



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-RD
PUBLIC NOTICE

21 December 2016

**PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
ASSOCIATED WITH PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)
FOR PROPOSED PASCAGOULA RIVER DROUGHT RESILIENCY PROJECT, GEORGE
COUNTY AND JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.**

TO ALL CONCERNED: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Mobile District, has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to construct two water supply lakes: a 1,715-acre upper lake on Little Cedar Creek and a 1,153-acre lower lake on Big Cedar Creek, in George and Jackson Counties, Mississippi. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being used as a basis for ensuring compliance of this project with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

A PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING will be held from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. on January 24, 2017, at the George County Senior Citizens Building, 7102 Highway 198 East, Lucedale, MS 39452. The purpose of the Scoping Meeting is to solicit comments from all interested parties on issues and factors that should be considered for the scope and content of the EIS. All previous comments received by from Federal and state agencies, professional environmental organizations, and the public are automatically included and will be evaluated in this scoping procedure. The applicant believes that the proposed water supply lakes are needed to supply water to the Pascagoula River during future extreme droughts resulting from the effects of climate change and to maintain flow regimes necessary to meet critical environmental, ecological, and economic needs. The applicant estimates that the proposed project would impact approximately 1,201.7 acres of wetlands, 41.6 miles of stream channels, and 24.8 acres of open water. The project is in the initial stages of planning. The Corps invites full public participation to promote open communication on the issues surrounding the proposal. The scoping process is a key part of the public outreach and involvement phase. All Federal, State, and local agencies, and other persons or organizations that have an interest are urged to participate in the NEPA scoping process. The public meeting will be held to receive public input and comment which will be used to assist in the identification of significant issues associated with the proposed water supply lakes. The Corps will serve as the lead Federal agency in the preparation of the EIS.

The EIS will analyze the social, economic, and environmental impacts to the local area resulting from the proposed projects and alternatives. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposal on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and use of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the

**PUBLIC NOTICE: Public Scoping Meeting Notification for Pascagoula Drought Resiliency Project EIS
SAM-2014-00653-MBM**

proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors and their cumulative effects relevant to the proposal will be considered, including conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, property ownership, general the needs and welfare of the people, alternatives, secondary and cumulative impacts, socioeconomic impacts, environmental justice (effect on minorities and low-income groups) (Executive Order 12898), and protection of children (Executive Order 13045).

The purpose of the Scoping Meeting is to solicit comments from all interested parties on issues and factors that should be considered for the scope and content of the EIS. If you are unable to attend the Scoping Meeting but wish to provide initial input and comment which will be used to assist in the identification of significant issues associated with the proposed water supply lakes, you may provide written comments, with reference to **PASCAGOULA DROUGHT RESILIENCY PROJECT PROPOSAL, SAM-2014-00653-MBM**, to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District Regulatory Division, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, Attention: Mr. Michael Moxey, Special Projects Manager, or by e-mail to michael.b.moxey@usace.army.mil.

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers