

## **5.0 Short-Term Impacts Versus Long-Term Productivity**

The short- and long-term effects of the proposed action are to alter the process by which the USACE implements its Regulatory Program within the Howard Bend study area. This will result in certain changes and limitations in the manner in which a Section 404 permit is granted, the areas that are unavailable for future development (i.e., areas subject to preservation will be precluded to development under the SAMP), the need to incorporate certain vegetated buffers, and the need to mitigate for unavoidable adverse impacts (wetlands, streams, trees) at specifically designated sites within the study area (see Section 2.1.2).

Such changes in the regulation of natural resources within the study area are made in view of the maintenance and enhancement of the long-term productivity of the environment. Many lands within the study area are currently subject to long-term preservation as they are dedicated parts of CCLMP (including mitigation lands), and are subject to restricted permissible uses in accordance with the City of Maryland Heights' Future Land Use Plan (e.g., Missouri Riverfront area). The implementation of the SAMP alternative builds on this existing land preservation, increasing their protection, and ensuring that natural resources of value are protected and mitigated effectively in the future.

## **6.0 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources**

The No Action alternative would result in a loss of planning related study dollar and time investments. The proposed action (SAMP) will require the expenditure of human and fiscal resources. Personnel and fiscal expenditures are considered an irreversible commitment, and will be required in conjunction with the need to develop and administer the SAMP and establish the needed mitigation bank(s) within the study area.

## 7.0 Permits

The nature of the proposed action is one that relates to the policy and procedures of the USACE Regulatory Program within the Howard Bend study area. As such, no specific permits are required to implement the selected alternative. Future actions taken within the limits of the study area shall be required to follow all appropriate procedures to obtain applicable permits from Federal, state, and local agencies including the USACE, MDNR, St. Louis County, the City of Maryland Heights, and the City of Chesterfield.

In most cases, potential unavoidable adverse impacts to waters of the United States will qualify for authorization under the provisions of the General Permit issued for the SAMP area.

Potential actions having impacts that exceed the limits prescribed under the General Permit shall require processing as an Individual Permit and shall require Public Notice Review.

## 8.0 List of Preparers

Preparers	Qualifications	Primary Responsibilities
<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District</b>		
Danny McClendon	MS Biology; 17 years experience in regulatory compliance, project management, and environmental impact analysis.	Project Manager, Senior Review, Coordination
<b>MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Inc.</b>		
Michael Brazier	MS Engineering, BS Engineering; 33 years of direct experience in regulatory compliance and environmental engineering design/management and project management.	Wetlands, Floodplains, Alternatives, Surface Water
William Elzinga	MS Biology, BS Biology; 19 years of experience in environmental impact assessment, terrestrial, and wetland ecology.	Environmental Lead
Scott George	BS Geology; 22 years of professional experience in environmental investigations including wetland delineation and geological assessments.	Wetlands, Water Quality and Geology
Linda Hart	BS Business/Biology; 17 years of professional experience as a manager with professional responsibility in technical writing, editing, and document production for environmental documents.	Technical Editor and Document Coordinator
Britton Marchese	MS Environmental Sciences; 5 years of experience as an Environmental Scientist and technical writer and editor.	Socioeconomics, Special Waste, Cultural Resources
Bruce McNitt	BLA Landscape Architecture; 25 years experience in project management of multidisciplinary efforts.	Project Manager, Visual Environment, Transportation, Document Review
Brian Mueller	BS Fisheries/Limnology; 15 years of professional experience in fisheries, GIS, and impact analysis.	GIS Coordinator
Richard Skinker	BS Fisheries and Wildlife; 7 years of professional experience in natural resource damage assessments, aquatic ecology, plant taxonomy, and wetland investigations.	Wetland Scientist, Wetlands, Threatened and Endangered Species
Chris Tedder	B.S. Geology; 14 years of professional experience in the geotechnical evaluation of surface and subsurface conditions and in conducting environmental sampling and site evaluations.	Special Waste
Eric Westhus	MS Biology, BS Biology; 2 years of professional experience in Ecology and GIS.	GIS Support

