fiestas Patrias celebrations for a period of a three-(3-)year term with up to two (2) additional one-(1-)year terms, to include the total period from 2013-2017. Areas proposed for the Operation are currently used throughout the year for these events as well as for other special events and for picnics, family gatherings, sports activities, and for general recreational activities. These two named events, as well as other smaller events, have occurred at the Basin's Areas A and B for many years on an annual basis. This term would run from 2013 through 2015, with option until 2016 and/or 2017

In addition, the County requests one ten-(10-)year term with a five-(5-)year option for a second concessionaire agreement for the historic, annual Spring/Fall Fairs to be held at Area B; therefore this term request is also being analyzed in this EA. This term would run from 2013 through 2022, with option to 2027.

Finally, because Areas A/B have historically been and continue to be used under the County's lease for other, smaller annual recreation events which meet the same Purpose and Need and are governed by the same guidelines (*Whittier Narrows Recreation Master Plan*, 2011, Appendix 5), then this document also considers advance review for future County requests for these other predictable, future recreation events of similar or lesser scope and within the same areas and timeframe. A sample, recent draft calendar of the total list of events anticipated is included in Appendix B. Per the Corps Whittier Narrows Master Plan (2011), most of these events do not rise to the level of needing environmental assessment-level or other focused review because they are smaller in scope or duration and already accommodated under the County's recreation outgrant. Thus,

while Cinco de Mayo, Fiestas Patrias, and the Spring/Fall Fair events are the largest events regularly held at Areas A/B, other smaller such community events will continue being requested, reviewed, approved, and held as well. This EA anticipates and analyzes impacts for these additional smaller events if any would meet or exceed such environmental thresh-holds as those described above for the large events, during the timeframe of up to five (5) years, from January 2013-December 2017 as in the Cinco de Mayo/Fiestas Patrias proposal's timeline.

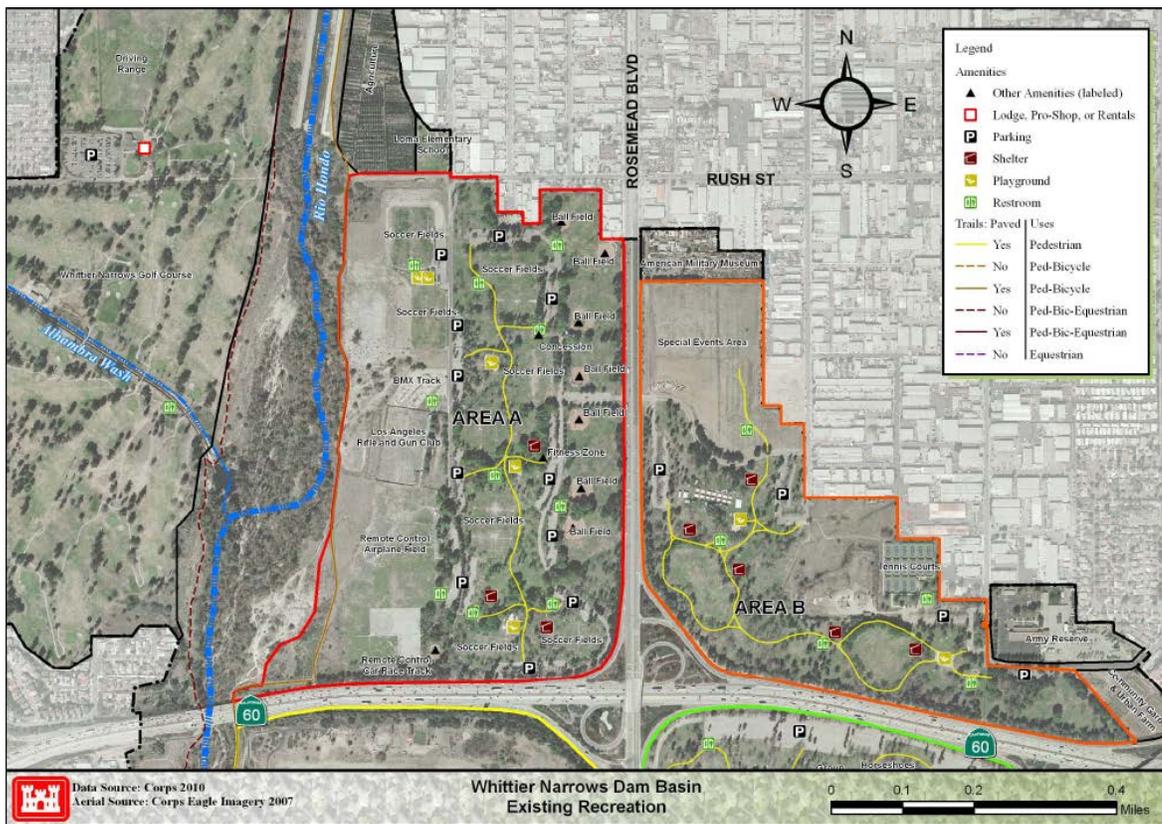
The above thus previews all such existing, foreseeable annual events which would meet thresh-hold requirements, as described in the 2011 Corps master plan, and require preparation of an Environmental Assessment, and also anticipates and includes the implied, comparable analysis of environmental effects of smaller special events. Thus, all historically scheduled special events currently held at Areas A/B whose size or duration parameters meet those of the largest events, as described here, are covered for a minimum term of up to five years from present, or until December, 2017.

**1.** The Operation as proposed is sited at Areas A and B, north of the (I-60) Pomona freeway and east/west of Rosemead Boulevard. Parking is allowed at the existing parking areas of Areas A and B. The location is considered appropriate by County park managers and both Cinco de Mayo and Fiestas Patrias events have taken place at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area for the past 18 consecutive years. In addition, because many such similar recreation events in Areas A/B have been requested, reviewed, approved, and concluded in past years, then the review of future similar- or smaller-sized events at this location will also be considered at this time, in anticipation of such continuing future County recreation requests which meet the same County outgrant parameters.

**2.** *Other than Areas A and B, no alternative Onsite areas within Whittier Narrows Basin are being considered* in this document because only the Operation as described (use of Areas A/B) provide the necessary open space and other facilities required, per the Corps Master Plan (2011) and County's past experience and practices providing these events to the public. Areas A/B are the largest and most appropriate open space areas within the County's Whittier Narrows outgrant, having been developed specifically for such large-event activities and as described in the 2011 Master Plan and Section III of this EA. No other area within the Basin would meet the current Project Purpose and Need to manage such large events as those proposed here.

### **III. PROPOSED ACTION WITH SITE MAP**

A The two proposed annual special events would feature live entertainment, promotional booths, food and beverage booths (including 3 beer gardens), souvenir booths, outreach/informational booths, and etc. The Cinco de Mayo Celebration event anticipates approximately 25,000-40,000 (25k-40k) people in attendance and 3,000-4,000 vehicles and the Fiestas Patrias event anticipates approximately 40,000-60,000 (40k-60k) people in attendance and 4,500-5,750 vehicles. Estimated attendance and number of vehicles would be approximately the same each year as defined by County event management practices at this location. Admission would be free to the public and the vendor would charge \$15 per vehicle for parking. Other events which have occurred, and which may be requested within this timeframe, include similar (/lesser) numbers of participant and fees metrics. The County proposes to administer concession services at the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area Areas A and B, for a period of a three-year term and with up to two (2) additional one-year terms. The areas proposed for this operation have been permitted and operated for these and for many recreational activities of the same or lesser scope.



The Cinco de Mayo Celebration traditionally commences operations for one (1) day on the first Sunday in May. Fiestas Patrias Celebration traditionally commences operations for one (1) day on the second Sunday in September. The hours of operation of the May and September Events shall be on Sundays from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, rain or shine.

These events have been held at the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area for the past 18 consecutive years. Both events feature live entertainment, promotional booths, food and beverage booths (including 3 beer gardens), souvenir booths, outreach/informational booths, and etc. Use of public transportation to the events would be advertised as in past years, as have event parking and traffic management been designed to avoid vehicle backup, traffic jams, and to reducing idling. Safety precautions would continue to be enforced as required by the Fire Department and Local Law Enforcement. Appropriately-sized disabled parking will be provided in areas immediately adjacent to the event.

The County and vendor would utilize a minimum of five (5) and no more than six (6) authorized set-up days prior to the start of the Cinco de Mayo and Fiestas Patrias celebrations. Take-down and removal of all equipment and temporary structures must be completed no more than three (3) days following the close of each celebration. During set-up and take-down, general park use would be restricted, to the extent appropriate for those operations to proceed safely. Areas A and B, the special event areas would be restricted from public use, including picnicking and general park use, for the duration of the events although all other recreation areas in the basin would remain open to the public.

Because the two subject celebrations are the County’s largest and because Areas A/B are frequently used for similar events, such future special events which may fall within the above parameters are also considered here for advance review in this programmatic Environmental Assessment for special events at Areas A and B. Because of historic uses of the Recreation Area, such events as these are within purview of the Whittier Narrows Master Plan (2011).

B In addition, 2013 marks the 34th year of the March/November Spring and Fall Fair events, respectively, at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and which feature carnival rides and games, specialty rides, live entertainment, food and beverage booths, souvenir booths and etc. These events each operate during approximately 2 weeks, with weekday hours running 5-10 pm and weekend hours noon-11 pm. Attendance rises between weekday and weekend numbers (from approximately 500-3,000, respectively) and parking needed for approximately 100-400, respectively); use of existing parking and overflow parking lots at Area B is

sufficient. Admission is approximately \$8 for adults and is free for children, with free parking. Setup of the site and final cleanup requires, and is complete, within 3 days at each end of the event’s start and close, respectively. During set-up and take-down, general park use would be restricted, to the extent appropriate for those operations to proceed safely. Park areas next to sensitive environmental areas are excluded from the event. Other nearby recreation and wildlife areas will remain open and accessible to the public

C Finally, several annual events which are smaller in scope (shorter duration and smaller crowd size), are also anticipated for future years. These have been reviewed and approved during recent years per the Corps Special Events policy as described in the Whittier Narrows Recreation Master Plan (2011). Events of the same or lesser scope as the above, such as the Truck Show Job Fair and Buddha’s Birthday which are listed in Appendix B, are also included within this analysis of effects to Corps resources at Whittier Narrows Recreation Areas A and B. Admission is low approximately \$5/person and parking is free. Because their effects do not exceed those of the above being proposed for Special Events permit, they are mentioned here for review but not specifically analyzed, as no special effects from these smaller events are not already covered in the analysis for the larger events because Areas A/B are designed, utilized, and managed to successfully handle events from the very large to the smaller. Inclusion here of these smaller annual events is designed to streamline the environmental documentation process for the long list of annually calendared County special events at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, Whittier Narrows Flood Control Basin.

