



Project partners, elected leaders and community members from throughout the Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange counties gather June 2 to unveil the newly restored bicentennial mural at Prado Dam in Corona, California.

Corps helps unveil restored bicentennial mural

STORY AND PHOTO BY STEPHEN BAACK
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

CORONA, Calif. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District joined elected leaders, community members and other partners from throughout Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange counties June 2 to unveil the newly restored bicentennial mural on the Prado Dam spillway in Corona.

“Can you believe it? We’re here,” Jason Uhley, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District general manager and chief engineer, said to the more than 350 people in attendance as the ceremony commenced.

“Today a renewed mural stands as a beacon, reminding us that we’re all Americans, re-

minding us of the sacrifices of our forefathers for our freedoms, of our hopes for the American dream and, that most importantly, we work best when we work together,” Uhley said, adding that everyone who attended the ceremony “has had some small or large part in making this happen.”

Julie Balten, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District commander, joined other key officials such as Riverside County Supervisor Karen Spiegel, U.S. Rep. Ken Calvert (CA-42), Jackie Cherrington-Pierson, treasurer of the Bicentennial Freedom Mural Conservancy, and others in speaking during the ceremony and cutting the ribbon.

“I represent an incredible team of people who believed in this and believe in a partner-

ship we have with our communities in which we live and serve every single day,” said Balten, who called on members of the Corps’ team to stand up and be recognized for their hard work and collaboration with the partners represented at the ceremony, including Riverside County. “The team worked tirelessly to make this happen, and I’m really proud of their partnership and commitment.”

The mural unveiling comes after much anticipation from the public, as well as years of cooperation and hard work from the many people and organizations involved. The freshly painted mural itself remains faithful to the original design and vibrance — all with envi-

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'Safety in Action' recognition



(TOP) Chris Rainwater, deputy chief of the LA District Safety Office, right, presents a Safety Coin to Brian Poole, resident engineer for the Department of Veterans Affairs San Diego Mega Project, May 24 in San Diego.

(MIDDLE) Christopher Rainwater receives the Civilian Service Commendation Medal, and Aaron Burke, safety specialist with the LA District Safety Office, receives the Civilian Service Achievement Medal, for their outstanding support and execution of Safety for the LA District.

(BOTTOM) Jason Salcedo, LA County Drainage Area collateral duty safety officer with the LA District's Operations Division, was awarded the SPL Safety Office Safety Coin for his accomplishments and continuing efforts to put "Safety First" into all his endeavors.

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District Commander: Col. Julie A. Balten

Public Affairs Chief: Dena M. O'Dell

Editor: Stephen Baack

Contributing Editors:
John Reese, Jay Field, Robert DeDeaux,
Dan Collins, Brooks O. Hubbard IV

Tel: (213) 452-3922 or Fax: (213) 452-4209.

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Address mail to the Los Angeles District
Public Affairs Office
ATTN: NewsCastle Editor
Room 1105, 915 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90017-2325

Email the Public Affairs Office at:
publicaffairs.SPL@usace.army.mil



Safety: A team effort, an individual responsibility

Hello, SPL Team!

The weather is finally warming up after an especially cool and rainy winter and spring, and this undoubtedly means most of you are already getting out and enjoying the many recreational opportunities in and around our district's area of operations.

One of the best things about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities our flood-risk management projects provide community members. These include walking, running and biking paths; hiking and off-road-trail trails; and lakes, rivers and other bodies of water, where people can go swimming, boating and fishing.

In fact, with more than 400 lake and river projects in 43 states, the Corps is one of the leading federal providers of outdoor recre-



COL. JULIE A. BALTEN
LA DISTRICT COMMANDER

ation. Unfortunately, this means most of the accidents in the Corps' 2,800-plus recreation areas throughout the nation are the result of boating and swimming mishaps. Combine this with the fact that summer is historically the deadliest time for Army off-duty mishaps, especially vehicular and recreation accidents, and you see why it's so important we take safety as seriously as we do.

Our park rangers, along with other members of our Operations Division team, are out every day ensuring members of the public stay clear of potentially hazardous and critical-habitat areas, and that they don't swim, camp, or operate their vehicles in unauthorized areas. They also do a fantastic job with public outreach, promoting hiking and water safety, and providing educational materials to families at community events and instruction on

things, like how to properly wear life jackets. Along with providing training and guidance about safety and health in the workplace, the LA District Safety Office also provides safety resources to team members, their families and surrounding communities to keep them safe while recreating at or near Corps' lands.

