



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION  
60 FORSYTH STREET SW, ROOM 10M15  
ATLANTA GA 30303-8801

5 DEC 2016

CESAD-CG

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Mobile District

SUBJECT: Approval of Review Plan (RP) for Village Creek, Jefferson County  
(Birmingham Watershed), Alabama Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study

1. References:

- a. Memorandum, CESAM-PD-FP, 30 September 2016, subject as above.
- b. Engineer Circular 1165-2-214, 15 December 2012, Civil Works Review.
- c. Planning Bulletin (PB) 2016-02, Civil Works Review, 4 March 2016.

2. Mobile District prepared the enclosed review plan for the Village Creek, Jefferson County, Alabama Feasibility Study in accordance with Engineer Circular 1165-2-214. Mobile District coordinated preparation of the review plan with the National Flood Risk Management Planning Center of Expertise (FRM-PCX) of the South Pacific Division, which is the lead office to execute this review plan. The FRM-PCX recommended approval of the review plan. The review plan includes Independent External Peer Review. The HQUSACE Model Certification Panel approved the planning models to be used in this study.

3. I hereby approve this Review Plan, which is subject to change as circumstances require, consistent with study development under the Project Management Business Process. Subsequent significant revisions to this Review Plan or its execution will require new written approval from this office. The District shall post the approved Review Plan and a copy of this approval memorandum to the SAM District public internet website and provide a link to the FRM-PCX for their use. Before posting to the website, the names of Corps employees should be removed.

4. The point of contact for this action is Mr. Patrick O'Donnell at (404) 562-5226 or Patrick.e.odonnell@usace.army.mil.

C. DAVID TURNER  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

Encl

## **REVIEW PLAN**

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### **VILLAGE CREEK, JEFFERSON COUNTY (BIRMINGHAM WATERSHED), ALABAMA FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY**

## **MOBILE DISTRICT**

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**FRM-PCX Endorsement Date: September 21, 2016**

**MSC Approval Date: December 5, 2016**

**Last Revision Date:**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

**REVIEW PLAN**

**VILLAGE CREEK, JEFFERSON COUNTY (BIRMINGHAM WATERSHED),  
ALABAMA  
FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY**

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## 1. PURPOSE AND REQUIREMENTS

a. **Purpose.** This Review Plan (RP) defines the scope and level of peer review for the Village Creek, Jefferson County (Birmingham Watershed), Alabama Feasibility Study. This RP is a component of the Project Management Plan (PMP) dated September 2016 (P2# 403178). This single-purpose flood risk management feasibility study process is anticipated to culminate with a recommendation to Congress for authorization.

### b. References

- 1) Engineer Circular (EC) 1165-2-214, Civil Works Review, 15 Dec 2012
- 2) EC 1105-2-412, Assuring Quality of Planning Models, 31 Mar 2011
- 3) Engineer Regulation (ER) 1110-1-12, Quality Management, 21 July 2006
- 4) ER 1105-2-100, Planning Guidance Notebook, Appendix H, Policy Compliance Review and Approval of Decision Documents, Amendment #1, 20 Nov 2007
- 5) Village Creek, Birmingham Watershed, Alabama Feasibility Study Project Management Plan, September 2016
- 6) Cost Schedule Risk Analysis Guidance, 17 May 2009
- 7) Planning Bulletin PB 2016-02, Civil Works Review, 4 March 2016

c. **Requirements.** This RP was developed in accordance with Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-214, which establishes an accountable, comprehensive, life-cycle review strategy for Civil Works products by providing a seamless process for review of all Civil Works projects from initial planning through design, construction, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement and rehabilitation (OMRR&R). The EC outlines four general levels of review: District Quality Control/Quality Assurance (DQC), Agency Technical Review (ATR), Independent External Peer Review (IEPR), and Policy and Legal Compliance Review. In addition to these levels of review, decision documents are subject to cost engineering review and certification (per EC 1165-2-214) and planning model certification/approval (per EC 1105-2-412).

## 2. REVIEW MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (RMO) COORDINATION

The Review Management Organization (RMO) for the peer review effort described in this Review Plan is the Flood Risk Management Planning Center of Expertise (FRM-PCX) managed by the South Pacific Division. The RMO is responsible for managing the overall peer review effort described in this Review Plan. The RMO for decision documents is typically either a Planning Center of Expertise (PCX) or the Risk Management Center (RMC), depending on the primary purpose of the decision document. The RMO will coordinate with the Cost Engineering Mandatory Center of Expertise with Technical Expertise (MCX/TCX) to ensure the appropriate expertise is included on the review teams to assess the adequacy of cost estimates, construction schedules, and contingencies. The RMO will also coordinate with the Risk Management Center as necessary concerning risk expertise needed/wanted on review teams.