Preparers	Qualifications	Primary Responsibilities
Blane Wood	B.S. Operations Management; 12 years professional experience, specializing in compliance auditing, air quality permitting and the development and implementation of complex regulatory compliance sampling protocols.	Air Quality
<b>Crawford, Bunte, Brammeier</b>		
Doug Shatto	B.S. Civil Engineering; 17 years of professional experience in conducting traffic impact studies, transportation planning and travel demand modeling (computerized traffic forecasting), signal system optimization and parking studies.	Traffic Analysis
<b>American Resources Group</b>		
Cally Lence	BS History; 4 years of professional experience in identification, classification and investigation of cultural resources.	Historian-Survey and Report Preparation
Mike McNerney	M.A. Anthropology, B.S. Business Administration; 31 years of professional experience in identification, classification and investigation of cultural resources.	Principal Investigator
Steve Titus	MA Anthropology, BA Education; 16 years of professional experience in identification, classification and investigation of cultural resources.	Co-Principal Investigator, Supervising Archeologist
<b>White and Borgognoni</b>		
Gail White	MS Historic Architecture, BS Architecture; 28 years of professional experience in historic architectural surveys and evaluations, historic preservation, and rehabilitation planning.	Architectural Historian-Survey and Report Preparation
<b>Independent Technical Review</b>		
Dennis Stevens, Hydraulics USACE St. Louis District		Hydrology and hydraulics
David Vigh, Planning USACE Mississippi Valley Division		EIS Review
Eddie Brooks, Hydrology USACE Mississippi Valley Division		EIS Review

## 9.0 List of Agencies, Organizations, and Persons Receiving the DEIS

### Federal

Mr. Charles Scott  
Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
608 East Cherry St., Room 200  
Columbia, MO 65201

Mr. Victor Blackburn  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
1215 Fern Ridge Parkway, Suite 212  
St. Louis, MO 63141

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Attn: Office of Federal Activities  
NEPA Compliance Div  
EIS Filing Section  
Areil Rios Building (South Oval Lobby)  
Mail Code 2252-A, Room 7241  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20044

Mr. Ken Sessa  
Regional Environmental Specialist  
Federal Emergency Management Agency,  
Region VII  
2323 Grand Boulevard, Suite 900  
Kansas City, MO 64108-2670

Mr. Raymond Homer  
Environmental Coordinator  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development  
601 Business Loop 70 West  
Parkade Center, Suite 235  
Columbia, MO 65203

Mr. Dennis Potter, Soil Scientist, Liaison  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Parkade Center, Suite 250  
601 Business Loop 70 West  
Columbia, MO 65203

Renee Cook  
District Conservationist  
NRCS  
160 St. Peters Centre Boulevard  
St. Peters, Missouri 63376

Mr. Joe Cothorn, NEPA Program Manager  
Environmental Review Branch  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
901 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, ENSV-IO  
Kansas City, KS 66101

Mr. Roger Wiebusch  
U.S. Office of Homeland Security  
U.S. Coast Guard  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103

Ms. Sandy Freeman  
Environmental Officer  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
Development  
St. Louis Office, Region VII  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103-2836

Mr. Mike Madrigal  
U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban  
Development  
Kansas City Regional Office  
400 State Avenue  
Kansas City, KS 66101

Mr. Donald Neumann  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
209 Adams Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

The Honorable Jim Talent  
Three CityPlace Drive  
Suite 1020  
St. Louis, Missouri 63141

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond  
Federal Building, Room 140  
339 Broadway  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

**State**

Mr. George Reidel, Floodplain Management  
Manager  
State Emergency Management Agency  
P.O. Box 116  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mr. Dale Schmutzler  
State Emergency Management Agency  
P.O. Box 116  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Ms. Janet Sternberg  
Mr. Joe Bachant  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
P.O. Box 180  
2901 West Truman Boulevard  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Mr. Steve Mahfood, Director  
Mr. Tom Lange  
Ms. Jane Beetem  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Ms. Gayle Unruh  
Mr. Barry Bergman  
Mr. Rob Meade  
Missouri Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 270  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mr. Brian Weiler  
Administrator of Aviation  
Missouri Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 270  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Mr. Richard Gross, Director  
Missouri Housing and Development  
Commission  
3770 Broadway  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Governor Robert Holden  
Missouri Capitol Building  
Room 218  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0270

The Honorable John Loudon  
District 7  
State Capitol Building  
Room 332  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Representative Jane Cunningham  
District 86  
Missouri House of Representatives  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Room 313-1  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Representative Albert Joseph Liese  
District 79  
Missouri House of Representatives  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Room 135BC  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Congressman Todd Akin  
District 2  
301 Sovereign Court Suite 201  
St. Louis, MO 63100

**Local**

Mr. Mike Geisel, Director of Public Works/City  
Engineer  
City of Chesterfield  
690 Chesterfield Parkway West  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Mr. J. Wayne Oldroyd  
Director of Community Planning and  
Development  
City of Maryland Heights  
212 Millwell  
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

Mr. Charlie A. Dooley  
St. Louis County Executive Commissioner  
41 South Central Avenue  
Clayton, MO 63105

Mr. Herb Liu  
Mr. Gary Schutz  
Mr. Chris Ludwig  
Mr. Paul Andrews  
St. Louis County Parks Department  
41 South Central  
Clayton, MO 63105

Mr. Steve Lauer, Director  
St. Charles County Planning Department  
201 North Second Street  
Suite 420  
St. Charles, MO 63301-2874

