



5 September 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Hagatna River, Guam

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.

2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. Congress appropriated \$100,000 in FY03 to initiate the reconnaissance phase study. The 905(b) Analysis Report, which will determine whether there is a Federal interest, will be completed by March 2004.

b. The Agana (Hagatna) River Flood Control project was authorized under Public Law 99-662, WRDA 86. The 1977 Chief's Report recommended construction of the Agana River Flood Control project at a total first cost of \$4.88 million, including a non-Federal cost of \$1.02. Based on an October 2003 price level, the current total first cost is now estimated at \$9.7 million, of which the non-Federal cost is \$3.4 million. Since that time, Guam did not appropriate funds for their share of the project and until May 2001 no further action was requested. By law, projects that have never received funding obligations for seven fiscal years since the original authorization are eligible for deauthorization. However, noteworthy is that the Agana River project is not identified for deauthorization in the proposed Water Resources Development Act of 2003, as of June 2003.

c. Interest was reactivated for the authorized but unconstructed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) project. The current urgency emanates from the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security, (formerly the Federal Emergency Management Agency or FEMA) notification to Guam that they were in violation of the floodplain requirements. The Hagatna floodplain and the entire island may be removed from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This would adversely affect financing and sales of property and would disallow Federal financial aid for structures in the floodplain in the event of future disasters in Guam. The official "show cause" notification from FEMA to the Government of Guam is pending.

d. The Hagatna River basin remains a flood hazard area. In May 1976, there were estimated flood damages of \$4 million due to heavy rains. There are over 440 structures in the floodplain. There were no significant flood damages as a result of Typhoon Chata'an and Super Typhoon Pongsona in 2002.

3. Congressional Interest. Representative Bordallo and Governor Camacho of Guam have expressed a strong interest in the progress of this project.