### 3. STUDY INFORMATION

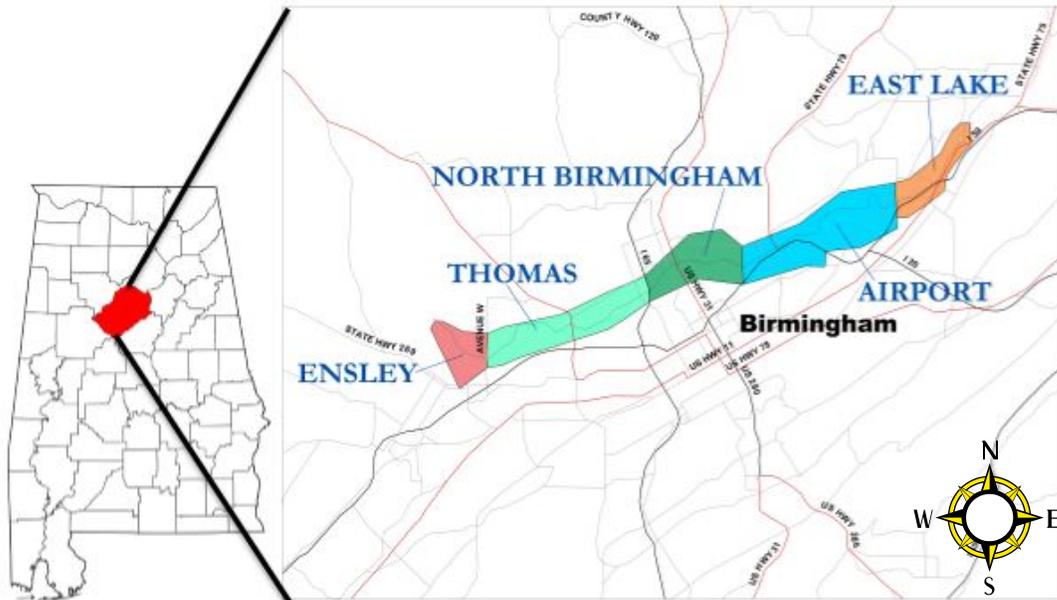
- a. **Decision Document.** The authorized name of the study is the “Village Creek, Jefferson County (Birmingham Watershed), Alabama”[why not “Village Creek, Jefferson County, Alabama” as described in House Document?]. The decision document will be an integrated Feasibility Report (FR) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation. The NEPA document is anticipated to be an Environmental Assessment (EA). This report will present planning, engineering, and implementation details of the recommended plan for approval by the Chief of Engineers and subsequent Congressional authorization. The purpose of the FR/EA is to document the Corps of Engineers evaluation of Federal interest in flood risk management to increase net National Economic Development (NED), and public and life safety benefits. The FR/EA will require approval from USACE Headquarters (HQUSACE. Congressional authorization is required to implement the recommended plan. The feasibility phase is cost-shared 50 percent Federal and 50 percent non-federal. The non-federal sponsor is the City of Birmingham.
- b. **Study Area/Project Description.** The authority for conducting the feasibility phase study is contained in House Resolution 2477 adopted March 7, 1996, and reads as follows:

“Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That, the Secretary of the Army review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Headwaters Reservoirs, Warrior River, Alabama, published as House Document Numbered 414, Eighty-fourth Congress, the report of the Chief of Engineers dated December 23, 1982 on Village Creek, Jefferson County, Alabama and other pertinent reports with a view to determining whether modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at this time, in the interest of environmental quality, water quality, flood damage reduction, and other purposes, including a comprehensive, coordinated watershed master plan for the watersheds in metropolitan Birmingham, Alabama, including Village Creek, Five Mile Creek and Valley Creek. Such studies should address water quality and flooding associated with storm water runoff, including identification and evaluation of environmental infrastructure and resource protection needs, and flood control needs.”

The study area includes the portion of Village Creek that is located in the city limits of Birmingham, Alabama. Birmingham is located in Jefferson County, Alabama. The study area in the Village Creek watershed consists of approximately 16 miles of the stream from the Birmingham City Limits located just upstream of the confluence of Village Creek and Black Creek to the head of Village Creek at Alabama Highway 75. The drainage area contains approximately 40 square miles.

- Reach 1: Ensley, begins at or below the westernmost City limits and ends at Avenue W.
- Reach 2: Thomas, begins at Avenue W and ends at Interstate 65.

- Reach 3: North Birmingham, begins at Interstate 65 and ends at Vanderbilt Road.
- Reach 4: Airport, begins at Vanderbilt Road and ends at 65th Street.
- Reach 5: East Lake, begins at 65th Street and ends at the easternmost City limits (headwaters).



**Figure 1 – Study Area Reaches for Village Creek, Jefferson County, Alabama**

The study's single purpose is to investigate problems and opportunities and potential alternatives to provide flood risk management (FRM) for Village Creek. Potential FRM measures include both structural and nonstructural measures. Structural measures may include construction of new levees, channel improvements to increase conveyance capacity, grade control structures, bank stabilization, construction of on-line or off-line detention facilities, widening channels and floodway areas, dredging, and constructing/modifying weirs and bypasses. Nonstructural floodplain management measures would include assisting the non-Federal sponsor with land acquisitions and relocations in accordance with P.L. 91-646, Uniform Act, as amended, floodplain management and flood warning systems in areas where needed. In addition, flood proofing, retrofitting, dry flood-proofing and/or elevation of structures will be considered.

**c. Factors Affecting the Scope and Level of Review.**

- This study is not expected to encounter technical, institutional, or social challenges over and above a typical feasibility study; and
- A preliminary assessment of project risks (magnitude and uncertainty) include high to medium risk and uncertainty involving assumptions made regarding hydrology inflows into Village Creek, assumptions about underground conditions including utilities and soils; assumptions regarding accuracy of tax assessor data, as well as limited structure-specific information for non-structural analysis;
- In accordance with EC 1165-2-214, significant threat to human life/safety assurance will be assessed. At this time, the District Chief of Engineering has

determined that there are likely to be life safety concerns consistent with most flood risk reduction projects. Structural measures that may be considered can have increased life safety risks in the event of design exceedance or project failure. Project non-performance through exceedance or failure could result in sudden, high velocity floodwaters flowing through an urban area. The potentially impacted area is primarily residential, though it does include some businesses. In addition, since design initiates in the decision document phase, a Safety Assurance Review (SAR) will be incorporated into the Type I IEPR. New water surface elevation/velocity data, including flood warning times, will be developed by the Project Delivery Team (PDT) before the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) Milestone to better assess life safety risks.