These professionals are critical to our collaborative, comprehensive and continuous safety, but they can't do it alone – safety is a team effort and a shared responsibility, so please keep it at the forefront of your recreational activities this summer!

I'd also like to wish everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July weekend as we celebrate America's 247th birthday! And, as always, thank you for everything you do!

Sincerely,

Col. Julie A. Balten

Around the District

"It's an honor to continue to serve, giving back through active duty and Air National Guard projects, and also supporting the public through emergency response deployments."

David is working on several construction and renovation projects at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona. He has been with the Corps for more than 14 years. David is from Oracle, Arizona, and is an Air Force veteran.



David Vogt
Construction Representative

Click the links below to find us on social media!





Photos by Stephen Baack

Members of One Way Painting and other guests of the June 2 bicentennial mural unveiling add some finishing touches before the ceremony at Prado Dam in Corona, California.

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ronmentally friendly materials.

One Way Painting, with the help of the Mural Conservatory of LA, were contracted by Riverside County to paint the mural — for which the Bicentennial Freedom Mural Conservancy and the Friends of the Prado Dam Mural teamed up to raise more than \$100,000 in donations from the public.

“It’s a thrill to see and so inspirational,” said Peter Usle, a key member of the nonprofit Friends of the Prado Dam Mural. “Just like in ’76 when people came together for this, people came together for this, too, because so many people had to make this happen. If you take one person out of the mix, none of this happens. It had to be between elected officials, the public and the Corps to get this done. It’s six times bigger than Mount Rushmore.”

The original mural was first completed in 1976, after the Corps authorized a group of students from Corona High School to paint a bicentennial design on the face of the Prado Dam spillway. The mural was designed to honor the 200th anniversary of the nation — from 1776 to 1976 — and has become a source of civic pride for residents and a landmark on the 91 Freeway.

Over the years, however, the original lead-based paint began to deteriorate from weather, becoming an environmental hazard, and the artwork was marred with graffiti. But, after this restoration — including some finishing

touches from volunteers, leaders and community members minutes before the June 2 ceremony — the previously faded, worn-out mural

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Col. Julie Balten, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District commander, delivers remarks June 2 at Prado Dam in Corona, California, expressing her gratitude for the partnerships and hard work it took to restore the bicentennial mural.

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has been reborn as a fresh and bright return to the original.

“It’s stunning,” Usle said, adding that the painters used bright, eye-catching theme-park paint that makes the restored mural look identical to the original.

