Appendix D
Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

NAME OF PROPOSED ACTION: Flood Risk Management Study – Jordan Creek, Springfield, Missouri.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION: In the year 2000, Jordan Creek in Springfield, Missouri, swelled out of its banks causing millions of dollars in property damage to local business and blocking a main transportation corridor through the City for several days. After the 2000 flood, the City of Springfield decided to take action and restore the Jordan Creek watershed. The City hopes to reduce flooding, improve water quality, and create green space and recreational trails along the creek. The City also hopes to increase the quality of life in Springfield to make it more attractive to companies and improve its economic base. As the City expanded further into the watershed, more impervious surfaces caused water to run into the downtown area faster. Straightening and narrowing of the creek exacerbated the situation. Properties adjacent to Jordan Creek currently flood annually.

The Little Rock District, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting this environmental assessment in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

ALTERNATIVES: In addition to the proposed action (Alternative J), a No Action alternative was evaluated in the Environmental Assessment.

No Action Alternative. - The "No Action" alternative includes not constructing the five upper watershed detention basins and modifying the Jordan Creek channel in Economic Reach 1 (E1), which would result in continued flood damages to be incurred by the City of Springfield.

Proposed Action. – The proposed action (Alternative J) includes construction/modification of approximately 0.6 miles of channel, sized to accommodate a 1/500 ACE in the lower reach (Economic Reach 1). One new stream crossing and one modified crossing are sized to accommodate the 1/500 ACE. This proposed action will produce an estimated $1,981,300 in annual net benefits.

ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: *Consideration of the effects disclosed in the EA, and a finding that they are not significant, is necessary to prepare a FONSI. This determination of significance is required by 40 CFR 1508.13. Additionally, 40 CFR 1508.27 defines significance at it relates to consideration of environmental effects of a direct, indirect or cumulative nature.*

Criteria that must be considered in making this finding are addressed below, in terms of both context and intensity. The significance of both short and long term effects must be viewed in several contexts: society as a whole (human, national); the affected region; the affected interests; and the locality. The context for this determination is primarily local. The context for this action is not highly significant geographically, nor is it controversial in any significant way. Consideration of intensity refers to the magnitude and intensity of impact, where impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. Within this context, the magnitude and intensity of impacts

resulting from this decision are not significant. The determination for each impact topic is listed below.

1. The degree to which the action results in both beneficial and adverse effects. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. The EA indicates that there will be beneficial effects from a major reduction of flood damage that are incurred during each flood event. Temporary disruption of traffic routes during construction will be the major adverse effects.

2. The degree to which the action affects public health or safety. No adverse effects to public health or safety will result from the Proposed Action and implementation will provide increased safety for the public by keeping a major portion of flood flows in the lower economic reach within the channel and off streets.

3. The degree to which the action affects unique characteristics of the potentially affected area, such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas. The proposed action will have minor impacts to wetlands due to filling a small isolated wetland in Economic Reach 1 (E1) due to required channel widening.

4. The degree to which effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial. The project will benefit the public through increased safety. Therefore the Little Rock District; Corps of Engineers does not regard this activity as controversial.

5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment is highly uncertain or involves unique or unknown risks. The uncertainty of the impacts of this action is low since the City is required to provide a clean corridor for construction activity, thus eliminating the risk of unknown HTRW issues. Any contamination areas within the project footprint will be remediated prior to channel construction.

6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts. Because the proposed action involves reducing existing persistent flood damages and improves public safety, the action should not establish a precedent for significant future impacts.

7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. There are no other known individual actions associated with this project, therefore there are no cumulatively significant impacts identified in this action.

8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect items listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or other significant scientific, cultural or historic resources. There are no known structures eligible for National Register of Historic Places listing, or other significant scientific, cultural, or historic resource sites in the proposed construction footprint.

9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat. The proposed action will not affect any Threatened &

Endangered species as none exist in the project area, as determined by a June 28, 2012 letter from USFWS.

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, state or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment. No such violations will occur. All applicable Federal, state or local laws and regulations will be complied with during the implementation of the action.

CONCLUSIONS: The impacts identified in the prepared EA have been thoroughly discussed and assessed. No impacts identified in the EA would cause any significant adverse effects to the human environment. Therefore, due to the analysis presented in the EA and comments received from a 30-day public review period that began on xxxx, 2013 and ended on xxxx, 2013, it is my decision that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is unwarranted and a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (FONSI) is appropriate. The signing of this document indicates the Corps final decision of the proposed action as it relates to NEPA. The EA and FONSI will be held on file in the Environmental Branch, Planning and Environmental Division of the Little Rock District, Corps of Engineers for future reference. Consultation with regulatory agencies will be ongoing to ensure compliance with all federal, state, regional, and local regulations and guidelines.

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Date

Glen A. Masset

Colonel, US Army

District Engineer