- If requested by the Governor of Alabama, a peer review of the study by independent experts will occur. The Governor has not requested peer review by independent experts;
- The study is unlikely to involve significant public dispute as to size, nature or effects of the project. The sponsor has been very involved with educating the local public and interest groups about future planning for the Village Creek watershed. The study will include public and stakeholder involvement. Aside from having a potential threat to human life, there is some chance that the study could encounter a high level of public concern. The study will have interagency interest and require close coordination with SHPO and Native American Tribes. Controversy is not expected however may be encountered under cultural resources depending on selected alternative impact;
- The study is not likely to involve significant public dispute as to economic or environmental cost or benefit to the project;
- It is not anticipated that the public, including scientific or professional societies, will be asked to nominate potential external peer reviewers. This study is not expected to contain influential scientific information nor be a highly influential scientific assessment. The study is unlikely to involve novel methods, present complex challenges to interpretation, contain precedent-setting methods or models, or present conclusions that are likely to change prevailing flood risk management practices;
- The project design is not anticipated to require additional redundancy, resiliency, robustness, or unique construction sequencing. The final FR/EA and supporting documentation will contain standard engineering, economic, and environmental analyses and information. The NEPA document will be an EA, with no anticipated mitigation. The estimated total project cost is not likely to be greater than \$200 million.

**d. In-Kind Contributions.** Products and analyses provided by the non-Federal sponsor as work in-kind services are subject to DQC, ATR, and IEPR. The in-kind products and services to be provided by the non-Federal sponsor include:

- Public involvement;
- Participation in scoping activities (including public meetings); and
- GIS / graphics support.

A Public Involvement Appendix will be prepared by the non-Federal sponsor to document public participation in the study. While the Public Involvement Appendix is not a technical document, it is subject to DQC and ATR, as needed.

#### **4. DISTRICT QUALITY CONTROL (DQC)**

All decision documents (including supporting data, analyses, environmental compliance documents, etc.) shall undergo DQC. DQC is an internal review process of basic science and engineering work products focused on fulfilling the project quality requirements defined in the Project Management Plan (PMP). The Mobile District shall manage DQC. Documentation of DQC activities is required and should be in accordance with the Quality Manual of the District and MSC.

- a. Documentation of DQC.** Non-Project Delivery Team (PDT) members and/or supervisory staff will conduct DQC review for major draft and final products, including products provided by the non-federal sponsor as in-kind services, following review of those products by the PDT. It is expected that the MSC/District Quality Management Plan (QMP) will address the conduct and documentation of this fundamental level of review. A Quality Control Plan (QCP) is included in the PMP for the subject study and addresses DQC.

The conclusions/agreements reached should be documented, with copies retained by each participant and distributed to the ATR leader and the PDT leader. The documentation shall become part of the project technical review file.

The review team member shall prepare the memorandum that shall become part of the review team's records. Specific issues raised in the review shall be documented in a comment, response, discussion, action required, action taken and, if appropriate, lessons learned format. Unresolved differences between the PDT and review team members shall be documented, along with the basis for the functional Chief's decision on the issue. The software system DrChecks™ will be used for DQC. These reviews shall be completed prior ATR and major decision points in the planning process so that the technical results can be relied upon in setting the course for further study activities.

- b. Products to Undergo DQC.** All products are subject to DQC. The draft and final FR/EA (decision document), including feasibility level design of the recommended plan and all technical appendices, will undergo DQC prior to release from the District for external review (e.g., ATR, Type I IEPR, Public and Policy Review). Technical products subject to ATR prior to use in the study will be identified by the Alternative Milestone, at which time the RP will be updated appropriately. All DQC reviews will be complete and closed out before external reviews are initiated.
- c. Required DQC Expertise.** Required expertise for DQC will include senior experienced staff from Plan Formulation, Economics, Hydrology & Hydraulics,

Environmental and Cultural Resources, Cost Engineering, Geotechnical and Soils Engineering (if needed), Civil Design (if needed), Real Estate, and Office of Counsel. A goal will be the establishment of an informed review team with full accountability to maintain objectivity. To ensure this objectivity, the members of the DQC review team must be independent from those who perform the work. DQC reviewers will need to have expertise similar to that outlined for the ATR team in Table 1.

## **5. AGENCY TECHNICAL REVIEW (ATR)**

ATR is mandatory for all decision documents (including supporting data, analyses, environmental compliance documents, etc.). The objective of ATR is to ensure consistency with established criteria, guidance, procedures, and policy. The ATR will assess whether the analyses presented are technically correct and comply with published U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) guidance, and that the document explains the analyses and results in a reasonably clear manner for the public and decision makers. ATR is managed within USACE by the designated RMO and is conducted by a qualified team from outside the home district that is not involved in the day-to-day production of the project/product. ATR teams will be comprised of senior USACE personnel and may be supplemented by outside experts as appropriate. The ATR Lead will be from outside the home MSC.

- a. Products to Undergo ATR.** All products used in this study will undergo ATR. ATR will be conducted seamlessly, and the ATR team will be engaged at the beginning of the study during the Charette[was there a charette?]. This early engagement is tentative and the PCX will be informed if/when any ATR team engagement is desired prior to ATR of the draft report Initial study documents include the report synopsis, risk register, and decision management plan. These documents will be provided to the ATR team for informational purposes and informal review . Later documents include the draft report and including NEPA documents and supporting technical appendices or memoranda. Where practicable, technical products that support subsequent analyses will be reviewed prior to being used in the study and may include: hydrology & hydraulics, geotechnical investigations, economic, environmental, cultural, and social inventories, annual damage and benefit estimates, cost estimates, etc. Technical products subject to ATR prior to use in the study will be identified by the Alternative Milestone, at which time the RP will be updated appropriately.
- b. Required ATR Team Expertise.** The Agency Technical Review Team will be comprised of individuals that have not been involved in the development of the decision document and will be chosen based on expertise, experience, and/or skills. The members will roughly mirror the composition of the PDT. The ATR team may consist of as many as 11 reviewers (Table 1). ATR reviewers should be experienced in reviewing products resulting from risk-informed decision making following the SMART Planning process. Not all reviewers will be needed for every stage of review and a single reviewer may serve on the team for multiple disciplines if able. For instance, review of a Real Estate product will not be needed for the without-project

documentation. The ATR team members assigned to the study will be included in Attachment 1 once the ATR team is established

