



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

29 JUN 1992

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CECW-PM (10-1-7a)

SUBJECT: Las Vegas Wash and Tributaries (Tropicana and Flamingo Washes), Nevada

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

1. I submit for transmission to Congress my report on flood control improvements for Las Vegas Wash and Tributaries (Tropicana and Flamingo Washes), Nevada. It is accompanied by the reports of the District and Division Engineers and the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors. These reports are in partial response to a resolution adopted by the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the United States Senate on 1 October 1982. The resolution requested that the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors review prior reports on Las Vegas Wash and Tributaries with a view to determining whether modifications for flood control and related purposes are advisable.
2. The reporting officers recommend authorization of a plan to provide flood protection on Tropicana and Flamingo Washes by constructing four debris basins, two detention basins, modifications to two existing detention basins, 28 miles of channels connecting these project elements, and environmental mitigation. Environmental mitigation features include compensation for 730 acres of permanent disturbance and 215 acres of temporary disturbance to the habitat of the endangered desert tortoise. The plan also includes construction of 32 miles of lateral collector channels by the non-Federal sponsor.
3. The first cost of the recommended plan based on October 1991 price levels, is estimated at \$204,300,000, of which \$144,000,000 is Federal cost and \$60,300,000 would be non-Federal. The non-Federal cost includes \$12,300,000 for construction of lateral collector channels. Average annual charges, reflecting a 100-year period for economic analysis and an 8-1/2 percent discount rate, are estimated at \$22,000,000. Average annual benefits are estimated at \$27,600,000, and the benefit-cost ratio is 1.2. The recommended plan is the national economic development (NED) plan.
4. In accordance with the provisions of Section 104 of PL 99-662, the reporting officers recommended the non-Federal sponsor receive credit for work carried out which is compatible with the plan

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recommended for implementation, an amount currently estimated to be \$9,900,000. The work consists of design and construction of the Red Rock and Flamingo detention basins and advance mitigation for desert tortoise impacts associated with construction of the Blue Diamond detention basin. This credit was approved in concept by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works on 6 June 1988, contingent upon determining the actual elements of work eligible for credit under the section 104 guidelines and including these elements in the feasibility report.

5. The Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors concurs with the findings and recommendations of the reporting officers. The recommended improvements are economically justified, engineeringly feasible and environmentally and socially acceptable. The Board recommends that the flood damage reduction measures for Tropicana and Flamingo Washes, Nevada, be implemented generally in accordance with the reporting officers recommended plan and subject to cost sharing, financing, and other requirements of Public Law 99-662, as amended.

6. I concur in the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Board.

7. The recommendation contained herein reflects the information available at this time and current departmental policies governing formulation of individual projects. It does not reflect program and budgeting priorities inherent in the formulation of a national civil works construction program nor the perspective of higher review levels within the executive branch. Consequently, the recommendation may be modified before it is transmitted to the Congress as a proposal for authorization and implementation funding. However, prior to transmittal to the Congress, the sponsor, the State of Nevada, interested Federal agencies, and other parties will be advised of any modifications and will be afforded an opportunity to comment further.



C. E. EDGAR III
Major General, USA
Acting Chief of Engineers