TABLE – ABC

**Tabular Summary of General Special Event Parameters for Multi-Year Concession Planning by County of Los Angeles**

Special Event	Event Location	Event # Days	Event Set-up	Total #s	Total #s Parking space (cumulative):	\$ / person		\$ / Parking	Prop. Term	Prop. Extension
			/Takedown # Days	Attendees Cumulative		Child	Adult			
<b>Cinco de Mayo</b>	Area A/B	1 day (May)	<6 day/3 day	25-40,000	3,000-4,000	free	free	\$15	3-year	two 1-yr.
<b>Fiestas Patrias</b>	Area A/B	1 day (Sept)	<6 day/3 day	40-60,000	4,500-5,800	free	free	\$15	3-year	two 1-yr.
(instantaneous):										
<b>Spring Fair</b>	Area B	16day(Mar)	3	500-3,000	<400	free	\$7.95	Free	10-year	two 5-yr.
<b>Fall Fair</b>	Area B	16day(Nov)	3	500-3,000	<400	free	\$7.95	Free	10-year	two 5-yr.
<b>TET Festival</b>	Area B	2 day (Feb)		12-15,000		\$3	\$5	Free	Year-to-Year	

#### IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

##### IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

###### 1. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE

From the Corps 2011 Master Plan, according to the 1999 California Department of Conservation Division of Mines and Geology Seismic Hazard Report for the USGS El Monte Quadrangle, the geologic setting of the area is as follows:

*Whittier Narrows is a short constriction in the San Gabriel river basin that lies between the Puente Hills to the southeast and the Montebello Hills on the west. It forms a gap, 2-3 miles wide in the chain of the hills (and topographic divide) that separates San Gabriel Valley on the north from the coastal plain on the south. The dominant geologic feature is a syncline, now filled with alluvial material more than 800 feet deep. The recreation area is situated on the alluvial soils of the San Gabriel floodplain, erosion from the San Gabriel Mountains. Younger alluvium (Qal is the underlying geological unit. This is unconsolidated, poor to well-graded mass consisting of*

*sand, gravel, and cobbles. Surface soils are well drained, with moderate rapid permeability, slow runoff, and slight erosion hazard. The sandy soil, irrigated, can support a variety of plants.*

*The San Gabriel Valley is a structural basin lying between the Sierra Madre fault to the north and the Whittier-Elsinore fault zone in the Puente Hills to the south east. The valley is underlain by thick deposits of alluvium as a result of detritus deposited by stream erosion from the nearby mountains. There are five major faults within a 35-mile radius of the recreation area. The San Andreas Fault lies 35 miles to the north; the Newport-Inglewood Fault lies 19 miles to the southwest. The Sierra Madre fault lies about 10 miles to the northwest, and the Raymond Hill Fault is approximately 3 miles to the north. The Whittier –Elsinore Fault lies 7 miles to the southeast. On 1 October 1987, a 6.1 earthquake occurred on a hidden underground fault in the vicinity of the Whittier-Elsinore Fault.*

*Liquefaction-induced ground failure historically has been a major cause of earthquake damage in southern California. During the 1971 San Fernando and 1994 Northridge earthquakes, significant damage to roads, utility pipelines, buildings, and other structures in the Los Angeles area was caused by liquefaction-induced ground displacement. Localities most susceptible to liquefaction-induced damage are underlain by loose, water saturated, granular sediment within 40 feet of the ground surface. These geological and ground-water conditions exist in parts of southern California, most notably in some densely populated valley regions and alluvial floodplains. In addition, the potential for strong earthquake ground shaking is high because of the many nearby active faults. The combination of these factors constitutes a significant seismic hazard in the southern California region in general, including areas in the El Monte Quadrangle.*

The proposed site is identified as consisting of alluvial soils of the San Gabriel River Floodplain. There are no fragile, compactable or unstable soils, or unusual geologic features present. There are no special reclamation considerations. Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, Areas A and B are composed of dirt and turf park areas which are annually maintained for large recreation events including for parking or gatherings.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** The No-Action alternative consists of no new permit to operate the two large events. Such anticipated future activities as the proposed events, including the typical routine maintenance currently practiced and the occasional smaller special events, can affect the project site's geological or soil conditions.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed public special events would take place during one day in May and one day in September, annually for three consecutive years and for two possible additional years, at Areas A and B on dirt & turf areas of these Special Event areas which have no special geotechnical features. These events, which would occur under one type of review or another, are to continue being managed by the County and be included in County safety planning for large events, even in case of earthquake events or other circumstances.

## **2. WATER RESOURCES**

Executive Order 11998 requires all Federal agencies to take actions to reduce the risk of flood loss, to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values in floodplains, and to minimize the adverse effects of floods on human safety, health, and welfare.

The proposed Operation is located within the Whittier Narrows Recreational Area on a federally-owned parcel of land, just beyond the Maximum Flood Control Pool elevation (228.5ft). With respect to the overall flood control operation, the area has a less than 1% chance of being flooded in any given year. However, during inundation, the site may experience some temporary pooling. The proposed Operation is not located on or

adjacent to a navigable waterway, nor is it located within the Coastal Zone. There are no streams or wetlands within Areas A and B. The Rio Hondo River is located west of the areas and flows southward, from a concrete channel into a soft-bottomed channel which flows into the Rio Hondo Basin and from there downstream to confluence with the Los Angeles River. Legg Lake, a small lake/body of water exists at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, is south of the I-60 freeway and is not near Areas A and B where the events are set to take place. Areas A and B are located, respectively, on the west and east sides of Rosemead Boulevard. As seen on the above Figure, Area A is located between the Rio Hondo and west of Rosemead Blvd., and Area B is located east of Rosemead Blvd. and eastward toward developed neighborhoods; Areas A and B are historically and currently used in an ongoing manner under the County's recreation outgrant for small- and large-group, dry-land recreational activities, of many sorts.

Recreational events including past occurrences of Cinco de Mayo and Fiesta Patrias have continued to be held here within this Federally-designated flood risk management basin which is also approved for recreation under the County's outgrant and the NEPA-approved Corps Master Plan. Therefore the proposed operation complies with Executive Order 11998 (Floodplain Management).

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** No more than rare or incidental minor and insignificant impacts to water resources are anticipated from the general, continuing park activities such as gatherings and sports at Areas A and B.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed Operation would not result in the disposal of hazardous, polluting or toxic substances into any body of water. No changes are proposed to streamflow regimes, floodplains, wetlands and groundwater recharge. The proposed Operations would not be held at any body of water, and other recreation areas provide a buffer to the adjacent Rio Hondo; there would be no impact to waters. No additional mitigation is required.

### **3. AIR QUALITY**

Areas A and B are located respectively at the east and west sides of Rosemead Boulevard, and north of the Pomona (60) Freeway. The air quality in the vicinity is determined primarily by the vehicles traveling along the Freeway. The number of vehicle trips made by users of the Park facility and the air pollutants generated by these trips is insignificant compared to the pollutant emissions from freeway traffic. Other sources include industrial amenities, agricultural areas and construction zones that allow for fugitive dust.

Whittier Narrows Basin lies within the boundaries of the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which is managed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAB, which covers an area of approximately 6,745 square miles, is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the west and the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains to the north and east, and encompasses all of Orange County, Riverside County, Los Angeles County except for Antelope Valley, and the non-desert portion of San Bernardino County. The SCAB is primarily a coastal plain with interconnected valleys and low hills progressing into high mountain ranges on the perimeter. The region is located within a semi-permanent high-pressure system that lies off the coast. As a result, the weather is mild, tempered by a daytime sea breeze and a nighttime land breeze. This mild climate is infrequently interrupted by periods of extremely hot weather, winter storms, and Santa Ana winds. Rainfall in the SCAB mainly occurs from November through April, with rainfall totals usually within a range of 15 to 18 inches. The SCAB has a low average wind speed of 4 miles per hour, and as a result, air contaminants in this area do not readily disperse.

#### **Air Quality Standards**

Regulation of air pollution is achieved through both national and state ambient air quality standards and emission limits for individual sources of air pollutants. As required by the Federal Clean Air Act, the EPA has

identified criteria pollutants and has established national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) to protect public health and welfare. The NAAQS are defined as the maximum acceptable concentration that may be reached, but not exceeded more than once per year. The EPA has established the NAAQS for ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>), and lead. These pollutants are called “criteria” pollutants because standards have been established for each of them to meet specific public health and welfare criteria.

### **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Greenhouse gases are compounds in the atmosphere that absorb infrared radiation and re-radiate a portion of that back toward the earth’s surface, thus trapping heat and warming the earth’s atmosphere. The most important naturally occurring greenhouse gas (GHG) compounds are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), ozone, and water vapor. CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O are produced naturally by respiration and other physiological processes of plants, animals, and microorganisms; by decomposition of organic matter; by volcanic and geothermal activity; by naturally occurring wildfires; and by natural chemical reactions in soil and water. Ozone is not released directly by natural sources, but forms during complex chemical reactions in the atmosphere among organic compounds and nitrogen oxides in the presence of ultraviolet radiation. While water vapor is a strong greenhouse gas, its concentration in the atmosphere is primarily a result of changes in surface and lower atmospheric temperature conditions.

Atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> have risen from a pre-industrial background of 280 ppm by volume (ppm) to 379 ppm in 2005.

Atmospheric concentrations of CH<sub>4</sub> have risen from a pre-industrial background of about 0.70 ppm to 1.774 ppm in 2005.

Atmospheric concentrations of N<sub>2</sub>O have risen from a pre-industrial background of 0.270 ppm to 0.319 ppm in 2005.

The IPCC has concluded that these changes in atmospheric composition are almost entirely the result of human activity, not the result of changes in natural processes that produce or remove these gases.

### **Climate Change**

Climate change (CC) is a shift in the average weather patterns observed on earth, which can be measured by such variables as temperature, wind patterns, storms, and precipitation. Scientific research to date indicates that observed climate change is most likely a result of increased emission of GHGs associated with human activity. In California, the transportation sector is the largest emitter of GHGs (accounting for 40.7% of the total GHG emissions in the state in 2004), followed by electricity generation. Climate change is expected to exacerbate air quality and other environmental problems and to adversely affect human health, in ways too numerous to mention here but including rising temperatures, increases in storm events, prolonged droughts, and sea level rise, which will likely change the makeup of entire ecosystems; and secondary effects related to climate change, increased input of pollutants and sediments through storm runoff, may produce impacts as well.

In many cases, the severely degraded riparian habitat currently present in southern California has already led to some riparian bird populations to be depressed or even threatened, making them increasingly susceptible to future environmental changes brought upon by climate change.

CC, at a regional level, could contribute to more frequent and intense El Niño events, triggering a number of large-scale environmental changes. The frequency of extreme weather events such as the 1997-98 and 2009-2010 El Niño events would be expected to increase and which in inland areas included the increased frequency and intensity of droughts and wildfires, which substantially altered upland vegetation. Subsequent heavy rains triggered extensive erosion in the burned areas, which removed topsoil from the upper reaches of local

watersheds. Powerful storm runoff events moved high sediment loads downstream where they scoured and buried riparian vegetation and physically altered floodplains, fundamentally impacting local ecosystems.