**Table 1: Agency Technical Review Team**

Discipline	Expertise Needed for Review
ATR Lead	The ATR lead will be a senior professional with extensive experience in preparing Civil Works decision documents and conducting ATR. The lead will also have the necessary skills and experience to lead a virtual team through the ATR process. The ATR lead should also be experienced in the formulation, evaluation, and selection of alternatives for FRM projects.
Plan Formulation	The plan formulation reviewer will be approved to perform ATR for flood risk management studies and will be a senior water resources planner with experience in urban flood risk management.
Environmental Resources	The Environmental Resources reviewer will have extensive experience with environmental evaluation and compliance requirements pursuant to the "Procedures for Implementing NEPA" (ER 200-2-2), national environmental laws and statutes, applicable Executive Orders, and other federal planning requirements for Civil Works projects, and will be approved to perform ATR
Cultural Resources	The Cultural Resources reviewer (i.e., Archaeologist) will have extensive experience with the Southeast, cultural resource survey methodology, area of potential effects, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and state and federal laws/executive orders pertaining to American Indian Tribes, and will be approved to perform ATR
Hydrology and Hydraulics	The Hydrologist/Hydraulics reviewer will be proficient with river hydraulics, HEC-GeoRAS, HEC-RAS, HEC-HMS and associated one and/or two-dimensional models, floodplain delineation, hydrologic statistics, sediment transport analysis, channel stability analysis, and risk and uncertainty analysis.
Geotechnical Engineering	The Geotechnical Engineering reviewer must be familiar with sampling and laboratory testing, and channel / embankment stability and seepage analyses.

Discipline	Expertise Needed for Review
Economics	The Economics reviewer will have experience with analysis of demographics, land use, and flood damage assessments using HEC-FDA; use of RECONS model to address regional economic development (RED) associated with a project; discussion of other social effects (OSE) associated with flood risk; and economic justification of FRM projects in accordance with current USACE policy.
Civil Design	The Civil Design reviewer will have experience in site layout (structural FRM measures, roads, utilities, etc.), stormwater management, construction sequencing and requirements.
Cost Engineering <sup>1</sup>	The Cost Engineering reviewer will be identified by the Cost MCX/TCX and should have SMART Planning cost estimating experience using required software; working knowledge of construction and FRM; capable of making professional determinations based on experience.
Real Estate/Lands	The Real Estate reviewer must have expertise in the real estate planning process for cost shared and full federal civil works projects, relocations, report preparation and acquisition of real estate interests. The reviewer should have a full working knowledge of EC 405-2-12, Real Estate Planning and Acquisition Responsibilities for Civil Works Projects, the portions of ER 405-2-12 that are currently applicable, and Public Law 91-646. The reviewer will be able to identify areas of the REP that are not in compliance with the guidance set forth in EC405-2-12 and should make recommendation for bringing the report into compliance. All estates suggested for use should be termed sufficient to allow project construction, and the real estate cost estimate should be validated as being adequate to allow for real estate acquisition.
Risk Analysis <sup>2</sup>	The Risk Analysis reviewer will ensure that the decision document includes appropriate identification, analysis and written communication of risk and uncertainty.

<sup>1</sup>Coordination with the USACE Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX/TCX) located in the Walla Walla District will be conducted as required by EC 1165-2-214.

<sup>2</sup>Coordination with the RMC will be conducted as required by EC 1165-2-214.

- c. **Documentation of ATR.** DrChecks™ review software will be used to document all ATR comments, responses and associated resolutions accomplished throughout the

review process. Comments should be limited to those that are required to ensure adequacy of the product. The four key parts of a quality review comment will normally include:

- 1) The review concern – identify the product’s information deficiency or incorrect application of policy, guidance, or procedures;
- 2) The basis for the concern – cite the appropriate law, policy, guidance, or procedure that has not been properly followed;
- 3) The significance of the concern – indicate the importance of the concern with regard to its potential impact on the plan selection, recommended plan components, efficiency (cost), effectiveness (function/outputs), implementation responsibilities, safety, federal interest, or public acceptability; and
- 4) The probable specific action needed to resolve the concern – identify the action(s) that the reporting officers must take to resolve the concern.

In some situations, especially addressing incomplete or unclear information, comments may seek clarification in order to then assess whether further specific concerns may exist.

The ATR documentation in DrChecks™ will include the text of each ATR concern, the PDT response, a brief summary of the pertinent points in any discussion, including any vertical team coordination (the vertical team includes the District, RMO, MSC, ATR Lead, and HQUSACE), and the agreed upon resolution. If an ATR concern cannot be satisfactorily resolved between the ATR team and the PDT, it will be elevated to the vertical team for further resolution in accordance with the policy issue resolution process described in either ER 1110-1-12 or ER 1105-2-100, Appendix H, as appropriate. Unresolved concerns can be closed in DrChecks™ with a notation that the concern has been elevated to the vertical team for resolution.

At the conclusion of each ATR effort, the ATR team will prepare a Review Report summarizing the review. Review Reports will be considered an integral part of the ATR documentation and shall:

- Identify the document(s) reviewed and the purpose of the review;
- Disclose the names of the reviewers, their organizational affiliations, and include a short paragraph on both the credentials and relevant experiences of each reviewer;
- Include the charge to the reviewers;
- Describe the nature of their review and their findings and conclusions;
- Identify and summarize each unresolved issue (if any); and
- Include a verbatim copy of each reviewer's comments (either with or without specific attributions), or represent the views of the group as a whole, including any disparate and dissenting views.

ATR may be certified when all ATR concerns are either resolved or referred to the vertical team for resolution and the ATR documentation is complete. The ATR Lead will prepare a Statement of Technical Review certifying that the issues raised by the

ATR team have been resolved (or elevated to the vertical team) for the Draft and Final FR/EA. A sample Statement of Technical Review is included in Attachment 2.

