



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:

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



Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Socio-Economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tribal trust resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

Date

Damon Delarosa
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander

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.