



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

**Galveston District
Regulatory Branch**

**Special Public Notice
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Luce Bayou Inter-basin Transfer Project
October 29, 2012**

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Coastal Water
Authority's Luce Bayou Inter-basin Transfer Project in Liberty,
and Harris Counties, Texas**

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE: To inform you of that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District (SWG), is issuing a notice to advise the public that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), for which you might be interested, has been completed and is available for review. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest.

SCOPING: A Public Notice for Permit Application SWG-2009-00188 was published in 2010 and comments were requested and compiled for evaluation. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS was published on May 25, 2011 in the Federal Register, and a scoping meeting was held on July 21, 2011 in Dayton, Texas at the Dayton Community Center. The Scoping Notice and NOI were published on the SWG District webpage, and notices were published in local newspapers, and mailed to current stakeholder lists requesting input and comments concerning issues and resources that should be addressed in the DEIS.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing on the DEIS will be held on November 28, 2012 from 6:00PM until 8:30 PM at the Dayton Community Center, 801 S. Cleveland St. Dayton, Texas. The purpose of the hearing is to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the DEIS. Notification of the hearing will be announced following the same format as scoping meeting announcements.

The DEIS is available online at the EPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Database web site. This site may be accessed at:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/eisdata.html>

or through a link via the SWG Special Projects web site at:

<http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/BusinessWithUs/RegulatoryBranch/SpecialProjectsEnvironmentalImpactStatements.aspx>

Paper copies of the DEIS are available for review at the Jones Public Library, 801 S. Cleveland Street, Suite H, Dayton, Texas and at the Galveston District Headquarters, 2000 Fort Point RD, Galveston, Texas 77551.

INFORMATION: The Coastal Water Authority proposes to construct a 26.5 mile water supply conveyance consisting of subsurface pipeline and surface canal within a 300 ft. wide right of way from the Trinity River in Liberty County, TX to Lake Houston in Harris County, TX. The proposed project would transfer water from the Trinity River basin to the San Jacinto River basin. The Coastal Water Authority is the applicant for the Department of Army permit (DA) SWG-2009-00188. A pump station would be constructed on the Trinity River at Capers Ridge approximately 10 miles north of Dayton, Texas. Water from the river would be conveyed by pipeline to a sedimentation basin and then conveyed by earthen canal to Lake Houston to a discharge point in the lake. The canal right of way would include canal side berms, a maintenance access roadway, drainage ditches, and perimeter fencing surrounding the canal. Other elements of the project proposal include the following:

- a. Dual 108 inch diameter pipelines constructed to convey water 3.5 miles to a 20 acre sedimentation/settling basin.
- b. A 23.5 mile clay lined earthen canal with 4:1 side slopes within a 300 ft. wide right of way (ROW) which would include a maintenance roadway, access roads, chain link perimeter fencing, flow control and metering facilities.
- c. Other facilities include box culverts at roadway and canal crossings, and multiple below ground siphons constructed to maintain existing drainage patterns along the length of the conveyance.
- d. A maintenance facility is proposed 6 miles north of Dayton, Texas.
- e. A discharge structure is proposed along the southeast shoreline of Lake Houston.

The proposed inter-basin transfer of water from the Trinity River basin to the San Jacinto River basin is an effort by the City of Houston to continue replacing groundwater use with previously secured water resources stored in Lake Livingston. The Applicant has indicated that groundwater reduction is a statutory requirement and is critical to managing the damaging consequences of subsidence throughout the Houston/Harris County area. In addition, water demand projections developed by the City of Houston and State of Texas regional water plan analysis indicate substantial new demand from residential, commercial, industrial, and other water users over the next 50 years. In order to both reduce reliance on groundwater and to continue to meet existing and projected demand with surface water supplies, the Applicant proposes to use the previously secured surface water resources in the Trinity River basin. Up to 400 million gallons per day is proposed to be conveyed in accordance with existing water rights.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of the

Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts upon which a decision by the Corps of Engineers may be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: Comments may be submitted during the entire 45-day period and will be reviewed and incorporated into the administrative record prior to the District's finalization of the procedure. All comments pertaining to this Notice must reach this office on or before December 10, 2012. Comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to:

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