- d. Role of ATR Lead.** In addition to facilitating ATR of individual study products, the ATR Lead will be involved throughout the study process. The ATR Lead will review all key study management documents (e.g., risk register, decision management plan, review plan, etc.); participate in all In-Progress Reviews (IPRs) and milestone meetings; advise the PDT on FRM planning policy; and recommend if/when to conduct ATR of products other than those included in the draft decision document.

## **6. INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW (IEPR)**

IEPR may be required for decision documents under certain circumstances. IEPR is the most independent level of review, and is applied in cases that meet certain criteria where the risk and magnitude of the proposed project are such that a critical examination by a qualified team outside of USACE is warranted. A risk-informed decision, as described in EC 1165-2-214, is made as to whether IEPR is appropriate. Type I IEPR reviews are managed outside the USACE. Panel members will be selected using the National Academies of Science (NAS) policy for selecting reviewers. IEPR panels will consist of independent, recognized experts from outside of the USACE in the appropriate disciplines, representing a balance of areas of expertise suitable for the review being conducted. There are two types of IEPR:

- **Type I IEPR.** Type I IEPR reviews are managed outside the USACE and are conducted on project studies. Type I IEPR panels assess the adequacy and acceptability of the economic and environmental assumptions and projections, project evaluation data, economic analyses, environmental analyses, engineering analyses, formulation of alternative plans, methods for integrating risk and uncertainty, and any models used in the evaluation of environmental impacts of proposed projects. Type I IEPR will cover the entire decision document or action and will address all underlying engineering, economics, and environmental work, not just one aspect of the study. For decision documents where a Type II IEPR (Safety Assurance Review) is anticipated during project implementation, safety assurance shall also be addressed during the Type I IEPR per EC 1165-2-214.
- **Type II IEPR.** Type II IEPR, or Safety Assurance Review (SAR), is managed outside the USACE and is conducted on design and construction activities for hurricane, storm, and flood risk management projects or other projects where existing and potential hazards pose a significant threat to human life. Type II IEPR panels will conduct reviews of the design and construction activities prior to initiation of physical construction and, until construction activities are completed, periodically thereafter on a regular schedule. The reviews shall consider the adequacy, appropriateness, and acceptability of the design and construction activities in assuring public health safety and welfare.

Based on the project as currently envisioned, the District Chief of Engineering, as the Engineer-In-Responsible-Charge, anticipates that a Type II IEPR is expected to be required during the Pre-Construction and Design (PED) and Construction phases of this project. A risk-informed decision concerning the timing and the appropriate level of reviews for the project implementation/construction phases will be prepared and submitted for approval in an updated Review Plan prior to initiation of the design/implementation phase of this project. The District Chief of Engineering, will ensure that any Type II IEPR that is conducted is in accordance with EC 1105-2-214, and will fully coordinate with the Chief of Construction, the Chief of Operations, and the Project Manager through the Pre-Construction Engineering and Design (PED) and Construction phases.

- a. **Decision on IEPR.** Based on a risk-informed decision process, Type I IEPR will be required. EC 1165-2-214 set forth thresholds that trigger IEPR. Details of the Type I IEPR risk informed decision summary is provided below:
- The project may involve significant threat to human life;
  - The NEPA document is anticipated to be an EA, with no anticipated mitigation;
  - The estimated total project cost is not likely to be greater than \$200 million;
  - The Governor of Alabama has not requested peer review by independent experts;
  - It is not anticipated that the public, including scientific or professional societies, will be asked to nominate potential external peer reviewers.
  - Aside from having a potential threat to human life, there is some chance that the study could encounter a high level of public concern.
  - This IEPR will include a SAR.
- b. **Products to Undergo Type I IEPR.** Type I IEPR will be performed for the Draft Feasibility Report and the supporting technical appendices and analyses concurrent with public and agency review.
- c. **Required Type I IEPR Panel Expertise.** The following provides a description of the proposed IEPR panel members and expertise. The proposed seven member panel includes the necessary expertise to assess planning, engineering, environmental, and economic adequacy of the decision document, as required by EC 1165-2-214, Appendix D. Reviewers will be selected by an Outside Eligible Organization (OEO). The likely disciplines and expertise for IEPR are presented in Table 2. Each discipline will review products related to their expertise and focus their review on the previously listed items. Additional technical areas requiring IEPR may be identified during the study/review process. As the time for IEPR approaches, the PDT will further evaluate what expertise is needed based on the PMP and the factors affecting the scope and level of review outlined in Section 3 of the review plan.

**Table 2: IEPR Panel Disciplines and Expertise**

IEPR Panel Members/Disciplines	Expertise Needed for Review
Plan Formulation	The Plan Formulation panel member will be an expert in the USACE plan formulation process, procedures, and standards with experience in the evaluation of alternative plans for flood risk management. (Possible combined with Economics team member)
Economics	The Economics panel member will be a senior Economist with extensive knowledge of cost/benefit analysis for flood risk management. Candidate should be familiar with the USACE flood risk management analysis and economic benefit calculations, including use of standard USACE (or equivalent type) computer programs including Hydrologic Engineering Center's Flood Damage Reduction Analysis (HEC-FDA).
Environmental Resources	Panel Member will be familiar with the habitat, fish and wildlife species, and tribal cultures and archeology that may be affected by the project alternatives in this study area. Additionally, the panel member should be an expert in compliance with additional environmental laws, policies, and regulations, including compliance in Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Endangered Species Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and state and Federal laws/executive orders pertaining to American Indian Tribes.
Hydrology and Hydraulics	Panel member will be familiar with floodplain mapping, hydrologic statistics, sediment transport analysis, channel stability analysis, and risk and uncertainty analysis. Panel member should also be knowledgeable of southeast riverine hydrology. The team member will be proficient with USACE or equivalent type of models including the Hydraulic Engineering Center River Analysis System (HEC-RAS), Hydrologic Modeling System (HEC-HMS), and HEC-GeoRAS (a set of procedures, tools, and utilities for processing geospatial data in ArcGIS using a graphical user interface (GUI)) models. (Possible combined engineering with Risk Assessment as one team member)
Geotechnical Engineering	The Geotechnical Engineering panel member must be familiar with sampling and laboratory testing, and channel/embankment stability and seepage analyses..