The heavily altered natural environment of the Whittier Narrows Basin locale, within an arid, water-stressed biome, make it susceptible to future impacts from climate change. These impacts could stress local wildlife populations, and in particular, further impact sensitive species already susceptible to environmental shifts.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** Conditions would be similar to baseline air quality conditions which are macro phenomena and unrelated to typical recreation activities at the Basin. As in this proposal, a similar schedule of general and special recreation activities has occurred for many years as part of the County's recreation mission at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and is anticipated in future years with such similar, and minor, impacts to local air quality.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed Operation at this location would take place during one day each in May and in September annually for five consecutive years and possibly for three additional years, with several partial days each for set-up and tear-down time. As at present, these two events and several smaller ones continue to occur annually at Areas A and B. The Operation as proposed is known to generate additional vehicle trips over that level during a non-event weekend in the Whittier Narrows basin. However, air quality impacts would be within minimal levels and as below regional significance as at a typical July 4th event.

Although air quality impacts would not be significant, the following measures are included to minimize the impact: Event parking and traffic management would be designed to avoid vehicle backup, traffic jams, and to reducing idling. Use of public transportation to the event is emphasized for these County-sponsored events. In addition, event organizers encourage ridesharing.

## **IMPACTS ON THE BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **4. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY**

Areas A and B are primarily covered with ruderal non-native grasses and weed species. It is currently disc'ed or mowed regularly by the County to maintain a recreationally usable space.

*Ornamental tree/maintained lawn* is found throughout the Basin in areas of parks, athletic fields, or golf courses, and other landscaped urban areas. Most areas are dominated by planted, maintained lawns interspersed with a distribution of ornamental trees including Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*), Peruvian pepper tree (*Schinus molle*), eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), various palms (*Washingtonia* sp.), common olive (*Olea europaea*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), western sycamore, sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), and Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*). Invasive weedy species such as common ice plant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*), castor bean, English ivy (*Hedera helix*), English holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), and black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) are also found throughout these areas. Tree canopy is partly open and large gaps exist around open water and golf course features. Some park areas with sports fields are dominated entirely by maintained lawns. This non-native habitat comprises approximately 804.2 acres or 30.5% of the Basin.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** There would be no anticipated impacts to vegetation cover given that the project site would continue to be used under existing circumstances.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed Operation would take place at Areas A and B, on dirt and turf special event and their parking areas, for three to five consecutive years. The County is clear with event operators that wildlife habitat or that other, non-special event areas within the Basin are not authorized for use for these events.

## 5. WILDLIFE

Areas A and B may be used by wildlife, including birds, common to and adapted to urban areas. There are no surface water bodies in these areas.

### **Baseline:**

Wildlife habitat at Whittier Narrows Basin is comprised of a variety of habitat types, including the types above described as native communities, disturbed vegetation communities, agricultural land, constructed open water, disturbed wetlands, and developed parks or urbanized areas. Species common to many Basin areas include native and non-native fishes, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds. Over 100 bird species use the Basin for breeding, wintering, and/or are residents. Open water areas found in the Basin attracts waterfowl and shorebirds. Upland habitats host a diversity of passerine species. Bat species are also present and use Basin areas for roosting, breeding, or are year-round residents. Only two amphibians are common, including the California toad and Pacific treefrog. Dry upland areas host common lizard and snake species. Non-native species such as feral cats and dogs are also found in the Basin. The altered seasonal flows and existing barriers to fish passage severely limit fish presence in Basin waters. Native freshwater fishes historically found in waters of the Basin include arroyo chub, Santa Ana speckled dace, Santa Ana sucker, three-spine stickleback, and rainbow trout. Common non-native species of unknown origin that may occur in the Basin include largemouth bass, bluegill, western mosquito fish, channel catfish, fathead minnow, common carp, and goldfish.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** There would be no anticipated impacts to vegetation cover given that the project site would continue to be managed and used under the approved existing circumstances.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed Operations will take place at Areas A and B only, on dirt and turf special event areas for five consecutive years. The County will make clear to the permit applicant that the wildlife habitat areas within Whittier Narrows basin are not authorized for use. No additional mitigation required.

The potential use of the areas by wildlife or birds would be very similar under the proposed Operations and the No Action Alternative – both the proposed Operations and the existing recreational uses would limit the desirability of these large, open, flat recreation areas for use by wildlife and birds. Implementation of either alternative would be substantially the same. There would be no anticipated adverse impacts to wildlife.

## 6. SENSITIVE SPECIES AND HABITATS

These special status species do not occur on Areas A and B and the Areas are not suitable for growth of these species because of the current approved recreational uses per the 2011 Master Plan. Areas A and B are currently maintained with mowers or disc'ing to control weeds and provide a mostly flat surface for picnicking, family gatherings, sports activities, special events, and general recreational activities. The Rio Hondo flows west of and parallel to Area A; the riparian habitat there is sensitive habitat but is generally unaffected by the dry-land recreation through the year.

Areas A and B are located within the Whittier Narrows Basin, which is an open space resource area. There is no riparian habitat within Areas A and B although potential habitat exists west of the areas on the eastern bank of the Rio Hondo River. The river channel itself enters the Basin as grout and concrete-lined but becomes a soft-bottomed channel as it passes southward at the Basin's western margin eventually flowing through the Rio Hondo Dam gates and toward downstream confluence with the concrete-lined Los Angeles River. The Rio Hondo is separated from proposed Fair events by some distance and by several layers of fencing during events.

Research of the California Department of Fish and Game's, California Natural Diversity Database found six occurrences of federal threatened, endangered or candidate species of plants and animals within the project site's topographic quadrangle (El Monte Quad) as listed in Table 1 below. Two of the six species, the least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and Nevin's Barberry (*Berberis nevinii*) are identified as being located within the Whittier Narrows Natural Area, approximately 1-2 miles southeast of Areas A and B.

The Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), Nevin’s Barberry (*Berberis nevinii*) and Least Bell’s Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) recorded by CNDDDB and USFWS are located south of the Pomona (60) Freeway, about half mile away from Areas A and B where the proposed Operations are going to take place.

Areas A and B are not located within any proposed or existing Significant Ecological Areas and do not support native vegetation habitats.

Research of the California Department of Fish and Game's, California Natural Diversity Database found 6 occurrences of federal threatened, endangered or candidate species of plants within the Property’s topographic quadrangle (El Monte Quad), as listed in Table 1:

**Table 1: Special-Status Plant and Animal Species**

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Status Federal</b>	<b>Habitat Requirements</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<i>Phacelia stellaris</i>	Brand’s Star Phacelia	Candidate	Coastal Sage Scrub and coastal dune communities	Not likely to occur on site due to mowing and discing, competition from ruderal species.
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	Candidate	Densely foliated, deciduous trees and shrubs, especially willows.	Natural area is located less than 0.5 miles north of the project area. Habitat does not occur onsite.
<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	coastal California gnatcatcher	Threatened	Obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2,500 feet in Southern California. Occurs on low, coastal sage scrub in arid washes, on mesas and slopes. Not all areas classified as coastal sage scrub are occupied.	Habitat does not occur onsite. Project area is paved.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Least Bell’s vireo	Endangered (nesting)	(Nesting) Willow / Whittier Narrows Natural Area. Mulefat scrub and scattered cottonwoods and sycamores.	Natural area is located less than 0.5 miles north of the project area. Habitat does not occur onsite.
<i>Empidonax trailii extimus</i>	Southwestern Willow flycatcher	Endangered	(Nesting) Willow / Whittier Narrows Natural Area. Dense willow thickets are required	Nests commonly parasitized by brown-headed cow birds. Not likely to occur on-site due to lack of vegetation.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status Federal	Habitat Requirements	Comment
<i>Berberis nevinii</i>	Nevin's barberry	Endangered	Chaparral, Cismontane, woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian scrub. Occurs on steep, north-facing slopes or in low grade sandy washes.	Habitat does not occur onsite. Project area has been mowed and disced on an ongoing basis.

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**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** No endangered species or related habitat would be impacted by the continued use of the Areas A and B under existing circumstances.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Areas A and B are dirt & turf special event areas. There are no endangered species or related habitat identified within the immediate areas. The proposed Operations would not result in adverse impacts to endangered species or to their habitat.

## 7. WETLANDS

No wetland resources have been identified at this site. The Rio Hondo has been mentioned earlier in areas west of Area A and more distant from Area B. Some of this vegetation, which adjoins Area A, include wetland or facultative wetland species. The *Salix exigua* Shrubland Alliance is composed of dense, broadleaved, winter-deciduous riparian thickets dominated by several willow species including sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*), red willow (*S. laevigata*), and arroyo willow (*S. lasiolepis*), with scattered emergent Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*). Soils in this vegetation alliance are loose, sandy or fine gravelly alluvium. Other plant species common to this alliance within the Basin include mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), and non-native invasive species such as giant reed (*Arundo donax*), tobacco tree (*Nicotiana glauca*), and castor bean (*Ricinus communis*). The distribution of *Salix exigua* in the Basin is restricted to a remnant patch located upstream of the Dam along the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River which are both *riparian*, or streamside, corridors. Areas of the *Salix exigua* Alliance found immediately upstream of the Dam also hosts non-native species, primarily giant reed which dominates this area. This vegetation group comprises approximately 580.1 acres or 22.0% of the Basin.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** There would be no anticipated impacts to this sensitive vegetation cover, as the project site would continue to be used under existing circumstances, which is on a case-by-case basis reviewed and approved in light of this and of other parameters.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed Operations (Cinco de Mayo and Fiestas Patrias) would take place at Areas A and B only, on dirt and turf special event areas, for three to five consecutive years or in the case of the second group (Spring and Fall Fairs) for ten and, with extension, for 15 years. The County would in any case continue to make clear to permit applicants that any sensitive and/or wildlife habitat areas within Whittier Narrows Basin are not authorized for special event use including for incidental activities which could spill over to sensitive areas. No additional mitigation or special conditions are required to avoid adverse effects to wetlands or other sensitive habitat areas.

Implementation of any of the alternatives considered in this EA would not impact resources of this type.

## IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

### 8. CULTURAL RESOURCES

#### **Baseline:**

Cultural resources are locations of human activity, occupation, or use and include expressions of human culture and history in the physical environment such as archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures, or other culturally significant places. Cultural resources can also be natural features, plants, and animals or places that are considered to be important or sacred to a culture, subculture, or community. Cultural resources that may be present include three general categories: archaeological resources, historic buildings and structures, and traditional cultural properties. Historic buildings and structures are architecturally, historically, or artistically important individual and groups of residential, commercial, industrial, transportation or water control properties. Resources may be important individually or as part of a grouping of complementary resources, such as an historic neighborhood.

The 1996 *Whittier Narrows Master Plan and EA* indicates that there are no areas within the Whittier Narrows Basin listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Also per the document, there are no invertebrate paleontology localities in the Whittier Narrows Dam Recreation Area site.

