

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Integrated Disposition Study and Environmental Assessment

Saint Michael Canal, Norton Sound, Alaska

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Alaska District has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Final Disposition Study dated XX, for the disposition of the previously authorized project, dredging of the Saint Michael Canal (Rivers and Harbors Act, 2 March 1907 (Public Law 168, 59th Congress, 2nd Session) and modified by the Rivers and Harbors Act, 25 June 1910 (Public Law 264, 61st Congress, 2nd Session)) addresses the Secretary of the Army's authority to review projects completed by the Corps in Alaska. The final recommendation is contained in the Final Integrated Disposition Report, dated XX.

The Final Disposition Study, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated two alternatives, the No-Action alternative and the Preferred Alternative, the dispossession of the authorized project. The Preferred Alternative is the dispossession of the authorized project at the Saint Michael Canal and includes:

The rationale for the recommendation to deauthorize the Saint Michael Canal Project.

In addition to a no-action alternative, only the dispossession alternative was evaluated.¹

For both alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the Preferred Alternative are listed in Table 1:

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¹ 40 CFR 1505.2(b) requires a summary of the alternatives considered.



Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

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Aesthetics			\boxtimes
Air quality			\boxtimes
Aquatic resources/wetlands			\boxtimes
Invasive species			\boxtimes
Fish and wildlife habitat			\boxtimes
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat			
Historic properties			\boxtimes
Other cultural resources			\boxtimes
Floodplains			\boxtimes
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste			
Hydrology			
Land use			\boxtimes
Navigation			\boxtimes
Noise levels			
Public infrastructure			\boxtimes
Socio-Economics			
Environmental justice			
Soils			\boxtimes
Tribal trust resources			
Water quality			
Climate change			

There are no adverse environmental effects or unavoidable adverse impacts associated with either the No-Action or the Preferred Alternative. Similarly, there are no recommended best management practices, avoidance and minimization measures, or compensatory mitigation requirements that would be enacted by the implementation of the Preferred Alternative.

Public review of the Draft Disposition Study was completed on XX. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the Final Disposition Study and FONSI. A 30-day state and agency review of the Final Disposition Study was completed on XX.

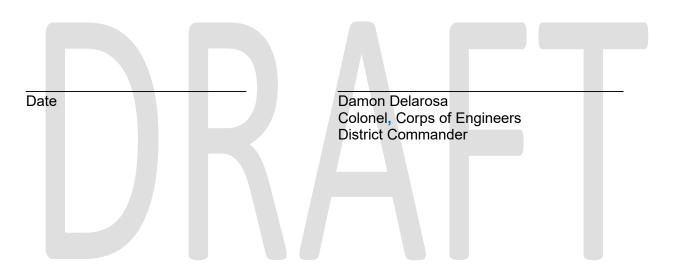
Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Corps determined that the Preferred Alternative will have no effect on federally listed species or their designated critical habitat.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the Recommended Plan has no effect on historic properties.



In a 02 March 2021 Memorandum for CECW-POD, the Chief of the Office of Water Project Review "would not require the Alaska District to acquire a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report or other environmental compliance documents" associated with the dispossession of the Saint Michael Canal Project.

Technical, environmental, and economic criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in the evaluation of alternatives.² 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.³



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² 40 CFR 1505.2(B) requires identification of relevant factors including any essential to national policy which were balanced in the agency decision.

³ 40 CFR 1508.13 stated the FONSI shall include an EA or a summary of it and shall note any other environmental documents related to it. If an assessment is included, the FONSI need not repeat any of the discussion in the assessment but may incorporate by reference.