PUBLIC NOTICE

Corps File No: NWO-2002-80323-DEN
Project: Halligan Water Supply Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Applicant: City of Fort Collins Utilities
Waterways: North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River
Release Date: November 22, 2019
Comments Due: January 26, 2020

REPLY TO:
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PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Subject: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Omaha District, is announcing the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the Halligan Water Supply Project (Halligan Project) and is evaluating a Department of the Army permit application and conceptual mitigation plan from the City of Fort Collins Utilities (Fort Collins), 700 Wood Street, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521. Permits are issued under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404), which regulates the placement of dredged or fill material in waters of the U.S. The Corps is neither a proponent nor an opponent of the proposed project.

Draft EIS: The Corps, Omaha District, has prepared a Draft EIS to analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the Halligan Project, a water supply project located in Larimer County, Colorado. The purpose of the Halligan Project is to provide Fort Collins with about 7,900 acre-feet per year of new, reliable municipal and industrial water supply. The Halligan Project would result in direct impacts to jurisdictional waters of the U.S., including the North Fork of the Cache la Poudre River (North Fork), Cache la Poudre River, and adjacent wetlands. The proposed placement of fill material in these waters of the U.S. for the construction of water storage and distribution facilities associated with developing additional water supplies requires authorization from the Corps under Section 404.

The Draft EIS was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the Corps’ regulations for NEPA implementation (33 CFR Parts 230 and 325, Appendices B and C). The Corps, Omaha District, Denver Regulatory Office is the lead federal agency responsible for the
Draft EIS. Information contained in the EIS serves as the basis for a decision regarding issuance of a Section 404 Permit. It also provides information for local and state agencies having jurisdictional responsibility for affected resources.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region VIII, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and Larimer County participated as cooperating agencies in the development of the Draft EIS.

**Proposed Project Description and Location:** Fort Collins proposes to enlarge the existing Halligan Reservoir located about 25 miles northwest of Fort Collins on the North Fork in Larimer County, Colorado. Halligan Dam is located at latitude 40.879161 degrees and longitude -105.337394 degrees. Fort Collins proposes to raise Halligan Dam by 25.4 feet to enlarge Halligan Reservoir from its current capacity of 6,400 acre-feet to approximately 14,525 acre-feet to provide about 7,900 acre-feet of additional annual firm yield to meet Fort Collins’ projected 2065 municipal and industrial water demands. The existing reservoir surface area is approximately 253 acres; the proposed enlargement would result in a surface area of approximately 386 acres.

Halligan Dam is a concrete arch dam built more than 100 years ago and will require rehabilitation in the near future to address safety risks. These safety risks would be addressed by Fort Collins under their proposed action during enlargement of the dam. Under the project alternatives, ownership of the dam and responsibility for rehabilitation would revert back to the North Poudre Irrigation Company. Under Fort Collins’ proposed action, Halligan Reservoir would continue to be filled with direct flows from the North Fork. Releases would be made to the North Fork downstream of the dam and would flow through Seaman Reservoir to the confluence with the Cache la Poudre River. From there, water would be exchanged up to Fort Collins’ intake or to the Monroe Canal intake and delivered to Fort Collins’ water treatment facility through the Pleasant Valley Pipeline. Under the proposed action, Fort Collins would maintain a minimum flow of five cubic feet per second in the North Fork from May 1 to September 30, a minimum flow of three cubic feet per second the remainder of the year, and forego all diversions to the enlarged pool and Halligan Reservoir for the three days that coincide with the forecasted peak runoff flow event for the North Fork.

This Draft EIS evaluates the effects of the following alternatives to Fort Collins proposed action: the No-Action Alternative; the Expanded Glade Alternative; the Gravel Pits Alternative; and the Agricultural Reservoirs Alternative.

**Additional Information:** The Corps’ decision on whether or not to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed project and its alternatives on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and use of important resources. The benefits that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against the reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, wetlands, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the public interest evaluation will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).
Copies of the Final EIS will be available for review at:

- Colorado State University Morgan Library, 1201 Center Avenue Mall, Fort Collins, Colorado 80523.
- Poudre River Public Library District-Old Town Library, 201 Peterson Street, Fort Collins, Colorado 80524.
- Poudre River Public Library-Harmony Library, 4616 South Shields Street, Fort Collins, Colorado 80526.
- University of Northern Colorado, James A. Michener Library, 14th Avenue and 20th Street, Greeley, Colorado 80639.

Public Hearing: On January 13, 2020, the Corps is holding a public hearing regarding the Department of the Army Permit application and Draft EIS for the Halligan Project. The public hearing will be held at the Drake Centre at 802 West Drake Road in Fort Collins, Colorado. From 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., the public may view various posters on the issues and ask questions of representatives of the Corps, the Corps contractors, and Fort Collins. There will be opportunities for the public to provide comments verbally to a stenographer or in writing. From 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., public officials or individuals wishing to make a public statement to the Corps will be given three minutes each to speak. Those public statements will be recorded by a stenographer and made part of the record.

Electronic copies of the Final EIS and conceptual mitigation plan may be obtained from the Denver Regulatory Office or its website at: https://go.usa.gov/xEfp5 or http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory-Program/Colorado/EIS-Halligan/

Submitting Comments: The Corps is soliciting written comments on the Draft EIS and conceptual mitigation plan from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed action and prepare the Final EIS. Comments both favorable and unfavorable will be accepted and made a part of the record and receive full consideration. Copies of all comments, including names and addresses of commenters, may be provided to Fort Collins Utilities. All written comments must be submitted to the mailing address listed below or to email address NWO.HalliganEIS@usace.army.mil by January 26, 2020:

Additional Information: Additional information about this application, conceptual mitigation plan, or Draft EIS may be obtained by contacting Mr. Cody Wheeler, Regulatory Project Manager at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Denver Regulatory Office, 9307 South Wadsworth Boulevard, Littleton, Colorado 80128; at telephone 720-922-3846; or via email at cody.s.wheeler@usace.army.mil.