IEPR Panel Members/Disciplines	Expertise Needed for Review
Civil Design	The Civil Design panel member should be experienced in designing channel modifications, levee systems, earthwork, structural diversion on riverine systems; have working knowledge of construction; and capable of making professional determinations based on experience.
Risk Assessment	The Risk Analysis reviewer should be an interdisciplinary team member who will ensure that the decision document includes appropriate identification, analysis and written communication of risk and uncertainty.

**d. Documentation of Type I IEPR.** The IEPR panel will be selected and managed by an Outside Eligible Organization (OEO) per EC 1165-2-214, Appendix D. Panel comments will be compiled by the OEO and should address the adequacy and acceptability of the economic, engineering and environmental methods, models, and analyses used. IEPR comments should generally include the same four key parts as described for ATR comments in Section 5.c above. The OEO will prepare a final Review Report that will accompany the publication of the final decision document and shall:

- Disclose the names of the reviewers, their organizational affiliations, and include a short paragraph on both the credentials and relevant experiences of each reviewer;
- Include the charge to the reviewers;
- Describe the nature of their review and their findings and conclusions; and
- Include a verbatim copy of each reviewer’s comments (either with or without specific attributions), or represent the views of the group as a whole, including any disparate and dissenting views.

The final Review Report will be submitted by the OEO no later than 60 days following the close of the public comment period for the draft decision document. USACE shall consider all recommendations contained in the Review Report and prepare a written response for all recommendations adopted or not adopted. The final decision document will summarize the Review Report and USACE response. The Review Report and USACE response will be made available to the public, including through electronic means on the Internet.

**e. Type II IEPR (SAR).** The SAR will be incorporated into the Type I IEPR as required by EC 1105-2-214, Appendix D, paragraph 1.b(1). The Review Panel will consider the following during the Type I IEPR:

- 1) Is the quality and quantity of the surveys, investigations, and engineering sufficient for a concept design?
- 2) Are the models used to assess hazards appropriate?
- 3) Are the assumptions made for the hazards appropriate?

- 4) Does the analysis adequately address the uncertainty given the consequences associated with the potential for loss of life for this type of project?

## **7. POLICY AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE REVIEW**

All decision documents will be reviewed throughout the study process for their compliance with law and policy. Guidance for policy and legal compliance reviews is addressed in Appendix H of ER 1105-2-100. These reviews culminate in determinations that the recommendations in the reports and the supporting analyses and coordination comply with law and policy, and warrant approval or further recommendation to higher authority by the home MSC Commander. DQC and ATR augment and complement the policy review processes by addressing compliance with pertinent published Army policies, particularly policies on analytical methods and the presentation of findings in decision documents.

## **8. COST ENGINEERING & ATR MANDATORY CENTER OF EXPERTISE WITH TECHNICAL EXPERTISE (MCX/TCX) REVIEW & CERTIFICATION**

All decision documents shall be coordinated with the Cost Engineering MCX/TCX, located in the Walla Walla District. The MCX/TCX will assist in determining the expertise needed on the ATR team, and in the development of the review charge(s). The MCX/TCX will also provide the Cost Engineering MCX/TCX ATR certification. The RMO is responsible for coordination with the Cost Engineering MCX/TCX.

## **9. MODEL CERTIFICATION AND APPROVAL**

EC 1105-2-412 mandates the use of certified or approved models for all planning activities to ensure the models are technically and theoretically sound, compliant with USACE policy, computationally accurate, and based on reasonable assumptions. Planning models, for the purposes of the EC, are defined as any models and analytical tools that planners use to define water resources management problems and opportunities, to formulate potential alternatives to address the problems and take advantage of the opportunities, to evaluate potential effects of alternatives and to support decision making. The use of a certified/approved planning model does not constitute technical review of the planning product. The selection and application of the model and the input and output data is still the responsibility of the users and is subject to DQC, ATR, and IEPR (if required).

EC 1105-2-412 does not cover engineering models used in planning. The responsible use of well-known and proven USACE developed and commercial engineering software will continue and the professional practice of documenting the application of the software and modeling results will be followed. As part of the USACE Scientific and Engineering Technology (SET) Initiative, many engineering models have been identified as preferred or acceptable for use on Corps studies and these models should be used whenever

appropriate. The selection and application of the model and the input and output data is still the responsibility of the users and is subject to DQC, ATR, and IEPR.

- a. **Planning Models.** The following planning models are anticipated to be used in the development of the decision document:

**Table 3: Planning Models\***

Model Name and Version	Brief Description of the Model and How It Will Be Applied in the Study	Certification / Approval Status
HEC-FDA 1.4 (Flood Damage Analysis)	The Hydrologic Engineering Center’s Flood Damage Reduction Analysis (HEC-FDA) program provides the capability for integrated hydrologic engineering and economic analysis for formulating and evaluating flood risk management plans using risk-based analysis methods. The program will be used to evaluate and compare the future without- and with-project plans along the Lower Santa Cruz River to aid in the selection of a recommended plan to manage flood risk.	Certified
IWR-Planning Suite	This software assists with the formulation and comparison of alternative plans. While IWR-PLAN was initially developed to assist with environmental restoration and watershed planning studies, the program can be useful in planning studies addressing a wide variety of problems. IWR-PLAN can assist with plan formulation by combining solutions to planning problems and calculating the additive effects of each combination, or “plan.” IWR-PLAN can assist with plan comparison by conducting cost effectiveness and incremental cost analyses, identifying the plans which are the best financial investments and displaying the effects of each on a range of decision variables.	Certified
RECONS	RECONS (Regional ECONomic System) is a Corps corporate model specifically developed to assess the Regional Economic Development (RED) impacts of Corps civil works projects. This model will be used to support discussion of the RED benefits associated with project implementation. The RECONS model will estimate the impacts to the local economy, in terms of income, employment and tax revenues, resulting from project construction.	Certified

\* Initial formulation will strive to avoid environmental impacts and, therefore, no mitigation model is included in this table. If environmental impacts are determined to be unavoidable, a mitigation model will be added.