Mr. Bob Innis  
Transportation Corridor Improvement  
East-West Gateway Coordinating Council  
10 Stadium Plaza  
St. Louis, MO 63102-1714

Mayor John Nations  
8 Baxter Lane  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Mr. Mike Dulle  
St. Louis County Department of Highways and  
Traffic  
121 South Meramec Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63105

Mayor Mike Moeller  
11923 Wooded Valley Court  
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

### **Others**

Ms. Hilary Perkins  
Jacobs Civil Inc.  
501 N. Broadway  
St. Louis, MO 63102

Dr. John H. Mullen, Executive Director,  
Howard Bend Levee District  
Creve Coeur Airport  
3127 Creve Coeur Mill Road  
St. Louis, MO 63146

Mr. Daniel Human  
Husch & Eppenberger, LLC  
231 South Bemiston, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
St. Louis, MO 63105-1914

Mr. Gene Rovack  
Horner & Shifrin  
5200 Oakland  
St. Louis, Missouri 63146

St. Louis County Public Library  
Bridgeton Trails Branch  
3455 McKelvey Road  
Bridgeton, Missouri 63044

St. Louis County Public Library  
Thornhill Branch  
12863 Willowycck Drive  
St. Louis, Missouri 63141

## 10.0 Coordination

Coordination and communication has occurred with state and Federal agencies, the Cities of Chesterfield and Maryland Heights, USACE, HBLD, the St. Louis County Parks Department, interested citizens, and various interested parties and residents of the Howard Bend study area. A variety of means were utilized throughout the course of the EIS planning process to encourage and facilitate agency and public interaction and to receive input. These activities included public meetings, written correspondence, meetings with city officials, agency meetings, telephone conversations and field visits. In addition, an oral history was obtained from a long-time resident of the Howard Bend study area to provide additional background information as well as an historical overview.

### 10.1 Public Involvement

Public involvement for the Howard Bend EIS has occurred in a number of public forums throughout the EIS process. These forums have included a public meeting, two study area property owner meetings, and workshops in conjunction with the City of Maryland Heights' Howard Bend Future Land Use Plan planning process. In addition, presentations were made to the City of Maryland Heights' Planning Commission and periodic project updates were provided to elected officials in the City of Maryland Heights. The dates of public meetings are provided in Table 10-1.

Table 10-1. Howard Bend Public Meetings

Date	Forum
April 13, 2000	Public Scoping Meeting at the City of Maryland Heights Community Centre
January 17, 2001*	Howard Bend Property Owners Workshop
February 28, 2001*	Howard Bend Property Owners Workshop
April 11, 2001*	Howard Bend Property Owners Workshop
May 22, 2001	Planning and Zoning Commission Workshop
May 23, 2001*	Howard Bend Property Owners Workshop
July 25, 2001*	Howard Bend Property Owners Workshop

\* Presentation of EIS features/methodologies held in conjunction with the City of Maryland Heights' Draft Land Use Plan.

The public informational meeting was held on April 13, 2000 at the Maryland Heights Community Centre from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the public to the project, discuss the purpose of the study and answer questions, and gather feedback. The meeting was advertised via a press release issued to local newspapers by the USACE as well as letters sent to the participating agencies and levee district members. The HBLD mailed meeting announcements to all of its members.

A concerted effort was made to thoroughly describe the requirements of the NEPA process and the purpose of this EIS. It was noted to the public and to agencies that this EIS will not reevaluate the Page Avenue Extension project, the Monarch-Chesterfield Levee project, the Riverport or Earth City Levees, or any other previously approved or permitted projects by the USACE located in the study area. However, it was conveyed that this EIS will take into account the cumulative and secondary impacts of past, present and reasonably foreseeable future

projects on the remaining natural resources within the study area. The study area was defined as the Missouri River floodplain between RMs 29.6 and 38.4 in St. Louis County (I-70 to the Monarch-Chesterfield Levee).

The primary action was defined as regulatory in nature. The No Action alternative would entail continuing to process Section 404 permit applications on a case-by-case basis. The second alternative would involve the development of a SAMP to address the cumulative and secondary impacts of future development in the area in an effort to protect or mitigate important aquatic resources due to permitted activities. Various past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions and key environmental issues were also defined. Finally, the various phases of the EIS planning process were described.

Visual displays included environmental resource maps depicting the extent of the study area, detailed natural resources in the area and proposed future projects occurring within the study area. Given the complexity of this project, an effort was made to detail the various environmental issues that would be addressed. Specific information was provided regarding:

- 500-year levee construction;
- stormwater management;
- future development;
- proposed roadways;
- natural resource assessments;
- cultural resource assessments;
- floodplain; and
- floodway.