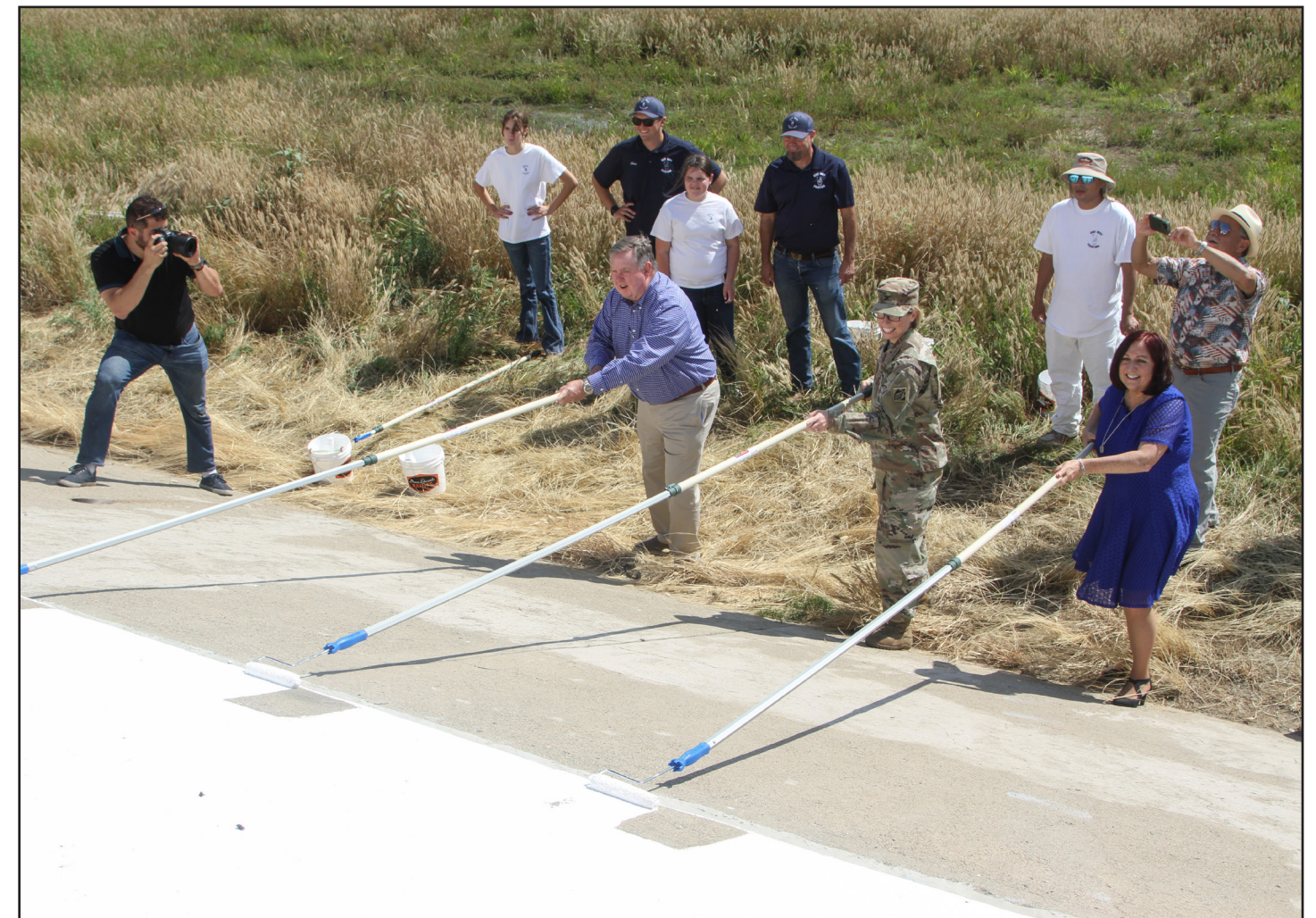
“We’re just happy,” Usle added. “We’re thankful for everybody. Without the public behind this, this never would have happened. We’re just so appreciative of the Corps. They were there at the town hall meetings, they were there to get the stakeholders, they looked at the history, and they listened. It was a long process, but in the end it all worked out great.”

As a flood-risk management project, Prado Dam — built in 1941 — protects the lives and property of more than 1.4 million people living upstream and downstream of the dam.



Photos by Stephen Baack

Col. Julie Balten, second from right, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District commander, joins her LA District team in celebrating the unveiling of the newly restored bicentennial mural June 2 at Prado Dam in Corona, California.



Col. Julie Balten, the second from right with a paint roller in hand, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District commander, joins U.S. Rep. Ken Calvert (CA-42), center of frame and foreground, and Riverside County Second District Supervisor Karen Spiegel, right, to add the ceremonial finishing touches June 2 to the newly restored bicentennial mural on the Prado Dam spillway in Corona, California.



Photo by John Reese

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District commander Col. Julie Balten, right, and Santa Barbara harbor master Mike Wiltshire, left, discuss an ongoing dredging project aboard a harbor patrol boat May 23 en route to the dredge Sandpiper in Santa Barbara, California. Balten met with harbor officials May 22-25 as part of a tour of Corps coastal projects.

LA commander visits shoreline communities, meets with local government officials

LA DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LOS ANGELES — Reaching out to the coastal communities in Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District commander Col. Julie Balten and her team met with local officials May 22-25 along California’s “Gold Coast” — from Channel Islands to Morro Bay.

The outreach to the Corps’ partners was to review harbor and beach projects supported by Corps’ Los Angeles District.

CHANNEL ISLANDS

The journey began May 22 at an office visit on the water’s edge with Channel Islands Harbor District at Oxnard, California. Channel Islands is the fifth largest harbor for small-craft recreation in the state. The harbor was formed in 1960 by the Corps, which continues a long partnership with the community

to regularly dredge and maintain its channels.