A cultural resources records search with the State Historic Preservation Officer's South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) was not performed. Due to the relationship to the San Gabriel River and the historic presence of the native Tongva/Gabrielino culture, it is thought likely that cultural resources may exist in the area. The Property has not recently been fully surveyed by a professional archaeologist, however, according to the "*Whittier Narrows Equestrian Area Draft Environmental Impact Report*" (1976) and again referenced in the 1990 "*Equestrian Center Expansion Final Environmental Assessment*", there are no known archaeological, paleontological or historical sites or points of interest within the vicinity of the Property. For the 1976 report, an onsite field study by the UCLA Archaeological Survey group uncovered no important archaeological sites in the area.

The Whittier Narrows Basin is located in an important area for the Tongva (Native Americans) who called themselves *Kichireños* and who occupied smaller settlements named *Iisanchanga* and *Wiichinga*, whose specific locations are no longer known. Mission San Gabriel Archangel was founded in 1771 near the present-day city of Montebello, just west of Whittier Narrows. According to Mission records, *Wiichinga* was noted to be "... east of [the old San Gabriel] Mission on a plain closed by water on all sides and may have been within the Whittier Narrows Dam Basin." Following floods in 1775, the Mission was moved to higher ground five miles to the northwest and the original location has been lost.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** There would be no anticipated impacts to cultural resources given that the project site would continue to be used under existing, approved circumstances.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed Operations would take place at Areas A and B only, on dirt and turf special event areas, for up to five consecutive years (or, in the second case, for 10 or as much as 15 years). The County makes clear to permit applicants that sensitive areas which might contain buried artifacts within leased areas at Whittier Narrows basin are not authorized for use. No additional mitigation is required. No cultural resources have been identified at Areas A and B and new ground disturbance is not a requirement for these large public events. While it anticipated that implementation of the proposed action considered in this EA would not impact this type of resource, the County adheres both to State and Federal guidelines as to specific instructions regarding chance discovery of cultural resources.

## 9. AESTHETICS

Areas A and B are located east of the Rio Hondo River and Rio Hondo Trail but visible from populated areas. The areas are heavily used for picnics, family gatherings, sports activities, special events, and general recreational activities and are regularly mowed and groomed. The site is not at a prominent topographic feature.

### **Baseline:**

Aesthetic value within the Basin is characterized by its open-space character in the largely un-built landscape which includes sweeping lawns and ornamental trees, as well as by the disturbed if more natural riparian and riverine habitats along San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo. Of particular value to Basin visitors is the constructed lakes area, south of the 60 Freeway and including Legg Lake and North and Center lakes, with grassy sloping shores in some areas and expansive, well-maintained lawns, paved and dirt trails, tot lots, and picnic areas. East and west of Rosemead Boulevard in the upper Basin, north of the 60 Freeway, large open spaces are used for overflow parking during the periodic large, special recreation events. These parking areas are wide, unpaved swaths of land with dry turf but otherwise essentially devoid of vegetation. West of Rosemead Boulevard in this area are large, turfed softball and soccer fields as well as asphalt parking lots, including restrooms.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** No impacts are anticipated given that the project site would continue to be used under existing, approved circumstances which include regular use as well as routine year-long maintenance.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The Proposed Operation would have insignificant effects on aesthetics in the area because Areas A and B currently support the users which already frequent the site for either individual or group activities including activities of the same or lesser scope as the Proposed Operation. There would be no significant impact to aesthetics as a result of the proposed Operation. County noise ordinance is and would be enforced by park staff. No additional mitigation is required.

## ***10. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY***

The proposed Operation would be contained within Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, Areas A and B, which were designed to be used by large numbers of park attendees. The Areas continue to be managed and used throughout the year per individual event reviews as needed, with many general or specific recreational activities during the majority of the each year's calendar.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** Other noteworthy demands on environmental resources were not identified at this site which is identified as a recreational area. There would be no anticipated impacts given that the project site would continue being used under existing due diligence and review procedures per the County's recreation outgrant.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** This part of the park has been designed for the purpose of people being allowed to congregate, socialize and celebrate together. Areas A and B are designated as Special Events areas for the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. Other nearby recreation and wildlife areas will remain open and accessible to the public. No additional mitigation to impacts is required.

## ***11. WATERS/NAVIGABLE WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES***

There are no waters of the US or navigable waters of the US present on the project site and no structures are proposed. Implementation of any of the alternatives considered in this EA would not impact resources of this type.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** There would be no anticipated impacts to waters of the U.S. given that the project site would continue to be used under the existing circumstances.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed Operations will take place at Areas A and B only, on dirt and turf special event areas, for up to five consecutive years. The County will make clear to the permit applicant that any nearby or adjacent areas with connections to waters of the U.S. within Whittier Narrows basin are not authorized for use. No additional mitigation is required.

## **12. NOISE**

The predominant noise sources within the County of Los Angeles are transportation-related, including railroad, airport, and motor vehicle sources. Traffic volume, average speed, vehicular fleet mix (i.e. combination of automobiles, motorcycles, buses, and trucks), roadway steepness, distance, and characteristics of the pathway between generator and receptor, and weather all influence the level of noise near roadways. For example, as traffic volume, vehicle speed, number of trucks, and roadway grade increase, so does traffic noise levels. However, as vehicles traffic volumes increase, so does congestion, often causing reduced speeds, which may to some extent offset the noise levels.

Roadway vehicle traffic is the primary source of noise in and around the Whittier Narrows Dam Basin. The Basin is bisected east-west by the 60 Freeway on the south as well as Rosemead Boulevard, and Santa Anita Avenue running north-south. The Basin is also bordered by several other main traffic arteries including Peck Road, San Gabriel Boulevard/Durfee Road, and Interstate 605 to the southeast. Secondary noise is generated by adjacent commercial manufacturing operations as well as a trucking company (Freightliner). Existing noise at Whittier Narrows is that associated with general park use by picnickers and general recreational users.

### **Federal**

Under the authority of the Noise Control Act of 1972, the EPA established noise emission criteria and testing methods that apply to interstate rail carriers and some construction and transportation equipment such as portable air compressors and medium- and heavy-duty trucks 40 CFR Part 204. The EPA has also issued guidance levels for the protection of public health and welfare in residential land use areas.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health (OHS) Act of 1970 (29 USC §1919 et seq.), regulations have been adopted which are designed to protect workers against the effects of occupational noise exposure. The Noise Control Act of 1972 was amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978, which provides guidance for the development of noise control programs through the Quiet Communities Program.

### **State**

The state of California does not promulgate statewide standards for noise but requires each county to include a noise element in its general plan (California Government Code Section 65302(f)). These guidelines are used by cities within California to help determine the appropriate land uses that could be located within an existing or anticipated ambient noise level. Occupational noise exposure is regulated by the state OSHA office, which has promulgated Occupational Noise Exposure Regulations (California Code of Regulations, title 8, §§ 5095-5099). These regulations set employee noise exposure limits based on Federal OSHA guidelines. The California Noise Act of 1973 sets forth a resource network to assist local agencies with legal and technical expertise regarding noise issues. The objective of the act is to encourage the establishment and enforcement of local noise ordinances.

### **Local**

The Noise Element of the Los Angeles County Code provides a broad perspective of the noise issues throughout the County and identifies goals, policies, and implementation measures to guide future actions by the County. The Noise Element identifies NEPA and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as the

primary regulations that guide environmental assessments in the County. Chapter 12.08 of the Los Angeles County Code (Part 4) places limits on noise that affect adjacent properties (with residential zones with the most critical limit) to unhealthy or excessive noise levels. Several activities are identified as being exempt from the noise ordinance (subsection B1 of Section 12.08.440). These include noise associated with construction, repair, remodeling, or grading of any real property provided that the activities do not exceed: 70 dBA during the hours of 8PM and 7AM on weekdays or Saturday, or at any time on Sundays or a Federal holiday; 85dBA during the hours of 7AM and 8PM on weekdays or Saturday, or at any time on Sundays or a Federal holiday

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** Noise levels would be anticipated to be close to baseline, with the majority of noise coming from traffic in the surrounding area and minor noise from general park users.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Areas A and B are located within the area zoned for open space and are north of the 60 Freeway and bisected by the SR19/Rosemead Boulevard. Existing noise at Whittier Narrows is that associated with general park use by picnickers and general recreational users. Areas A and B are not adjacent to residential areas. The hours of operation during the May and September events shall be on Sundays from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, rain or shine, with similar hours of operation during other days, including weekdays where applicable. In no case does this proposal impact noise limits to sensitive receptors in the surrounding environment.

The County is required to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. In addition, compliance with standards established in the County’s general plan and noise ordinance would also be required. County Park staff will enforce the County Noise Ordinance during the Proposed Operation. No additional mitigation is required.

### 13. TRAFFIC

**Baseline:** Travel to Whittier Narrows Dam Basin occurs through a multi-modal transportation network in and around Los Angeles County including car, bicycle, train and pedestrian roads, trails, and pathways with local freeways are operated by California’s Department of Transportation (Caltrans). State Route 60 (Pomona Freeway) and the Interstate 605 intersect at the northeast corner of the Basin; State Route 19 (Rosemead Boulevard) runs north-south through the middle of the Basin and connects Long Beach to Rosemead, a distance of approximately 30 miles. The Basin is surrounded by residential and arterial streets. San Gabriel Boulevard originates west of the Basin and continues north to Altadena, a distance of approximately 10 miles. The major access roadways associated with the Basin and their average traffic volumes are indicated, below.

Average Traffic Volumes on Nearby Roadways			
Roadway Name	Average Daily Two-way Traffic (in thousands of cars)	Roadway Designation	Number of Lanes
Interstate 605	242,000	Freeway	12
State Route 60	235,000	Freeway	10
Rosemead Boulevard	21,000	Arterial	4
San Gabriel Boulevard	31,000	Arterial	4
Source: Los Angeles County 2009, Caltrans 2009.			

Visitors who prefer using public transit to access the Basin have the option of taking a bus or a train to nearby El Monte Metrolink Station which is the nearest transit hub to the site and is served by Metrolink and Metro bus lines.

Visitors traveling to the Basin on bicycle can make use of a network of designated bikeways and trails. Los Angeles County has developed a bicycle master plan and maintains a bikeways map online, which differentiates between the following three types of bike paths:

Class I – Separate off-road paved bike path.

Class II – On-road bikeway with lane striping.

Class III – On-road bikeway with signage only.

The Basin is accessible by bicycle and foot via several route and pedestrians and equestrians may also access the park from the bike paths. Bicycle paths to the Basin include: (a) the San Gabriel River Bike Trail, a 38-mile Class I bike path that runs north from Seal Beach and along the San Gabriel River to the San Gabriel Mountains; (b) the Los Angeles River Bike Trail, Rio Hondo Bike Trail, and Upper Rio Hondo Bike Trail, which together form 30 miles of Class I bike path and run from Long Beach to Temple City along the Los Angeles River and the Rio Hondo, known as the LARIO Trail; and (c) a network of Class III bike paths that access the Basin from the north through El Monte. For visitors who prefer to walk to the Basin, there are continuous sidewalks on most connecting streets.