**b. Engineering Models.** The following engineering models are anticipated to be used in the development of the decision document:

**Table 4: Engineering Models**

<b>Model Name and Version</b>	<b>Brief Description of the Model and How It Will Be Applied in the Study</b>	<b>Approval Status</b>
HEC-HMS	The Hydrologic Modeling System (HEC-HMS) is designed to simulate the complete hydrologic processes of dendritic watershed systems. The software includes many traditional hydrologic analysis procedures such as event infiltration, unit hydrographs, and hydrologic routing. HEC-HMS also includes procedures necessary for continuous simulation including evapo-transpiration, snowmelt, and soil moisture accounting. Advanced capabilities are also provided for gridded runoff simulation using the linear quasi-distributed runoff transform (ModClark). Supplemental analysis tools are provided for parameter estimation, depth-area analysis, flow forecasting, erosion and sediment transport, and nutrient water quality.	H&H Community of Practice (CoP) Preferred Model
HEC-RAS (River Analysis System)	The Hydrologic Engineering Center's River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) program provides the capability to perform one-dimensional steady and unsteady flow river hydraulics calculations. The program will be used for steady flow analysis to evaluate the future without and with-project conditions along the LSCR.	H&H Community of Practice (CoP) Preferred Model
<b>Model Name and Version</b>	<b>Brief Description of the Model and How It Will Be Applied in the Study</b>	<b>Approval Status</b>

HEC-GeoRAS	HEC-GeoRAS is a set of procedures, tools, and utilities for processing geospatial data in ArcGIS using a graphical user interface (GUI).	H&H Community of Practice (CoP) Preferred Model
Seep/W (if needed)	Seep/W is a finite difference seepage modeling tool. The tool is used to estimate exit seepage gradients due to channel loading and also to estimate pore pressures used in the seepage analysis. Inputs for the tool include cross section geometry and hydraulic boundary conditions, as well as soil layer hydraulic conductivity (including anisotropic ratios, and material property orientation).	Geotechnical CoP Recommended  H&H CoP Allowed
Slope/W (if needed)	Slope/W is used to calculate slope stability factors of safety using limit equilibrium methods. Cross section geometry, soil engineering properties and pore water pressures (calculated from Seep/W) are required inputs to calculate stability factors of safety. The program uses an iterative approach to evaluate thousands of potential slip surfaces that meet input criteria, and the surface with the lowest factors of safety are reported.	Geotechnical CoP Recommended  Not on the H&H CoP list. Commonly used for Corps projects.
MCACES/Mii	Mii is the second generation of the Micro-Computer Aided Cost Estimating System (MCACES) which is a detailed cost estimating software application used to estimate cost of alternatives and the recommended plan.	Enterprise Model

## 10. REVIEW SCHEDULES AND COSTS

- a. **ATR Schedule and Cost.** ATR will be conducted seamlessly throughout the study. After review of the Draft Report, following the Tentatively Selected Plan milestone scheduled for JUL 2017, the ATR Lead will prepare the ATR Review Report. The tentative feasibility study schedule is shown in Table 5 below. The schedule and cost for ATR activities is presented in Table 6. The current cost estimate for ATR is \$60,000. The ultimate cost for ATR will be negotiated with the PCX and the ATR team.

**Table 5: Milestone Schedule**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Timing</b>
FCSA Execution	29 MAR 1999
FCSA Execution of Ammendment #1	9 JUN 2016
Alternatives Milestone (CW261)	28 SEP 2016
Tentatively Selected Plan (CW262)	24 OCT 2017
Agency Decision Milestone (CW263)	24 MAR 2018
Division Commander's Transmittal (CW260)	8 SEP 2018
Civil Works Review Board (CW245)	8 NOV 2018
Chief's Report (CW270)	8 FEB 2019

**Table 6: Schedule and Cost for Agency Technical Review**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
ATR of draft FR/EA Prior to Agency Decision Milestone (ADM)	NOV 2017	\$45,000
ATR of final FR/EA (After ADM and at conclusion of Feasibility Level Design)	JUL 2018	\$20,000
ATR Lead engagement	throughout the study	\$5,000

- b. Type I IEPR Schedule and Cost.** The IEPR schedule and cost estimate is presented in Table 7.

**Table 7: Schedule for IEPR**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
FRM-PCX Initial Coordination of IEPR	OCT 2016	\$3,000
RMO Management of IEPR	OCT 2017 – FEB 2018	\$25,000
Type I IEPR of draft FR/EA (prior to Agency Decision Milestone)	NOV 2017	\$135,000

- c. **Model Certification/Approval Schedule and Cost.** At this time there are no models requiring certification for this study.

## **11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The public will be invited to comment directly to the PDT through informal and formal public scoping meetings, workshops/open houses, and public review comment periods programmed into the feasibility schedule. This includes a public review of the draft FR/EA. Public review occurs concurrently with ATR, IEPR, and HQUSACE policy reviews. Public input will be made available to the IEPR team to ensure public comments have been considered in development of the draft and final FR/EA. Public workshops will be held during the public and agency review period. Formal State and Agency review will occur following the Civil Works review Board Milestone. Upon completion of the review period, comments will be consolidated in a matrix and addressed, if needed. A summary of the comments and resolutions will be included in the Public Involvement Appendix.

This Review Plan will be posted to the District web site for public review once it is approved by the MSC.

