



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

CECW-POD

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (CIVIL WORKS)

SUBJECT: Integrated Disposition Report and Environmental Assessment, Saint Michael Canal, Norton Sound, Alaska: dated September 2022

1. This memorandum transmits the Integrated Disposition Report and Environmental Assessment (EA), Saint Michael Canal, Norton Sound, Alaska to your office for approval. The purpose of the proposed federal action, as documented in the Decision Document and EA, is to permanently divest the Department of Army of control of and responsibility for the Saint Michael Canal Federal Navigation Project (FNP).
2. The Authority to study and implement the disposition of Saint Michael Canal FNP are as follows:
 - a. Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Review of Completed Projects) (P.L. 91-611): The Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, is authorized to review the operation of projects the construction of which has been completed and which were constructed by the Corps of Engineers in the interest of navigation, flood control, water supply, and related purposes, when found advisable due [to] the significantly changed physical or economic conditions, and to report thereon to Congress with recommendations on the advisability of modifying the structures or their operation, and for improving the quality of the environment in the overall public interest.”
 - b. Section 1168 of Water Resource Development Act of 2018 (WRDA 2018):
 - (a) IN GENERAL. In carrying out a disposition study for a project of the Corps of Engineers, or a separable element of such a project, including a disposition study under section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (33 U.S.C. 549a), the Secretary shall consider modifications that would improve the overall quality of the environment in the public interest, including removal of the project or separable element of a project.
3. No funding would be necessary for the recommendation of deauthorization of Saint Michael Canal FNP.
4. Environmental Compliance. An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). There is no difference in environmental impact between the no action alternative and the recommended alternative. The EA

CECW-POD

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also describes compliance with other applicable environmental laws and cultural resources requirements.

5. Technical Review. In accordance with USACE policy on the review of decision documents, all technical, engineering, and scientific work underwent an open, dynamic, and rigorous review process. The comprehensive review process included District Quality Control Review, Agency Technical Review, and Headquarters Policy and Legal Compliance review to confirm the planning analyses, alternative design and safety, and the quality of decisions. Washington-level review indicates that the plan recommended by the reporting officers complies with all essential elements of the U.S. Water Resources Council's Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Land Related Resources Implementation Studies, as well as other administrative and legislative policies and guidelines. The views of interested parties, including federal, state, and local agencies, were considered and all comments from public reviews have been addressed and incorporated into the final report documents where appropriate.

6. Based on my review of the Saint Michael Canal FNP Disposition Decision Document and EA, I find the proposed plan is engineeringly feasible, economically justified based on the monetary and non-monetary benefits it provides, and environmentally acceptable. The proposed project complies with applicable Corps planning procedures and regulations. The views of interested parties, including federal, state, and local agencies, have been considered. I approve the recommendation to deauthorize in accordance with the recommended plan at no cost. The approval contained herein reflects the information available at this time and current departmental policies governing post-authorization projects.

EDWARD E. BELK, JR. P.E.
Acting Director of Civil Works