Approximately 11 miles of roadways and several parking lots provide access to recreation amenities throughout the Basin. Approximately 6 miles of paved trails and 6 miles of unpaved trails with no regional connectivity are available for use by pedestrians, equestrians, and mountain bikes, with numerous looping options available throughout the park. An additional 7.2 miles of unpaved Los Angeles County multi-use trails with regional connectivity are also accessible. With the exception of Rosemead Boulevard, in-Basin roadways and trails are maintained by the County. Rosemead Boulevard, a state highway, is maintained by Caltrans with some assistance from the Department of Recreation and Parks.

Emergency access into the Basin can be attained through ten public entrances. The northwest Basin can be accessed through two entrances: at Rosemead Boulevard and at Rush Street. The northeast area can be accessed from four entrances: at Rosemead Boulevard, Chico Avenue, Potrero Avenue, and Loma Avenue. The southern half of the Basin can be accessed from three main entrances: Rosemead Boulevard, Santa Anita Avenue, and Durfee Avenue. An additional emergency vehicle access point is available from the corner of Durfee Avenue at Rosemead Boulevard.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** The No-Action alternative would not affect traffic in the Basin because local traffic would not be appreciably changed, absent this proposal, and would remain essentially as that at present.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Holding these events in Areas A and B, which are adjacent to major roads and highways, minimizes recreation-related traffic impacts on local surface streets. The County and concessionaire create traffic and parking plans on a case-by-case basis for the special event calendar's safety programming for Park users. Traffic is handled by the event's organizers. The County requires a permit holder to control parking and traffic around the event area and to ensure that incoming traffic does not back onto adjacent roadways. Parking plans shall be coordinated between the County and permit holder.

The proposal to allow these two large special events and other small events, as described and including their historical record and County administration as is presently the case, would add no new traffic impacts to the basin, because these events already occur in a managed capacity on a case-by-case approval process which successfully avoids impacts from traffic to the community and at existing and manageable traffic levels. No new, significant adverse effects to traffic at this location are expected.

## 14. IMPACTS TO EXISTING FEDERAL FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

The site was acquired pursuant to congressional authority to construct the Whittier Narrows Dam Basin, a federal flood risk management facility. The Dam operates to provide flood risk management to the communities adjacent and downstream of the Basin. Routine operational activities are conducted in areas designated for operations only. Lands outgranted under the Lease have been determined to be compatible with recreation which use remains subject to flood risk management operations, including inundation.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed Operation would not affect operations or the capacity of the Whittier Narrows Flood Control Basin. The proposed Operation will be located only at Areas A and B which have been designated in Corps Master Plan as approved special events areas. The proposed Operation will not affect any flood risk management efforts or facilities downstream of the Whittier Narrows Dam area. Re-formalization of the Areas A and B as recreational special event use has no new or adverse impact on flood control efforts.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** There would be no anticipated impacts given that the project site would continue to be used under existing, known and approved circumstances including the scope of events listed in this document.

## IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

### 15. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY

Whittier Narrows is a major recreation area with health and safety considerations normally associated with a park. Because the County manages this land under the Corps outgrant, County safety standards are applied to management of Areas A and B, Special Event Areas. Existing Corps protocols (Corps' *Orange Book - Instructions for Emergency Operations Center Personnel, 2012*) for the closure of the Whittier Narrows Dam Basin to traffic prior to and during flood events, are designed to protect health and safety from extreme weather (rain) conditions at Corps basins. Presently, Areas A and B are used for picnics, family gatherings, sports activities, special events including the two special events already described, and general recreational activities.

#### **Baseline:**

Public health and safety focuses on potential risks to the public and County staff from hazards that may occur within the Basin itself, or which may impact public services adjacent to the Basin. Health and safety hazards to the public can arise from recreation uses, plants and wildlife, flooding, hazardous materials, and criminal activity. Nearby public services, such as law enforcement, fire protection, hospitals and schools, may be designated as respondents to health and safety issues within the Basin. Public health and safety measures are intended to protect the public, to maintain public services, to ensure compliance with applicable Federal and state laws, to prevent waste contamination, and to minimize hazards resulting from actions on Corps-managed lands and amenities. Safety issues specific to the Dam itself were previously discussed above in the Physical Land Resources section.

The Basin is usually dry, but heavy rainfall may result in flooding within recreation-leased Basin areas. In the event of flood, hazards can occur both within and downstream of the Basin. Several roadways used daily by the public pass through the Basin and are closed when there is a danger of flooding. Alternate access is available for all public services except for recreation amenities, which may be temporarily shuttered due to weather.

There is no formal evacuation plan for Whittier Narrows Dam Basin because the primary hazard is flood inflow which can be forecast with sufficient notice to clear the Basin of recreation users. However, based on forecasts of rainfall runoff and the Basin's pool elevation rise, the Corps uses a formal notification process in which the Reservoir Regulation Section contacts each known entity likely to be affected by flood inflow to the Basin; these notifications are updated on a continuous basis as Basin hydrologic conditions change. Overall, the potential rate of rise of the Basin pool would be slow enough that anyone could readily walk to safety by moving to higher ground. Further, the County ensures that public use, of the Basin during a potential flood

condition is curtailed, through erecting roadway barriers and signage and by having authorities in place to redirect traffic. The County maintains close coordination with law enforcement and the Corps as well as fire, medical, and emergency response agencies in the area.

The Whittier Narrows Dam Basin includes both natural and largely undeveloped areas and formal recreation amenities. Public health and safety issues associated with recreation include vehicle accidents, use conflicts, intoxication, and a variety of sports and activity-related accidents and injuries.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department maintains a substation located at the County's Nature Center within the Basin. Criminal activity has included trespass, property crime, violent crime, vandalism, gang activity, alcohol use, dumping, and unauthorized fire arm use. Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) services are provided by the County of Los Angeles Consolidated Fire Department, Fire Station 90, located approximately 2 miles from the Park's north boundary. The County maintains mutual aid agreements with other local cities and agencies for police, fire, and EMT services. Emergency Room and Hospital Services are found at Greater El Monte Community Hospital approximately 2 miles north of the Basin, and Beverly Hospital in Montebello approximately 4 miles south and west of the nature center.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** Infrastructure to provide Health and Safety services are in place at the County-leased Basin areas, and are increased in proportion to the size of any special event. No residual adverse effects to health and safety would exist as a result of the proposed Operation not being adopted.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed Operation would take place only in Areas A and B and would not add additional health or safety risks outside Areas A and B. Existing safety standards and protocols would not change under the proposed Operation. First Aid would be available, safety precautions would be enforced, and traffic and other crowd control measures would be maintained by the permit holder, as required by the Fire Department and local law enforcement.

The permit holder would be responsible for all trash collection, including providing and emptying trash cans and dumpsters. Cleanup shall occur throughout the duration of the event. The permit holder would also be responsible for cleanup and damage in the area used by the event. Take-down and removal of all equipment and temporary structures must be completed no more than three (3) days following the close of each celebration. The County requires a maintenance deposit from any permit applicant and requires the permit holder to obtain insurance for liability and property damage and to indemnify the County and the Corps. Portable restrooms are provided as well as a first-aid station on site for these special events.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** No new effects to health and safety would occur as a result of not adopting the proposed Operation of special events. Health and safety issues would continue to be managed as they are at present.

## ***16. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES***

### **Baseline:**

A variety of recreation resources are available within the Basin, including for passive and active uses. All recreation uses are non-consumptive. The Basin was divided into sections in the existing Master Plan and labeled by letter and defined by the intersection of Rosemead Boulevard and Highway 60. From this roadway intersection, Area A is in the northwest, Area B is in the northeast, Area C is southwest, Area D is in the southeast, and Area E is to the west of Area D. The present proposal concerns Areas A and B, north of Highway 60, which are areas provided for large, outdoor recreation events or activities including concerts and other social gatherings as well as sports events such as soccer and softball games, while Areas C and D are more pastoral and/or undeveloped in nature.

No wilderness tracts exist at Whittier Narrows Basin, although some riparian or facultative wetland habitats within Areas C and D, and within the Rio Hondo west of Area A, do exist as undeveloped acreage which may be used for wildlife habitat, wildlife viewing, hiking, and for other low-impact, open space-based activities.

**No Action Alternative:**

The No Action alternative will affect the recreation experience in a minor way in that the concessionaire at present is having difficulty with some of the commercial logistics on-site, which would be improved, as proposed in the present document.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** There is no designated wilderness area within Areas A and B. The Whittier Narrows Natural Area is approximately 1 mile southwest of the special event areas. This Park location itself is used throughout the year for a variety of low- and higher-density events, per the County's Recreation Lease with the Corps of Engineers. Nearby areas used for recreation and wildlife viewing include the playing/recreation fields, and wildlife areas, which are distant from the proposed special event locations.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** There would be no anticipated impacts, given that the project site would continue to be used under the existing circumstances.

**17. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING**

The Basin is located in a highly urbanized area although there is no housing in the Basin itself. Because the Basin operates as a flood risk management facility, residential use is prohibited. The nearby area is urbanized and contains a mix of commercial and residential uses.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed Operation will not add to the population nor require additional housing.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** Residential use in the Basin would continue to be prohibited, whereas areas near the Basin would continue to be utilized as usual.

**18. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:**

**Baseline:**

Current census (2010) data was obtained from the US Census relative to total population, race/ethnicity, age distribution, and average sizes of families within the Census Tract No. 4337, in which Areas A and B are located. The census tract had a total population of 3,294 persons and the median household income of the population within this census tract was \$ 60,848.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND LOCAL ECONOMY**

Federal agencies are required, by Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice, 1994, to "make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low income populations." Ensuring environmental justice means protecting existing local and market area minority and low-income populations from adverse human health or environmental effects of any management strategy undertaken or authorized in this or other proposals on Federal land.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), identifies minority groups as Asian, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander, Black not of Hispanic origin, and Latino. It defines a "minority population" as any group of minorities that exceed 50% of the existing population within the market area or where a minority group comprises a meaningfully greater percentage of the local population than in the general population. Additionally, the CEQ identifies "low-income," using Census data for "individuals living below the poverty level." For the purposes of this assessment, a low-income population is defined similarly as a local or market area population with more than 50% of people living below the poverty level (Corps, 2011).

The communities adjacent to the Whittier Narrows Dam Basin are primarily Caucasian, but also have sizeable Latino populations. Although the larger market area of Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties does not have a significant minority population, the nearby communities do have a Latino population that exceeds 50%. The number of individuals living below the poverty level is less than 20% for the larger market area. The market area does not have a significant low-income population.

**PROPOSED ACTION:**

Park use and parking in most Park areas is generally available at no-cost on a daily basis, seven days per week. For these or for the smaller, subject special events under consideration in this EA, the event economics are not anticipated to result in disproportionate adverse effects to low-income families or to general Park users. The parking fees whose range was given previously usually run from free to \$15/car, and the event admission for most events ranges from no cost to as much as approximately \$8/person which is not considered an adverse impact to local recreation user populations in the San Gabriel Valley.

