



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

CECW-CO

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND
DISTRICT COMMANDS, CHIEFS, OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

SUBJECT: Master Plan Exemption Process for Civil Works Projects Operated and Maintained
by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

1. REFERENCES.

- a. ER 1130-2-550, Chapter 3, Master Plans and Operational Management Plans, Change 5, 30 January 2013
- b. EP 1130-2-550, Chapter 3, Master Plans and Operational Management Plans, Change 7, 30 January 2013
- c. Policy Memo, Revision of ER/EP 1130-2-550, Chapter 3, Master Plans, 15 November 2015

2. DEFINITIONS.

- a. Project Lands. The land (fee, easement, or other interest) originally acquired for the project and any subsequent land (fee, easement, or other interests) acquired to support the operations and authorized missions of the project.
- b. To Manage. The action of USACE to uphold responsibilities pursuant to Federal Laws to preserve, conserve, restore, maintain, and develop the project lands, water, and associated resources.

3. Purpose. The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify and set forth an Enterprise standard for evaluation of when a Civil Works Project requires a Master Plan.

4. Background. Master Plans will be developed and kept current for Civil Works Projects operated and maintained by the USACE and will include all land (fee, easement, or other interests) originally acquired for the project and any subsequent land (fee, easement, or other interests) acquired to support the operations and authorized missions of the project.

- a. The Master Plan guides and articulates USACE responsibilities pursuant to Federal Laws to preserve, conserve, restore, maintain, manage, and develop the project lands, water, and associated resources.

- b. Whereby, there is no demonstrated need or opportunity to manage project lands, they may be exempted from the requirement of having a Master Plan, only with the Major Subordinate Command (MSC) Commander's approval.

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5. Evaluation Criteria. The following criteria shall be used in the evaluation of whether a Civil Works Project is required to have a Master Plan:

a. There shall be considered a “demonstrated need” to manage project lands if:

(1) There is uniformed Natural Resources Management staff patrolling or conducting inspections of project lands to ensure compliance with Title 36 by the public, and/or to support the operations and authorized missions of the Project;

(2) The Project has or does receive funding through the Recreation and/or Environmental Stewardship business line; or

(3) The Project has USACE owned, operated or managed recreational, natural resource, and/or cultural resource assets.

b. There shall be considered an “opportunity” to manage project lands if, there is a reasonable possibility there will be new development, construction, consolidation, or land use requests within the next 10 – 20 years on USACE fee owned lands, either by USACE or for other outside entities.

c. There shall be considered limited or no “demonstrated need or opportunity” to manage project lands when, all fee title lands, outside of Operational Areas, have been outgranted or disposed of to another entity.

6. Determination. If a determination is made that a Master Plan is not required for a Project, a Memorandum for Record (MFR) will be drafted and approved by the MSC Commander. The MFR shall contain the factors used in the determination, and a statement documenting the determination made by the Commander.. A copy of the MFR will be furnished to HQUSACE, Natural Resources Management Branch.

7. The point of contact for this guidance is Mr. Jeff Krause, Chief, Natural Resources Management, and can be reached at jeff.krause@usace.army.mil.

MARGARET E. GAFFNEY-SMITH
Interim Chief, Operations and Regulatory
Division, Directorate of Civil Works