Most recently, the LA District, along with its contractor, Connolly Pacific, conducted repairs in 2021 to two parallel entrance jetties and the protective offshore breakwater near the harbor entrance.

Harbor director Michael Tripp displayed detailed photographic maps for Balten and Steve Dwyer, LA District Navigation Branch chief, to illustrate how sand shifting from tides and storm drifts require regular maintenance work on the breakwater and entrance channel, and how the recent repairs affected navigation. The project was necessary to ensure navigational safety and to prevent further degradation of the structural integrity of the jetties and breakwater.

VENTURA

Departing Channel Islands, the team met

at Ventura Beach to meet with representatives of Ventura Harbor.

Victor Andreas, LA District project manager, who has been engineering coastal navigation solutions for five years, said that dredging material from Ventura Harbor not only helps navigation, but that material also is used to replenish beaches south of Port Hueneme, home to a major U.S. Navy port.

Ventura Harbor is dredged every two years, with the next dredging cycle scheduled for September 2024.

The 2022 dredging cycle went “very smoothly,” according to the City of Ventura, and the sand that annually accumulates in the entrance of the harbor replenished beaches to the south of it, which also assisted with maintaining crucial habitat near the Santa Clara River.

“This is an opportunity to see the great

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work the Army Corps did here on behalf of the Ventura Port District in providing navigational dredging that is needed every year here to keep our commercial fishing operations moving in and out of the harbor,” said Brian Pendleton, Ventura Harbor general manager, adding the 475,000 cubic yards of sand dredged this year was a significant amount. “This harbor, in particular, is home to the largest commercial fishing fleet in the state. From one year to the next, it offloads the largest amount of California market squid. All of our calamari, as you call it, comes through this harbor, so the economic impact of this harbor, in terms of the commercial fishing industry, can’t be underestimated.”

“Thirty-five million dollars’ worth of squid landed here last year,” added Todd Mitchell, Ventura Harbor senior business operations manager.

It is valuable to work closely with the LA District and its contractor, Manson Construction, Mitchell said, adding the work has been “exceptional” following the strong winter storms that were especially tough on beaches.

Before meeting with the Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Balten stopped to meet with Spencer MacNeil, deputy chief of the LA District’s Regulatory Division, and his team at the Ventura office, where she awarded challenge coins in recognition of their work.

Balten was joined by Darrell Buxton, LA

District chief of Civil Works, at the Ventura County Watershed Protection District to meet with director Glenn Shephard and assistant director David Fleish to discuss the Ventura River, local creeks and future projects.

The Corps recently evaluated subsurface conditions and prepared shoring and slope stability recommendations in support of a proposed validation dig on the existing L-1004 gas pipeline, located southwest of the intersection of State Route 33 and Stanley Avenue in Ventura.

CARPINTERIA

On the morning of May 23, under a heavy coastal marine layer, the team met with Carpinteria city officials at low tide on its freshly groomed beach.

Rock cobble was washed downstream from creeks into the Pacific and required maintenance following big winter storms. The beach had been leveled, raked and cleared of rocks that were deposited at one point that stood out on the otherwise smooth shoreline.

Matt Roberts, director of the Carpinteria Parks, Recreation and Public Facilities, explained how the beach is protected by debris basins, set up along the coast in the 1970s, after a major storm in 1969. The basins are maintained by digging them out and exporting the sediment to upland disposal sites.

“The whole winter berm project was actually developed from a recommendation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under FEMA

that we do a programmatic response, rather than an emergency response, so we began building the berm as a planned and permanent process,” Roberts said.

The city decided the best environmental and economic solution to nourish the beach was to use materials from a debris basin, located two miles north of the beach. This both clears the basin, the primary concern, and provides beach nourishment. Previously, material came from a location 50 miles away.

“I’m hoping we can get started here on the (Continuing Authorities Program) and find solutions – an array of alternatives that we can implement here and recommend a project,” said Susie Ming, chief of the LA District’s Coastal Section, Programs and Project Management Division.

SANTA BARBARA

The final meeting of the day in Santa Barbara included a harbor patrol cruise to see the all-electric cutter-head suction dredge Sandpiper, dredging sediment from the federal navigation channels at Santa Barbara Harbor.