County Parks and Recreation staffers are not hired specifically for events, but increased hours may be made available for part-time staff to cover the event. Event promoters hire security and event staff from local companies with which they do regular business and would hire some locals for event staff positions which, thus, reflects some limited, local hiring. County Park staff estimated that, perhaps, up to 150 people in San Gabriel Valley work during the year for event promoters and subcontractors.

No significant adverse effects reflect upon local socioeconomic, including environmental justice, issues. No additional mitigation is required.

**NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:**

The Whittier Narrows Recreation Area currently offers free public use for all of the leased areas currently outgranted for Recreation. The subject special events on the County's calendar of both large and smaller sizes are likely to occur under some kind of concession, either by case-by-case or by an annual or multi-year agreement, regardless of the disposition of this particular, proposed programmatic concessionaire arrangement.

Effects of the No-Action alternative would not noticeably differ from those of the Proposed Operation as described, because the events are likely to be held, as they have been, under some form of permitting if not specifically under the proposed concession agreement. In the No-Action case, as in the Proposal, would a significant adverse effect be anticipated.

**V. ALTERNATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY, INCLUDING PROPOSED MEASURES TO REDUCE IMPACTS AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS FROM THE PROPOSAL**

A. The proposed Operation includes the following land management practices to avoid and minimize impacts.

**General:**

- County Park staff conducts planning meetings with County agencies and departments to provide safety, crowd and traffic control.

**Recreation:**

- The County's permit will specifically state that the use of any non-event areas is not authorized and that access by the general public to these areas may not be impeded in conjunction with said events.

**Air Quality/Traffic/Parking:**

- Event parking and traffic management will be designed to avoid vehicle backup onto adjacent roadways, reducing idling and congestive traffic.
- Use of public transportation to events will be emphasized by County and Concessionaire.

- A parking plan overseen by County staff and coordinated with the permit holder will be implemented.
- Appropriately-sized Disabled parking areas will be provided adjacent to the event.

**Noise:**

- County Noise Ordinance shall be enforced.

**Health/Safety:**

- Areas will be kept in good condition. County will ensure the permit holder is responsible for trash collection, including providing and emptying trash cans and dumpsters.
- The County will ensure the permit holder is responsible for cleanup and damage in the area used by the event. Cleanup shall occur throughout the duration of the event and the permit holder shall ensure all cleanup and equipment removal is completed no more than three (3) days following the close of each celebration. The County will require a maintenance deposit from the permit holder.
- The County will require the permit holder to obtain insurance for liability and property damage and to indemnify the County and the Corps.
- Portable restrooms will be provided, and a first-aid station will be on site.

**CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

A cumulative impact is an “impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions” (40 CFR § 1508.7). Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over time (40 CFR § 1508.7). CEQA’s guidance for considering cumulative effects states that 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” (CEQA 1997).

Cumulative impacts of development within and around Whittier Narrows Basin have adversely affected water quality and quantity, air quality, and noise levels. Dense urbanization has adversely affected the presence of culturally valuable resources, as well as the native fish, wildlife and vegetative habitats that were historically present in the Basin. Development both within and around the Basin has increased the possibility for introduction of pollutants, toxic materials, wastes, and non-native plant and animal species to the Basin. The overall quality of the natural environment at the Basin has diminished significantly during industrialization and urbanization of Los Angeles County.

**Past Actions**

Whittier Narrows Dam Basin was constructed in an area of continually increasing urbanization that significantly altered the natural environment. The communities surrounding the Basin became densely urbanized over the past century, marked by extensive automobile traffic, highly developed industrial and residential areas, numerous noise sources, and a large, dense population. Construction of the Dam and development within the Basin contributed to cumulative environmental impacts to the area. Following Dam construction, ongoing operation and maintenance of the Basin and its recreation amenities have continued to impact environmental conditions.

Construction of Whittier Narrows Dam in 1957 necessitated clearing the land, largely pastoral and agricultural, that is now the Basin. In contrast to the land surrounding the Basin which underwent an intense urbanization process, much land within the Basin has been both restored to some extent and in some portions, allowed to become reestablished with native plant and wildlife communities. Lands have been developed for both high- and low-impact recreational activities which range from daily soccer or softball team activities in some areas, to

large events, and/or picnicking, or wildlife viewing in other areas. The Basin is now an increasingly rare piece of open space and native vegetation within a highly urbanized region. In comparison with the surrounding area, sources of noise and air pollution within the Basin have remained fewer and of lower intensity, vegetative communities and wildlife habitats have returned to some extent, and traffic is much less than the surrounding area. The Basin's esthetic value is higher due the natural character and environmental quality that evolved during the same time that urbanization outside the Basin had destroyed much of the natural environment. The now Basin offers a retreat, from the densely urbanized surroundings, and provides the community a place to enjoy nature and to recreate safely.

### **Present Conditions**

The County continues to operate and maintain recreation facilities in the Basin with the property being used for picnics, family gatherings, sports activities, special events, and general recreational activities. Existing resources in the area remain subject to temporary event noise and traffic impacts which are managed to a level of insignificance by the County and/or its contractor. Special events listed for future action in this document are presently occurring or have occurred for years under balanced management by County staff and contractors and in concurrence with Corps of Engineers staff reviews and with Corps Environmental Operating Principles (Appendix C). Special events have been and continue to be previewed prior to implementation at the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

Use of the recently updated Master Plan (2011) for Basin management's current conditions and needs continues to temper some effects of urbanization and will limit development to compatible and sustainable uses. The recent designation of Environmentally Sensitive land continues to ensure that Basin natural habitats are protected and that associated wildlife assemblages, including Federally-protected species, are managed in a way that is sustainable and compatible with the visiting public.

### **Future Actions**

The recently updated Corps Master Plan (2011) will continue to provide the baseline for future, sustainable management of the Basin. Aside from the primary use of the Basin for flood risk management, the other authorization for development within this Federal water resources development project is for recreation amenities. If it is determined by the local community that additional recreation amenities are desired in the future, the proposed action will be subject to project-specific NEPA documentation, as at present, which will further ensure that significant cumulative adverse impacts are assessed. By limiting development in the Basin, the updated Master Plan will contribute to reducing overall cumulative adverse impacts of the continually developing areas surrounding Whittier Narrows Dam Basin in the future. Retaining the area as both a relatively naturalized open space area and as a recreation oasis under the County's lease will continue to mitigate any temporary impacts of increasing traffic, noise, air and light pollution, and of external loss of natural habitats and open space to populations including minority populations that may grow within the surrounding community, and which may result from external crowding associated with greater infill of surrounding urban areas over time.

Some discussion among agencies such as the Metropolitan Transportation Agency/MTA has considered development of a Gold Line Transit Station in areas south of the 60 Freeway; this proposal is in early stages of discussion. This location is approximately two miles from the special event Areas A/B.

Recreational facilities will continue to be used into the foreseeable future using all necessary review prior to implementation. Adjacent areas will continue to be used and developed although the Basin will remain primarily reserved for flood risk management purposes and compatible uses, such as recreation. Recreational users will continue to visit the Basin. In comparison with present conditions, the proposed Operation to hold

events at the established special events areas would not have a significant adverse cumulative effect on the site, as the potential impacts would be temporary.

## **VIII. COORDINATION**

### **County of Los Angeles, Tribes, and other Interested Parties**

## **IX. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION**

### **To be determined**

## **X. ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND COMPLIANCE**

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

### **6.1 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 USC 4321 et seq.)**

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 prepares an Environmental Assessment (EA) describing the environmental effects of any proposed action and alternatives to that action to determine if there are significant impacts requiring development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or if a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is appropriate. The EA must identify measures necessary to avoid or minimize adverse impacts, and all impacts must be reduced to a level below significance in order to rely upon a FONSI.

Any recreation and/or restoration projects that may be proposed in the future for development would need to comply with the Act during the planning and implementation process.

### **6.2 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661)**

As the proposed Operation does not involve impoundment, diversion, or other modification to bodies of water within the Basin, no Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report is required.

This Act requires Federal agencies consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fish and wildlife agencies of States where the "waters of any stream or other body of water are proposed or authorized, permitted or licensed to be impounded, diverted . . . or otherwise controlled or modified" by any agency under a Federal permit or license. Consultation is to be undertaken for the purpose of "preventing loss of and damage to wildlife resources." The intent is to give fish and wildlife conservation equal consideration with other purposes of water resources development projects.

As the proposed project does not involve impoundment, diversion, or other modification to bodies of water within the Basin with the proposed reclassification of land use, no Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report is required.

Any recreation and/or restoration projects that may be proposed in the future for development would need to comply with the Act during the planning and implementation process.

### **6.3 Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended 16 USC 1531 et seq.)**

The ESA protects threatened and endangered species, and their designated critical habitat, from unauthorized take. Section 9 of the Act prohibits such take, and defines take as to harm, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound,

kill, trap, capture, or collect or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Section 7 of the ESA requires Federal agencies to insure that any action authorized, funded or carried out by them is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or modify their critical habitat. Consultation with the USFWS or National Marine Fisheries Service is required if the Federal action may affect a Federally-listed species or designated critical habitat.

Any recreation and/or restoration projects that may be proposed in the future for development would need to comply with the ESA during the planning and implementation process.

This Environmental Assessment provides current information on Special Status Taxa Occurrences within the Property vicinity. No listed species are known to utilize Areas A and B and any suitable habitat lies outside these areas. There would be no anticipated effects to listed species as a result of this action. However, future recreation projects would undergo necessary scoping for listed species, as appropriate.

#### **6.4 Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 USC 715- 715s)**

The MBTA 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 nest, or eggs. The take of all migratory birds is governed by the MBTA’s regulation of taking migratory birds for educational, scientific, and recreation 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).

The proposed Operation is in compliance with the MBTA as no such wildlife is known to use the site. Any recreation and/or restoration projects that may be proposed in the future for development would need to comply with the Act during the planning and implementation process.

#### **6.5 Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 USC 1251 et seq.)**

Section 401 of the CWA requires every applicant for a Federal license or permit for any activity that may result in a discharge into navigable waters to obtain a State Water Quality Certification (Certification) or waiver that the proposed activity will comply with state water quality standards (*i.e.*, beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and anti-degradation policy). The Los Angeles RWQCB issues section 401 Water Quality Certifications for activities within Los Angeles County. The proposed Operation is in compliance with the Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Areas A and B are not located within a wetland and will not affect wetlands or navigable waters. The Rio Hondo River is to the west of the Areas and is grout and with concrete lined bottom. It is separated from the site by a 50 wide trail and vegetative berm.

Since the proposed project is limited to the reclassification of land use within the Basin with no project to be physically implemented, the proposed project does not result in any discharge into navigable waters; therefore Certification is not required.

Section 402 prohibits the discharge of pollutants to "waters of the United States" from any point source unless the discharge is in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Section 402 requires a NPDES Permit for the discharge of stormwater from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) serving urban areas with a population greater than 100,000; construction sites that disturb one

acre or more; and industrial amenities. The RWQCB administers these permits with oversight provided by the SWRCB and EPA Region IX.

