



NEWS RELEASE

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Milestone Reached for Tulsa and West-Tulsa Levee Improvement Project

Tulsa, Okla.—On August 12, 2019, representatives from Tulsa County, Tulsa County Drainage District 12, the City of Tulsa, Sand Springs, and the Army Corps of Engineers successfully reached agreement on the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for improvements to the Tulsa and West Tulsa levee system.

Approximately \$1.5 billion in property and 10,000 people are located within the Tulsa and West Tulsa levee system. This key milestone in the project presented the Army Corps of Engineers' recommendations for levee system improvements to reduce life safety risks and property damage and improve community resiliency.

The study is paced to be the first feasibility report completed in the nation as a supplemental appropriation under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 for disaster relief within a 2-year timeframe. In an effort to meet the needs of the public protected by the Tulsa and West Tulsa levee system, the Army Corps of Engineers team accelerated the traditionally 3-year study by one full year. Recommended improvements include filtered berms with toe drains, a landslide impervious blanket, reconstruction of pump stations, and detention ponds.

"This stage is extremely important to the continued acceleration of our project schedule and allows us to move forward with completion of the draft report, so that we may get the report to the public and other agencies for review and comments. It is critical that we have buy-in for our recommended plan. We want the public to be fully aware of what we have planned for the levee system," said Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager, Bryan Taylor.

A tentative date for release of the draft report is Sept. 16, 2019, which will be followed by a 45-day comment period. Following this, the project team will review comments and make appropriate changes to begin drafting the feasibility report. Immediately following the approval of the feasibility report (anticipated for September 2020) the preconstruction, engineering, and design phase will begin.

"This is a great next step to reduce the risk for the community that sits behind the levee," said Todd Kilpatrick, District 12 Levee Commissioner. "We are one step closer to shovels in the ground and implementing this work. It's a great plan—one we have to make sure is implemented."

"We've been working on this project at some level for nearly 10 years," said Tulsa County Board of County Commissioners' Chair Karen Keith. "Now that it's at the forefront with our U.S. Army Corps of Engineers team, we are excited to see progress. And, we are so grateful to our federal delegation and the District Army Corps of Engineers team who worked diligently to expedite the study timeframe."

Total project costs are estimated at approximately \$150-\$200 million. The federal government will cover approximately 65% (\$96-\$130 million), while local city and county governments will be expected to cover the remaining 35% (\$52-\$70 million).

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