The busy harbor is dredged to a depth of 35 feet in six sessions biannually in the spring and fall, removing about 120,000 cubic yards of sediment per cycle. According to the city, annual dredging began in 1972, but shoaling and sediment collection at the bottom of the harbor can be traced back to the late 1920s.

The LA District, along with its contractor,

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Photo by Stephen Baack

Accompanied by a team with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, Col. Julie Balten, second from left, LA District commander, visits May 24 with partners with the Port San Luis Harbor District near Avila Beach, California. From left to right: Suzy Watkins, director of the Port San Luis Harbor District; Balten; Steve Dwyer, chief of the LA District’s Navigation Branch; Brian Kim, project manager with the Navigation Branch; Chris Munson, Port San Luis Harbor District facilities manager; and Blake Horita, also project manager with the Navigation Branch.

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Pacific Dredge & Construction, conducted emergency dredging to remove more than 30,000 cubic yards of sand from the harbor entrance in January to restore full access of the channel. Emergency dredging was necessary after excess sand entered the harbor from winter storms.

During the current dredging cycle, about another 150,000 cubic yards of material is expected to be removed. The dredge material is then placed on down-coast beaches.

PORT SAN LUIS HARBOR

On May 24, Balten and Dwyer joined Brian Kim, a project manager with the district’s Navigation Branch, to meet with leaders from the Port San Luis Harbor District, which oversees the small-craft harbor near the coastal community of Avila Beach and sits about 10 miles from San Luis Obispo.

The LA District is managing a project to repair the port’s breakwater, which was originally constructed between 1889 and 1913 to protect the harbor and its small-craft marine facilities from heavy surf and waves. The breakwater, which has undergone repairs and maintenance previously in its 110-year history, was damaged during an earthquake about 10 years ago. Funding to repair the structure was secured about two years ago, Dwyer said, and the current project is

roughly halfway complete.

This project has required extra care, Dwyer added, such as the need to work carefully near the local endangered and protected species, including a sea lion rookery in the immediate area. Also, although the district started the project in 2022, they suspended work this past winter due to high seas.

“I expect it to start up again sometime very soon,” Dwyer added.

MORRO BAY

The group met later that day with officials from the City of Morro Bay, which is partnering with the LA District on the ongoing dredging project at the bay’s entrance and Navy channels using the Portland District’s U.S. Army Vessel Yaquina hopper dredge.

“It was great to see that active dredge project in person,” Balten said. “Not everything we do may always look exciting, but you know what they’re doing is critical. It was just another great opportunity to see our work in action, to really understand the benefits of those projects and to talk about future projects and future cycles of these continuous projects that we do on an annual basis.”

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

For the last stop of the tour, Buxton joined

Balten again in Santa Barbara, this time to meet with partners with the Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

The two LA District leaders discussed current projects and challenges, such as possible assistance with recent flooding in nearby Guadalupe and the resulting divergence of the Santa Maria River, potential work on the Santa Maria Levy and the way forward on the lower Mission Creek project that runs through the heart of Santa Barbara.

Although not all these issues had reached decision points by the end of the in-person meeting, the consensus was that communicating with one another candidly and transparently about what support each partner at the table may and may not be able to provide is paramount.

“The best thing about our relationship, is that we have open, transparent communication,” said Scott McGolpin, director of the Santa Barbara County Department of Public Works. “That’s why we have been so successful in the Flood Control District.”

Balten agreed. “If we’re clear about what we’re able to do, what the parameters are and are always looking for innovative ways for what those parameters look like, and knowing there’s always opportunities to explore those,” she said, “It’s a win-win opportunity to strengthen our relationship.”

Exemplary Performance



Courtesy photo

Eric Ravelli, second from right, and Kinya “Roger” Minami, far right, both with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District’s Small Business Office, accept the Army Exemplary Performance Small Business Program award for fiscal year 2022 at an award ceremony June 22 in Baltimore, Maryland. The LA District’s Small Business Office received the award for its exemplary performance in the Small Business category. The recognition included an innovative survey initiated by the LA District’s Small Business office that focused on building effective partnerships between the Corps and industry; providing the public with a sense that the Corps supports initiatives to lift local communities; providing capable and cost-effective solutions to the Corps’ customers; saving time and resources in the acquisition process; reducing project management and contracting administrative burden; and attracting the best contractors to LA District projects.