Since the proposed project is limited to the reclassification of land use within the Basin with no project to be physically implemented, the proposed project does not involve discharge of pollutants into waters of the US; therefore a Section 402 permit is not required. Any recreation and/or restoration projects that may be proposed in the future for development would need to comply with the Act during the planning and implementation process and may require a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) under the NPDES under Section 402 of the Act.

Section 404 authorizes the Secretary of the Army acting through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue permits for the discharge of dredged or fill materials into the waters of the United States, including wetlands, at specified disposal sites. The selection and use of disposal sites must be in accordance with guidelines developed by the Administrator of EPA in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army and published in 40 CFR Part 230 (known as the 404(b)(1) guidelines). Under the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines, the Corps shall examine practicable alternatives to the proposed discharge and permit only the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA).

For Corps actions, the Corps does not issue permits, but demonstrates compliance, or “equivalency,” with Section 404 through a Section 404(b)(1) analysis. In addition, the requirements and conditions of nationwide permits and regional permits may be applied for Corps actions and thus considered when addressing compliance with Section 404. All other entities must obtain a Section 404 permit from the Corps before undertaking any discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States, unless determined to be exempt from regulation.

Since the proposed project is limited to review of several events which have taken place annually and would be similar in the future (3-5 year term), and since the proposed project does not involve discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States; therefore a 404(b)(1) analysis is not required.

## **6.6 Clean Air Act of 1970 (42 USC 7401 et seq.)**

Section 118 of the Act states that any Federal action that may result in discharge of air pollutants must comply with Federal, State, interstate and local requirements respecting control and abatement of air pollution. Section 176(c) of the Act requires that Federal actions conform to an implementation plan after it has been approved or promulgated under Section 110 of the Act.

**Section 176(C) of the Clean Air Act (CAA) General Conformity Rule Review.** A conformity determination for a specific pollutant is not required because for each criteria pollutant or precursor the total of direct and indirect emissions of the criteria pollutant or precursor in the nonattainment area caused by the Federal action would not equal or exceed any of the rates in 40 CFR 93.153(b)(1) or (2). As a result, the Proposed Action conforms to the CAA.

Potential air quality impacts of the proposed project have been examined and compared to the significant levels identified by the Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), which is the agency with jurisdiction to enforce the Clean Air Act regulations and other relevant local air quality regulations. The SCAQB sets the threshold limits which, if exceeded, trigger New Source Review Rules, as defined in the Act.

A conformity determination for a specific pollutant is not required, because for each criteria pollutant or precursor the total of direct and indirect emissions of the criteria pollutant or precursor, in the nonattainment area caused by the Federal action, would not equal or exceed any of the rates in 40 CFR 93.153(b)(1) or (2). As a result, the proposed project conforms to the Federal Clean Air Act, as amended.

Future recreation proposals would also need to comply with the Act during planning and implementation processes.

**6.7 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.

Since the proposed project is limited to special events with known noise standards and effective County controls per the Corps outgrant, the proposed project will not have any direct impacts to noise levels in the area. Noise will continue to be regulated with Federal, state, and local laws and ordinances.

**6.8 National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 USC 460b, 4701-470n)**

Section 106 of the NHPA requires any Federal agency to take responsibility for the impact of the decisions on historic resources. Under Section 106, Federal agencies are prohibited from approving any Federal “undertaking” (including the issuance of any license, permit, or approval), without 1) taking into account the effects of the undertaking on the historic properties, and 2) affording the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) a reasonable opportunity to comment on the undertaking. The NHPA forces an agency to stop and consider the consequences of its undertakings on any historic property, and assures that the agency does so by requiring it to receive comment from the ACHP, or agencies acting in its stead, and from the public before proceeding with any such undertaking. In order to comply with the NHPA, a Federal agency considering an undertaking must go through the process outlined in the ACHP’s regulations at 36 C.F.R. Part 800.

Since the proposed project is limited to the reclassification of land use within the Basin with no project to be physically implemented, the proposed project will have no effect on historic properties. As such, the proposed project is in compliance with Section 106 of the Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR part 800).

If any cultural resources are discovered in the future during study of proposed additional recreation amenities, they will need to be evaluated for their eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP pursuant to 36 CFR 800.13(b).

**6.9 Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).** The proposed Operation is in compliance the NHPA as no cultural resources will be affected. The State Historic Preservation Officer’s South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) was not consulted, however, the Whittier Narrows Equestrian Area EIR (1976) and archaeological provide a search for records revealing no historic The SCCIC would recommend “[a] professional archaeologist should be retained to monitor any earth moving operations.” This recommendation has been adopted. In addition, the Corps Archaeologist will provide final coordination and conditions among the County, Corps, and SHPO prior to start of any earth-moving work and as described above.

**6.10 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) (42 USC 9601 et seq.)**

CERCLA regulates the release or substantial threat of release into the environment of any pollutant or contaminant which may present an imminent and substantial danger to the public health or welfare.

As the Proposed Action includes only reclassification of Basin land and no physical alterations, there will be no impact to potentially existing contaminants and the project will not contribute contaminants to the Basin.

If during the planning process of future proposed recreation development in the Basin such sites were discovered, compliance with the Act would be required.

### **6.11 Executive Order (EO) 11514, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality, amended by Executive Order 11991, Relating to Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality**

This EO mandates that the Federal government provide leadership in protecting and enhancing the quality of the nation's environment to sustain and enrich human life. Federal agencies must initiate measures needed to direct their policies, plans and programs so as to meet national environmental goals. These regulations include procedures for early EIS preparation and require impact statements to be concise, clear, and supported by evidence that agencies have made the necessary analyses.

Any recreation and/or restoration projects that may be proposed in the future for development would need to comply with the EO during the planning and implementation process. An Environmental Assessment has been prepared as part of this Master Plan. Therefore, the proposed project is in compliance with the mandates of this EO.

### **6.12 Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management**

In accordance with this EO, the Corps shall take action 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."

This EO requires that Federal Agencies take action to manage the risk and/or impacts of floods on human safety, health, and welfare; and restore and preserve natural and beneficial values served by the floodplains. Each agency also has the responsibility to evaluate potential effects of Federal actions that may be made within floodplains.

Compliance with this EO requires proper implementation of engineering regulations (ER) 1165-2-26, which states that the policy of the Corps with respect to floodplain management is to formulate projects which, to the extent possible, avoid or minimize adverse impacts associated with use of the base (100-year) floodplain and avoid inducing development in the base floodplain unless there is no practicable alternative.

Since the proposed project is limited to the reclassification of land use within the Basin with no project to be physically implemented, the proposed project will not result in further inducing development in the base floodplain.

There is no practicable alternative to undertaking the proposed Action Alternative within the floodplain, as the project area is already established within the floodplain. The Action Alternative recommends a land use classification plan for the Basin only, and does not include provisions for any physical development, alteration, or modification of the existing conditions. Therefore, the Action Alternative must occur within land that is already within the floodplain, and there are no practicable alternatives. The proposed project is in compliance with the ER 1165-2-26 for implementing EO 11988.

If actions are proposed in the future that would result in changes to the Basin, a separate review for compliance with this EO would be undertaken.

### **6.13 Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands**

Federal agencies shall take action to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out the agencies responsibilities. Each agency, to the extent permitted by law, shall avoid undertaking or providing assistance for new construction located in wetlands unless the head of the agency finds (1) that there is no practicable alternative to such construction and (2) that the proposed action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands which may result from such use. In making this finding, the head of the agency may take into account

economic, environmental, and other pertinent factors. Each agency shall also provide opportunity for early public review of any plans or proposals for new construction in wetlands.

The proposed project would not impact any wetlands within the Basin. The proposed project is in compliance with this EO.

Any recreation and/or restoration projects that may be proposed in the future for development would need to comply with the EO during the planning and implementation process if the proposal would impact existing wetlands.

#### **6.14 Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards**

Federal Agencies are responsible for ensuring that all necessary actions are taken for the prevention, control, and abatement of environmental pollution with respect to Federal amenities and activities under control of the agency.

The action does not negatively affect the natural and beneficial values of the Basin as the reclassification of land use would conserve and protect existing natural areas from further development. The proposed project is in compliance with the EO.

Any recreation and/or restoration projects that may be proposed in the future for development would need to comply with the EO during the planning and implementation process.

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

EO 12898 is intended to direct each Federal agency “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 EO.

Any recreation and/or restoration projects that may be proposed in the future for development would need to comply with the EO during the planning and implementation process.

#### **6.16 Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species**

Federal agencies are to expand and coordinate efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive plant species and to minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species may cause.

Invasive species management within the Basin is the responsibility of the local sponsor under the terms of the lease. Through recommended eradication and/or maintenance of invasive species, and the future replacement of non-native ornamental trees and other plant material, within the Master Plan and per additional Corps guidance, the intent of the EO is met.

Any recreation and/or restoration projects that may be proposed in the future for development would need to comply with the EO during the planning and implementation process.

### **6.17 Executive Order 13148, Greening the Government through Leadership in Environmental Management**

Environmental management considerations must be a fundamental and integral component of Federal Government policies, operations, planning, and management. The primary goal of this EO in the natural resources arena is for each agency to strive to promote the sustainable management of Federal facility lands through the implementation of cost-effective, environmentally sound landscaping practices, and programs to reduce adverse impacts to the natural environment.

The Master Plan in Section 5, Resource Objectives, discusses ways to improve environmental stewardship and management of the Basin. The proposed project is in compliance with the EO.

Any recreation and/or restoration projects that may be proposed in the future for development would need to comply with the EO during the planning and implementation process.

### **6.18 Executive Order 13195, Trails for America in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

This EO states that Federal agencies will, to the extent permitted by law and where practicable and in cooperation with Tribes, States, local governments, and interested citizen groups, protect, connect, promote, and assist trails of all types throughout the United States.

The approval of the updated Master Plan will not result in the development of trails or the reduction in quality or quantity of existing trails. An analysis of existing trails has been provided, which will serve to inform the promotion of trail building and connection in the future. This Master Plan and DEA is in compliance with this order.

**6.19 Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA).** This Act is not applicable. The Whittier Narrows Basin is not in the Coastal Zone.

## **XI. REFERENCES**

1. *Whittier Narrows Dam Master Plan and Environmental Assessment*, US Army Corps of Engineers, 1996.
2. *Whittier Narrows Dam Basin Master Plan/Final Environmental Assessment*, US Army Corps of Engineers, 2011.
3. *California Department of Fish and Game's, California Natural Diversity Database* (accessed via internet on June 14, 2011)
6. *Los Angeles County Code*, (accessed via internet) June 14, 2011.

