FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TAR-PAMILICO RIVER BASIN FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY
NORTH CAROLINA

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) dated **June 2024** for the Tar-Pamlico River Basin Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study addresses flood risk management opportunities and feasibility in the Tar-Pamlico River basin in North Carolina. The final recommendation is contained in the report of the Chief of Engineers, dated **DATE OF CHIEF'S REPORT**.

The Final IFR/EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives that would reduce flood risk in the study area. The recommended plan is the Comprehensive Benefits Plan and includes:

- Elevation of 35 structures (elevated to the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood elevation plus 2 feet);
- Flood venting of 8 structures;
- Elevation *and* flood venting of 18 structures;
- Dry floodproofing of 94 structures (dry floodproofed to the 1% AEP floodplain plus 2 feet, or a maximum height of 4 feet).

In addition to a "no action" plan, two alternatives were evaluated. The alternatives included the National Economic Development Plan (NED Plan) and the Comprehensive Benefits Plan (recommended plan), described in more detail in Section 3.0 in the IFR/EA.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan are listed in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

	Less than significant effects	Less than significant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Air quality	☒	☐	☐
Wetlands	☐	☐	☒
Fish and wildlife habitat	☐	☐	☒
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	☐	☐	☒
Historic properties	☒	☐	☐
Other cultural resources	☒	☐	☐

	Less than significant effects	Less than significant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	☒	☐	☐
Land use	☐	☐	☒
Public infrastructure	☐	☐	☒
Socio-economics	☐	☐	☐
Environmental justice	☐	☐	☐
Tribal trust resources	☐	☐	☒
Water quality	☒	☐	☐
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☒	☐	☐
Aesthetics	☒	☐	☐
Noise	☒	☐	☐
Transportation	☒	☐	☐
Climate change	☐	☐	☒

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the IFR/EA will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts.

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.

Public review of the draft IFR/EA and FONSI was completed on **2 December 2023**. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the Final IFR/EA and FONSI. A 30-day state and agency review of the Final IFR/EA was completed on **23 August 2024**. Comments from state and federal agency review did not result in any changes to the final IFR/EA.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Corps determined that the recommended plan will have no effect on federally listed species or their designated critical habitat.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, the Corps has determined that historic properties may be adversely affected by the recommended plan. The Corps and the NC SHPO executed a Programmatic Agreement on 6 June 2024 that details the timeline and methods for identifying, avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating effects to historic properties under Section 106 of the NHPA. Implementation of this PA will be completed during PED and will be funded from the 30 account for Planning and Environmental Compliance. The Section 106 work is currently estimated at approximately $600,000. All terms and conditions resulting from the agreement shall be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to historic properties (see Section 4.2.3. and Appendix C of the IFR/EA).

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed.

The formulation of alternatives, project planning, and the decision-making process included all applicable technical, environmental, and economic criteria. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date

Nicholas O. Melin, PE
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander

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