Juneteenth
Emancipation Day

**Celebrating
FREEDOM**

JUNE 19TH



LA District completes emergency flood-risk mitigation measures project at Bishop Paiute Tribe Reservation



From left to right, Louis Munoz and Baron Arakawa, both emergency management specialists with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District Emergency Management Branch, discuss sandbag placement around homes at the Bishop Paiute Tribe Reservation with Miranda Hernandez, Bishop Paiute Tribe water quality coordinator, June 21 in Inyo County, California.

STORY BY BROOKS O. HUBBARD IV
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

BISHOP, Calif. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District’s Emergency Operations Branch, in collaboration with the Bishop Paiute Tribe, completed emergency flood-risk mitigation measures June 22 at the Bishop Paiute Tribe Indian Reservation in Inyo County, California.

The team from the district’s Emergency Operations Branch arrived June 16, after receiving a request for assistance from the Bishop Paiute Tribe to help with its efforts in preparing for potential flooding from runoff from the historic Southern Sierra Mountains snowpack, which was about 300 percent above normal snowfall levels April 1.

The district team, accompanied by the Tribe’s Emergency Management Team, conducted a site assessment June 1 and deter-

mined that several homes and the reservation’s community education center were at “high-risk” for potential flooding.

Under Public Law 84-99 (Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies), the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers provides disaster preparedness services and advanced planning measures designed to reduce the amount of damage caused by an impending disaster.

Inyo County officials reported snow levels in the Sierra Mountains were still extraordinarily high, even by 2017 standards, and higher temperatures are expected to open the floodgates, with water levels rising and flow rates increasing throughout the region. One million acre-feet — one acre of land covered in one foot of water, which is equal to about 326 billion gallons of water — is expected to come down from the High Sierra through at least July.

Upon receiving approval and funding, the

Corps staged about 1,005 tons of sand, sandbags, HESCO barriers and a hydraulic sandbag filler machine from the Corps’ Sacramento District near the reservation to assist with the tribe’s sandbag-filling efforts.

“They’ve asked for assistance because they’ve had 300 percent of their annual snowmelt increase in the mountains, and with the warmer weather, they’re expecting to see floods in their channels,” said Louis Munoz, LA District Emergency Management Branch specialist. “So, they contacted (the Corps), and we were able to secure some funding through the PL 84-99 Program to come out here and help the tribe protect their homes that could potentially be flooded by this snow melt.”

PROTECTIVE MEASURES

The Corps’ Sacramento District deployed

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Tribal emergency responders work in shifts to prepare HESCO barriers beside the Bishop Paiute Tribe’s education center for the possible flooding of the South Fork Creek June 21 at the Bishop Paiute Tribe Reservation in Inyo County, California.

[‘BISHOP’ continued from Page 10](#)

their hydraulic sandbagging machine, and the team of emergency responders filled more than 12,500 sandbags to create a combination of sandbag and HESCO barrier berms along the creeks, around homes and the education center to reduce potential flooding to the Bishop Paiute Tribe Reservation.

“The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers response was so quick,” said Gloriana Bailey, Bishop Paiute Tribe chief executive officer. “We had the resolution approved by the tribal council within a couple of days, and everything came into place so quickly.”

“I would like to thank everyone for all the work that they’ve done. The team worked 12-hour shifts, every day — even worked on Father’s Day and the holiday. You know that they care about the community as well, and, without their hard work and help from the Army Corps, it wouldn’t have gotten done. Great teamwork — that’s all I can say.”



Sandbags are set up June 21 on the side of South Creek, between the creek and homes, due to flooding concerns at the Bishop Paiute Tribe Reservation in Inyo County, California. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District’s Emergency Operations Branch, in collaboration with the Bishop Paiute Tribe, completed emergency flood-risk mitigation measures June 22 at the reservation.



Photos by Stephen Baack

Los Angeles District employees and family members play volleyball during the June 22 Engineer Day celebration in South El Monte, California.

Hundreds of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District employees, retirees and their families gathered June 22 at Whittier Narrows Dam Recreation Area in South El Monte, California, for good food, friendly competition, camaraderie and recognition for their hard work in continuing to deliver the program.