Additionally, the project team was introduced to the public, and the names and phone numbers were provided of team members to contact with additional information or concerns. Informational sheets and comment forms were distributed to meeting participants.

Approximately 65 people attended the meeting. Issues that were raised by the public included:

- Concern for flooding and backup of water when new roads are put into the Howard Bend area;
- The timing of construction of the various road projects; and
- Several land owners within the Howard Bend Levee District identified themselves as proponents of the proposed projects.

Various discussions were organized with Howard Bend property owners in conjunction with the formulation of the City of Maryland Heights' Land Use Plan. In addition, public meetings were held that included representatives from the City's Planning and Zoning Commission and interested citizens from the public. These meetings generally included an overview of the EIS process and how this process would interface with the Howard Bend Future Land Use Study. The dates of these meetings are provided in Table 10-1.

## 10.2 Public Hearing

A public hearing will be conducted in conjunction with the issuance of the Draft EIS. Advertising for the hearing will include public notices printed in local papers and a press release will be issued to inform the public of the hearing. The DEIS will be provided to public facilities including city halls, courthouses and libraries in and around the study area.

### 10.3 Agency Coordination

A variety of means were utilized throughout the course of the study to encourage and facilitate agency coordination. These included correspondence, phone conversations, and meetings. A number of formal meetings were held with agency representatives throughout the planning process in order to keep them apprised of the study progress and methodologies, and to solicit their formal input. Meetings were conducted in an interactive manner in order to encourage constructive comments and to obtain input regarding sensitive regulatory and natural resource issues.

The dates of various agency meetings conducted include the following:

- March 9, 2000 agency scoping meeting;
- June 8, 2000 agency meeting;
- May 20, 2002 USACE/agency field meeting;
- September 24, 2002 meeting with the USACE and the City of Maryland Heights;
- November 4, 2002 pre-agency meeting with the USACE and the City of Maryland Heights;
- November 6, 2002 agency meeting;
- December 18, 2002 meeting with the City of Chesterfield;
- February 10, 2003 meeting with St. Louis County Parks Department;
- February 25, 2003 meeting with St. Louis County Parks Department; and
- August 21, 2003 meeting with the City of Chesterfield.

Attendees varied slightly at each agency meeting. Below is a list of agencies in attendance at one or more of the agency meetings held:

- MDC;
- MDNR;
- MoDOT;
- USDA NRCS;
- USFWS;
- St. Louis County Parks Department;
- USACE; and
- State Emergency Management Agency.

Local representatives included:

- City of Chesterfield;
- City of Maryland Heights;
- St. Charles County;
- HBLD;
- The Missouri Coalition for the Environment; and
- The Webster Groves Nature Society.

The initial scoping meeting on March 9, 2000 was designed to encourage an exchange of information. Agencies were provided with an overview of the study area and the purpose of the EIS, the study methodologies utilized, and an outline of the project. Their feedback was requested regarding critical resource issues within the study area.

The USACE and various agencies held a field visit in May 2002. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the use of Page Avenue Extension mitigation lands for borrow or sale to the HBLD as well as the use of mitigation land for conveyance or storage of stormwater and the

possible requirement of a Section 6(f) evaluation. Other issues discussed included MoDOT's expressed concern that borrow activities were affecting their efforts to establish mitigation wetlands.

A subsequent agency meeting in November 2002 provided information on the revised study area, which had been expanded in an effort to be consistent with the planning areas depicted in the Howard Bend Future Land Use Plan. In addition, a copy of the draft Purpose and Need, Project Alternatives, methodology for assessing cumulative impacts, and the status of inventorying and mapping resources was provided. The primary discussion topics included:

- Comments related to the affects of the 500-year levee on 100-year flood stage;
- The new USACE flood profiles;
- A request to expand the study area upstream;
- An overview of secondary and cumulative impact analyses;
- Permits and mitigation;
- CCLMP Master Plan process;
- Legal mandate for the project – condition “r” of the Page Avenue EIS;
- SAMP goals and features; and
- Cultural resources.

Following each agency meeting, the USACE received a number of comments from agency representatives. Issues raised via comments were addressed in subsequent meetings and/or were addressed in the EIS.

#### **10.4 Other Coordination Meetings**

Other coordination meetings were conducted throughout the process with the City of Chesterfield, St. Louis County Parks, HBLD, and various developers. The purpose of these meetings was to gather planning level information from these agencies and to provide an update of project activities. These meetings provided a forum whereby projects currently being proposed were incorporated into the planning process and were evaluated in the EIS. An example of this is the Baxter Road Extension, which was proposed by the City of Chesterfield subsequent to the planning stage of this EIS, but was added to the list of reasonably foreseeable future actions. Coordination with the Cities of Chesterfield and Maryland Heights regarding the transportation projects was vital to the development of alternatives.

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## 12.0 References

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