## **12. REVIEW PLAN APPROVAL AND UPDATES**

The South Atlantic Division (SAD) Commander is responsible for approving this Review Plan. The Commander's approval reflects vertical team input (involving District, MSC, RMO, and HQUSACE members) as to the appropriate scope and level of review for the decision document. Like the PMP, the Review Plan is a living document and may change as the study progresses. The home district is responsible for keeping the Review Plan up to date. Minor changes to the review plan since the last MSC Commander approval will be documented using Attachment 3. Significant changes to the Review Plan (such as changes to the scope and/or level of review) must be re-approved by the MSC Commander following the process used for initially approving the plan. The latest version of the Review Plan, along with the Commanders' approval memorandum, will be posted on the Home District's webpage. The latest Review Plan will also be provided to the RMO and home MSC.

## **13. REVIEW PLAN POINTS OF CONTACT**

Public questions and/or comments on this review plan can be directed to the following points of contact:

- Mobile District: Senior Planner, (251) 690-2608

- South Atlantic Division: Senior Plan Formulator, South Atlantic Division, (404) 562-5226
- Flood Risk Management Planning Center of Expertise: Program Manager, PCX Flood Risk Management, (415) 503-6852

**ATTACHMENT 1: TEAM ROSTERS**

**PROJECT DELIVERY TEAM**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
	Project Manager		
	Lead Planner		
	Environmental/Biologist		
	Hydrology & Hydraulics / Project Engineer		
	Economics		
	Cost Engineer		
	Value Engineering Officer		
	Real Estate Specialist		
	Cultural Resources		
	Geotechnical Engineer		
	Structural Engineer		
	Office of Counsel – Agreements		
	Office of Counsel – RE Attorney		

**AGENCY TECHNICAL REVIEW TEAM**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
TBD	ATR Lead		
TBD	Plan Formulation		
TBD	Environmental Resources		
TBD	Cultural Resources		
TBD	Hydrology & Hydraulics		
TBD	Geotechnical Engineering		
TBD	Economics		
TBD	Civil Design		
TBD	Cost Engineering MCX/TCX		
TBD	Real Estate/Lands		
TBD	Risk Analysis		

**INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW PANEL**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
TBD	Plan Formulation		
TBD	Environmental Resources		
TBD	Hydrology and Hydraulics		
TBD	Geotechnical Engineering		
TBD	Economics		
TBD	Civil Design		

**VERTICAL TEAM**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
	Senior Plan Formulator, South Atlantic Division (SAD)		
	Regional Integration Team (RIT)		

**PLANNING CENTER OF EXPERTISE  
FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
	Program Manager, PCX Flood Risk Management		
	Regional Manager for SAD, PCX Flood Risk Management		

**ATTACHMENT 2: SAMPLE STATEMENT OF TECHNICAL REVIEW FOR DECISION DOCUMENTS**

**COMPLETION OF AGENCY TECHNICAL REVIEW**

The Agency Technical Review (ATR) has been completed for the <type of product> for <project name and location>. The ATR was conducted as defined in the project’s Review Plan to comply with the requirements of EC 1165-2-209 and, subsequently, EC 1165-2-214. During the ATR, compliance with established policy principles and procedures, utilizing justified and valid assumptions, was verified. This included review of: assumptions, methods, procedures, and material used in analyses, alternatives evaluated, the appropriateness of data used and level obtained, and reasonableness of the results, including whether the product meets the customer’s needs consistent with law and existing US Army Corps of Engineers policy. The ATR also assessed the District Quality Control (DQC) documentation and made the determination that the DQC activities employed appear to be appropriate and effective. All comments resulting from the ATR have been resolved and the comments have been closed in DrChecks<sup>sm</sup>.

*SIGNATURE*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
ATR Team Leader  
Office Symbol/Company

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*SIGNATURE*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Project Manager  
Office Symbol

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*SIGNATURE*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Architect Engineer Project Manager<sup>1</sup>  
Company, location

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*SIGNATURE*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Review Management Office Representative  
Office Symbol

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CERTIFICATION OF AGENCY TECHNICAL REVIEW**

Significant concerns and the explanation of the resolution are as follows: Describe the major technical concerns and their resolution.

As noted above, all concerns resulting from the ATR of the project have been fully resolved.

*SIGNATURE*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Chief, Engineering Division  
Office Symbol

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*SIGNATURE*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
Chief, Planning Division  
Office Symbol

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

<sup>1</sup> Only needed if some portion of the ATR was contracted

**ATTACHMENT 3: REVIEW PLAN REVISIONS**

Revision Date	Description of Change	Page / Paragraph Number

**ATTACHMENT 4: ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ASA(CW)	Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works	OMRR&R	Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement and Rehabilitation
ATR	Agency Technical Review	OSE	Other Social Effects
DQC	District Quality Control	OWPR	Office of Water Project Review
DST	District Support Team	PCX	Planning Center of Expertise
EA	Environmental Assessment	PDT	Project Delivery Team
EC	Engineer Circular	PED	Pre-Construction Engineering and Design
EO	Executive Order	PMP	Project Management Plan
ER	Engineer Regulation or Ecosystem Restoration		
FDR	Flood Damage Reduction	QA	Quality Assurance
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	QC	Quality Control
FR	Feasibility Report	QCP	Quality Control Plan
FRM	Flood Risk Management	QMP	Quality Management Plan
H&H	Hydraulics and Hydrology		
HQUSACE	Headquarters, USACE	RED	Regional Economic Development
IEPR	Independent External Peer Review		
IPR	In Progress Review	RIT	Regional Integration Team
ITR	Independent Technical Review	RMC	Risk Management Center
MCX/TCX	Mandatory Center of Expertise with Technical Expertise	RMO	Review Management Organization
MSC	Major Subordinate Command	RP	Review Plan
NAS	National Academies of Science	RTS	Regional Technical Specialist
NED	National Economic Development	SAR	Safety Assurance Review
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	SAD	South Atlantic Division
OMB	Office of Management and Budget	TSP	Tentatively Selected Plan
O&M	Operation and Maintenance	USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
OEO	Outside Eligible Organization	WRDA	Water Resources Development Act