A Los Angeles District employee plays a game of cornhole during the district's June 22 celebration of Engineer Day at Whittier Narrows Dam Recreation Area in South El Monte, California.



LA District employees barbecue during the June 22 Engineer Day celebration in South El Monte.



Two employees square off in a safety quiz at the June 22 Engineer Day celebration in South El Monte.



Photo by Richard Rivera

Steve Dwyer, chief of the Los Angeles District's Navigation Branch, receives a certificate recognizing his 55 years of federal service from Col. Julie Balten, LA District commander, during the 2023 Engineer Day length-of-service awards ceremony June 22 at Whittier Narrows Dam Recreation Area in South El Monte, California.

Length-of-service awards

Five Years

Rafael Armijo
Michele N. Bick
Ivan M. Caceres
Emmanuel Chavez
Christopher A. Hayward
Charlie Hwang
Concepcion Maldonado
Jorge A. Navarro
Anthony Porter
Joan M. Prost
Jeff Reyes
Derek J. Rickart
Salvador Rodriguez Jr.
Jason Salcedo Sr.
Nardos E. Taeme
Billy M. Taylor
Scott A. Tsunoda
Jian-Sen Wu

10 Years

Cameron J. Amick
Carlos F. Antonio
Ida L. Antonio
Doland Cheung

Daniel A. Cook
Carlos E. Flores
Shari L. Johnson
Klaire D. Kaleem
Pamela K. Kostka
Clarence G. Manalang
Denise A. Marquez
Wendell R. Matt
Mark W. McLarty
Kinya R. Minami
Eric L. Nguyen
Jason A. Russell
Felicia A. Weaver
Curtis H. Wood

15 Years

Mary K. Connor
Kristin N. Dowling
Karla N. D'Ribeaux
Nathan M. Duffy
Christopher M. Eastridge
Renae R. Gonzales
Daniel B. Heyenbruch
Eric M. Lauritsen
Jonathon L. Meyer

Robert E. Morris
Olga M. Muncey
Nirav S. Patel
Jesse W. Ray
Michael K. Rivera
Kelly E. Simoneaux
Teryl L. Stacey
Melanie Stalder
Eric J. Strom

20 Years

Donald D. Brandinelli
Sonya Y. Catiggay
Randall L. Elder
Nicolas R. Figueroa
Gonzalo Galvan
Ihran M. Gayle
Veronica Gonzalez
Michael G. Lawton
Arturo E. Rodriguez Jr.
Timothy A. Rose
Sara A. Russell
Theresa Stevens
Christine D. Stossel
Daphne G. Weekly

25 Years

Vonda K. Bellante
Sarah Diebolt
Derwin J. Lontayao
Kenneth Reed
Gerardo Salas
Michael R. Turanitz

30 Years

Aaron O. Allen
Cheryl L. Connett
James A. Fields
Daryll F. Fust
Royal C. Hazen
Robert Moreno
Carlos M. Tabares
Christopher Thompson
Paul W. Underwood Jr.
Leonard Y. Wong

35 Years

Michael F. Carrillo
Arthur V. Champion
Mark S. Daniels
Norma I. Deharo

Sally M. Desimone
John E. Drake
Richard Lopez
Troy A. Morris
Francis A. Omoregie
Martha M. Sanchez
Serena Tran
Tod E. Vanscoy

40 Years

Norman R. Boeman
Mike R. Farris
Mary O. Garrett
William F. Harrick Jr.
Suntok Mcguinness
Timothy G. McIntyre
Cynthia A. Palaruan

45 Years

Steven J. Cuthbert
Bruce R. James

55 Years

Steve Dwyer



Los Angeles District commander Col. Julie Balten, left, provides an overview of the Los Angeles River Restoration Project for a delegation of South Korean engineers and water management officials June 6 at Lewis MacAdams Riverfront Park in Los Angeles. At Balten's left are translator Sang Oh "Eddie" Cha; LA River project manager Priyanka Wadhawan; LA County Department of Public Works Storm Planning Division principal engineer Ramy Gindi; and Trevor Snyder, LA District Rivers and Channels project manager.

