



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

16 JUN 1992

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CECW-PM (10-1-7a)

SUBJECT: Shoal Creek, Austin, Texas

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

1. I submit for transmission to Congress my report on the Colorado River and tributaries, Shoal Creek, Austin, Texas. 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 the Flood Control Act of 1936, River and Harbor Act of 1937, and River and Harbor Act of 1945. These acts all provide study authorization for flood control studies along the Colorado River and tributaries in Texas.
2. The reporting officers identified a flood damage reduction plan for the Shoal Creek basin consisting of diversion tunnels and channel improvements for Shoal Creek and channel improvements for Hancock Creek, a major tributary. The city of Austin reviewed the basin-wide plan and, after weighing all of the data provided, has decided to support implementation of the Hancock Creek portion only.
3. The District and Division Engineers recommend implementation of the Hancock Creek flood damage reduction project. The plan of improvement consists of 4,745 feet of grass-lined channels, concrete channels, a concrete box culvert, and selective clearing from just upstream of Houston Street to the confluence with Shoal Creek.
4. The recommended plan will reduce average annual damages along Hancock Creek by an estimated 61 percent. Based on October 1991 prices, the estimated first cost of the recommended plan is \$6,808,000 of which \$5,106,000 would be Federal under the cost sharing provisions of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended. Average annual benefits and costs, based on an interest rate of 8 1/2 percent, are \$1,241,600 and \$645,000, respectively, with a resulting benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.9. The recommended plan is the national economic development (NED) plan for Hancock Creek.

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5. The report has been reviewed by the Washington Level Review Center. The concurrent Washington level review indicates that the proposed project is technically sound, economically justified, and environmentally acceptable.

6. The Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors concurs with the findings and recommendations of the reporting officers. In considering the plan, the Board notes the preferences of the sponsor and the lower cost to the Federal Government. The Board agrees with the local sponsor's views and concurs with the recommended NED plan. Accordingly, the Board recommends that flood damage reduction measures for Austin, Texas, be authorized for implementation in accordance with the recommended plan described in the District Engineer's report.

7. I concur in the findings, conclusions, and recommendation of the Board.

8. 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 level reviews within the executive branch. Consequently, the recommendation may be modified before it is transmitted to Congress as a proposal for authorization and implementation funding. However, prior to transmittal to the Congress, the sponsor, the State of Texas, 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