## **XI. RECOMMENDATION**

Based upon the information provided here, an EIS will not be needed and the following Corps action is recommended:

EIS

FONSI

PREPARED BY: Jui Ing Chien, Park Planner  
County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation

Reviewed By: Carvel Bass, Ecologist, Asset Management Division  
US Army Corps of Engineers

**APPENDIX A:  
CORPS POLICY ON SPECIAL EVENTS  
AT WHITTIER NARROWS DAM BASIN**

1. Under Corps regulations, special events are subject to the review and approval of the Corps. At Whittier Narrows Dam Basin (Basin), events less than 1,000 people, subject to the restrictions included in the Master Plan, are within the authority of the lessee. Events over 1,000 people are subject to specific review and approval by the District Commander.
2. The approval of special events over 1,000 people is a “Federal action” requiring compliance with environmental laws including NEPA. Through the Environmental Assessment associated with this Master Plan, the Corps has assessed impacts associated with special events subject to the conditions and limitations below and determined the impacts are less than significant. Generally, no event-specific Environmental Assessment will be required for events that meet these conditions and limitations, after verification by the Corps.
  - a. Events must be assessed on an event-specific basis.
  - b. Events may not obstruct use or access to any other area of the Basin. Recreational users of the adjacent areas may not be impeded.
  - c. Events may not exceed 5,000 people (including vendors, staff and attendees) on any given day.
  - d. Events may not exceed two days of the event plus two days (48 hours) setup and two days (48 hours) cleanup/takedown. Event areas must remain open to the public during setup and cleanup except where safety and/or logistics is/are a concern.
  - e. No stunts, pyrotechnics, weapons, firearms, fires, aircraft including helicopters, animals other than dogs, and/ or water contact is/are permitted.
  - f. Amplified sound shall not exceed 100 dBl 20 feet from the source. This is considered the equivalent of a loud auto horn at 10 feet.
  - g. No amplified sound shall be permitted after 10:00 pm Monday through Saturday, nor after 7:00 pm on Sunday.
  - h. No ground disturbance (digging, leveling, etc.) of any area is permitted. No physical alteration (cutting of vegetation, moving rocks, etc.) is permitted. Relocation of placed “landscape boulders” are not included, but shall be returned to their original position at the direction of the lessee. Staking of tents is permitted, but all holes shall be re-filled and compacted at the close of the event as holes left un-treated may cause people to trip and injure themselves.
  - i. All cars shall be parked in designated parking stalls or on dirt shoulder. Cars on shoulder shall be parked parallel to the road. No vehicles may be parked on grass areas. Vehicles may be used at the site for setup and takedown only.
  - j. Cars for demonstration or exhibit shall place an oil pan beneath all vehicles when parked on the grass. All oil and fluid leaks/drips shall be cleaned up by the vehicle’s owner at the close of the event. The event proponent shall be responsible for a final inspection and clean-up of the area.
  - k. Walk/runs, marathons, races etc. must be assessed on an event-specific basis.
  - l. Car shows must be assessed on an event-specific basis.
3. Requests for events meeting the above limitations must be submitted to the Corps no less than 30 days prior to the proposed event date for review and confirmation that the event complies with applicable requirements.
4. Events not meeting the above limitations are subject to a more detailed event-specific evaluation by the Corps, including an Environmental Assessment for NEPA compliance. Requests for such events must be submitted to the Corps no less than 90 days prior to the proposed event date.
5. All Special Events, including those assessed in the Master Plan EA, must meet the following requirements:
  - a. The right to charge is subject to the event proponent providing parking assistance, adequate policing for crowd control, and other services required for the health, safety, and welfare of event participants.

- b. The event proponent must meet bonding, insurance, and other requirements under local laws.
  - c. No costs shall accrue to the Government.
  - d. Use of Project/Basin lands will not preempt public use of project recreational resources. All other Basin areas must remain accessible to non-event Basin users.
  - e. The event proponent shall provide a plot plan showing the proposed layout of the event. A Parking Plan (including plan for disabled parking), Traffic Plan, and Evacuation Plan shall be required. No vehicles may be parked on grassy areas outside designated parking. Event proponents shall encourage the use of public transit, carpooling, and bicycling to the event. Parking limitations for the event shall be posted one week prior to the event.
  - f. Event proponents must coordinate security requirements with the County. Generally, events over 1000 people should have 1 security guard/person for each 500 people.
  - g. The site shall be fully restored to prevent conditions by the event proponent within 48 hours of event closure. The County may require a bond from the event proponent.
  - h. Events longer than four days or over holidays are generally disfavored, requiring a special exception by the District Commander.
  - i. Either the lessee or the event proponent must submit a Post-Event Report within 30- days following the event containing the number of attendees, funds received (see collection cost analysis below), any problems encountered, any damage to the property, and any other issues of concern.
  - j. Collection of any funds in connection with the event, including for admission and parking, must be approved by the District Commander prior to the issuance of the County's permit. Collection of entry fees in excess of actual total costs will be paid to the Corps for legal disposal unless surplus proceeds are used for benefit to the project (Whittier Narrows Dam Basin). A collection cost analysis will be provided by the event proponent within 30 days following the event. The Corps reserves the right to audit the County's records.
  - k. Adequate public restrooms (portable) and first-aid facility (e.g., tent), as applicable, must be provided although publicly available facilities may not be closed to the public during the event.
  - l. Alcohol sales (e.g., beer and wine garden) must be licensed and comply with applicable local laws.
  - m. The event proponent is required to hold the government harmless, accept liability and provision of indemnity and insurance are required.
  - n. The Corps must have access to the special event site at all times.
6. Walk/runs and bicycle rides shall not enter Environmentally Sensitive Areas at any time. Paths and or trails through the Basin for the event may be closed for the time period of the event and one hour before and one hour after the event for clean-up and removal of any and all trash created during the event.
  7. Presence of animals shall be limited to exhibition purposes. All animals shall be enclosed in a secure "pen". Petting zoos shall be continuously monitored and all animal waste and excess feed shall be removed continuously. A final inspection and clean-up of the area shall be the responsibility of the event proponent.

## APPENDIX B:

### WHITTIER NARROWS RECREATION AREA 2013 SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR (AS OF December 12, 2012)

- February 16 & 17    **LA Tet Festival** ( Area B – Dirt Overflow Parking Lot)  
Vietnamese Lunar New Year Celebration – 2 Day event with  
Live music and entertainment, cultural ceremonies, food booths, information  
booths, vendor booths, and carnival rides.  
History – 9+ years  
Sponsors – A+ Education Center, Boy Scouts of America Troop 523, and The  
Asian American Lions Club  
Open to the Public  
Estimated Attendance: 10,000 per day
- March 15-31        **Spring Fair** ( Area B – Dirt Overflow Parking Lot)  
Carnival – 17 day event with carnival rides, game booths, specialty booths, and  
entertainment  
History – 30+ years  
Promoter – O Entertainment  
Open to the Public  
Estimated Attendance: 15,000 -20,000
- TBD                 **Spring Youth Fishing Event** (Area D – North Lake)  
Department Event in conjunction with California state Fish &  
Game “ Fishing in the City” and “Rod and Reel” Programs  
History – 1 year  
Open to the Public (15 years and younger)  
Estimated Attendance: 200-300
- May 5                **Cinco De May Celebration** (Area A & B [exclusive use of both])  
Mexican Cultural Celebration – 1 day event including live entertainment, vendor  
product sampling booths, food booths, informational booths, beer garden.  
History – 18 years  
Promoter – Del Rey Entertainment  
Open to the Public  
Estimated Attendance: 35,000 – 40,000
- May 19              **Buddha’s Birthday Celebration** (Area B – Small Special Events Area)  
Sakamuni Buddha Birthday Celebration – 1 day cultural event featuring live  
entertainment, food booths, informational booths, medical screening booths, and  
game booths.  
History- 8+ years  
Sponsors: His Lai Temple, Dharma Seal Temple, Fa-Kwan Temple, Kwan Yin  
Meditation Temple, BLIA – LA  
Open to the Public  
Estimated Attendance: 8,000

- TBD                   **Padres Contra El Cancer Annual Family Picnic and Carnival**  
 (Area B – Small Special Events Area)  
 It's a 1 day event that celebrates hope and life for children suffering from cancer. The event includes live musical entertainment, BBQ luncheon, carnival games, carnival rides, and numerous art activities.  
 History- 8 Years  
 Sponsor- Padres Contra El Cancer  
 Private Event  
 Estimated Attendance: 3,000
- July                   **Overnight Family Fun Fish – (Area A – North Lake)**  
 It's a department event that offers families the opportunity to camp and fish by the lake for 1 night.  
 Open to the Public  
 Estimated Attendance: 500 – 900
- TBD                   **Truck Show Job Fair (Area B- Small Special Events Area)**  
 Big Rig Truck Show and Job Fair- 1 day event featuring a big rig truck show, vendor booths , informational booths, job fair etc...  
 History – 6 years  
 Sponsors – Truck Club Publishing inc.  
 Open to the Public  
 Estimated Attendance: 2,500
- September 8       **Fiestas Patrias (Area A & B [exclusive use of both])**  
 Mexican Independence Day Celebration – 1 day event featuring live entertainment, vendor product sampling booths, informational booth, food booths, beer gardens, etc...  
  
 History – 18 Years  
 Promoter- Del Rey Entertainment  
 Open to the Public  
 Estimated Attendance : 50,000 – 60,000
- TBD                   **DPSS Fun Mania ( Area A – exclusive use of entire area)**  
 Department of Public Social Services fundraiser for Charitable Giving features picnics, soccer tournament, softball tournament, volleyball tournament, bike ride, etc..  
 Private Event (DPSS)  
 Estimated Attendance: 4,000 – 6,000
- October 6           **Junta Hispana (Area B- Small Special Events Area)**  
 Hispanic Heritage Month Event- 1 day event that features music, entertainment, children's activities, vendor product sampling booths, food booths, informational booths, etc...  
 History – 4 years  
 Promoter- Junta Hispana  
 Open to the Public

TBD

**Fall Fair** (Area B – Dirt Overflow Lot)

Carnival – 17 day event with carnival rides, game booths, specialty booths, and entertainment

History – 30+ years

Promoter – O Entertainment

Open to the Public

Estimated Attendance: 15,000 -20,000

December 7

**Fishing With Santa** (Area D – North Lake)

Department fishing event held in conjunction with the Dan Hernandez Youth Foundation, California stat Fish & Game “ Fishing in the City” , and “Rod Reel” Loan Program. The event is highlighted by the fishing, raffle, lunch, and a visit from Santa Clause.

Open to Public (15 years and younger)

Estimated Attendance: 300-500

## APPENDIX C

### The Corps' 7 Environmental Operating Principles

- 1 *Strive* to achieve environmental sustainability;
- 2 *Recognize* the interdependence of life and the physical environment, and proactively consider environmental consequences;
- 3 *Seek* balance and synergy among humans and natural systems by designing solutions that support and reinforce each other;
- 4 *Continue* to accept corporate responsibility for activities under our control that impact human welfare and the viability of natural systems;
- 5 *Seek* ways and means to assess and mitigation cumulative impacts to the environment; bring systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes;
- 6 *Build* and share an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base that supports greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work;
- 7 *Respect* the views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities; listen actively and learn their perspective in the search to find win-win solutions that also protect and enhance the environment.