Korean engineers, officials visit Corps' Los Angeles River restoration project

STORY AND PHOTO BY JOHN REESE
LA DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LOS ANGELES — A South Korean delegation of 20 engineers and Gyeongbuk Province river-sector officials learned about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District ecosystem restoration project June 6 on the bank of the Los Angeles River at Lewis MacAdams Riverfront Park.

The group consisted mostly of engineers. Some of the delegates were county and city public officials from Gyeongbuk-do Province river and water departments. The delegation was interested in how LA District manages flood control using advanced technologies to improve their own integrated flood control prevention system for their province. They visited the Colony Channel in Fresno, California, and Hoover Dam before arriving in Los Angeles.

"The engineers had some problems with river rehabilitation and revitalization in some places in South Korea," said Sang Oh "Eddie" Cha, translator for the delegation. "They wanted to visit the LA River because it's one of the big rivers in California. They want to learn new things from the LA system."

LA District commander Col. Julie Balten, who previously served in the Republic of Ko-

rea, welcomed the group in their native tongue, much to their surprise and appreciation.

She and the LA team provided an overview of the Corps' LA River flood-risk management and ecosystem restoration project for the group through Sang. The delegation wanted to see different perspectives on how the Corps tackles flood control for the greater Los Angeles area while balancing engineering with nature.

"The importance of this visit is to exchange information across countries about the best ways to manage our water systems," said LA City River Revitalization coordinator Michael Affeldt.

Affeldt led the group discussion, and LA County Department of Public Works Storm Planning Division principal engineer Ramy Gindi made a presentation from the county's viewpoint before fielding questions.

Project specifics were provided by LA River project manager Priyanka Wadhawan and Trevor Snyder, Rivers and Channels project manager.

"It's important to have collaboration between countries because we can learn so much from each other, especially restoring rivers in urban areas," Wadhawan said. "It's very inno-

vative, very challenging, very complex technologies and systems we're using, so it's good to learn from each other. I'm glad they visited — their questions were insightful."

Questions ranged from construction techniques on how the Corps is restoring the Los Angeles River to working with the public and politicians.

"It was a good opportunity to share with our Korean partners and Los Angeles stakeholders the operational maintenance undergone within the Los Angeles River to highlight," Snyder said. "Especially, flood capacity and flood protection risks within a highly urbanized area."

Gyeongbuk-do, located on the eastern side of the Korean peninsula, is the largest province in South Korea. The province, comparable to a U.S. state, has 13 counties with 2,644,757 residents, according to a 2020 census. The area produces major electronics and steel.

"I would imagine Los Angeles is somewhat similar to the highly urbanized area in South Korea, so it was important to share with them the work we're doing within the soft-bottom reaches to maintain an appropriate flood protection for the people," Snyder said.

NAVFAC Southwest visits VA Long Beach project sites

LA DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

LONG BEACH, Calif. — A team of leaders, subject-matter experts and other counterparts from the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest met June 5 with fellow professionals from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District at the Veterans Affairs Long Beach Health Care System campus in Long Beach, California, as part of a multiday visit to various sites in the LA District's area of operations as each team shares their best practices and learns more about each other's missions.

The group toured the still-in-progress inpatient and outpatient mental health facilities, as well as the under-construction Community Living Center.

About NAVFAC and NAVFAC Southwest: The Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, or NAVFAC, delivers life-cycle technical and acquisition solutions aligned to Fleet and Marine Corps priorities. NAVFAC Southwest is responsible for public works, planning, engineering/design, construction, real estate, environmental services, and acquisition / disposal of facilities and real estate in a six-state area on the West Coast.

Editor's note: During portions of their tour, personal-protective equipment was not required.



Photos by Stephen Baack

Capt. Cristina Palomino, right, project manager with the Los Angeles District, briefs Navy Capt. Scott Cloyd, left, executive officer of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest and deputy regional engineer of Navy Region Southwest, while joined by Col. Julie Balten, center, Los Angeles District commander, at the newly constructed outpatient mental health facility during his team's June 5 visit to the Veterans Affairs Long Beach Health Care System campus in Long Beach, California.



Members of the Los Angeles District join a team from Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest during the team's June 5 visit to the Veterans Affairs Long Beach Health Care System campus in Long Beach, California. The group is standing in front of the under-construction Community Living Center.

JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

EQUALITY WITHOUT EXCEPTION:
PRIDE IN ALL WHO SERVE

