



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION
1100 COMMERCE ST, STE 831
DALLAS, TX 75242-1317

CESWD-ZA

00 Dec 22

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District,
700 West Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72201

SUBJECT: Approval of Maumelle River Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Integrated
Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment Continuing Authorities Program
(CAP) – Section 206

1. References:

a. Memorandum from SWL Commander at CESWL-PPMD, Dated 24 Nov 2022,
subject: Final Report for Maumelle River Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, Integrated
Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA)

b. Self-certification of NFS financial capability, dated 16 November 2022 from
Central Arkansas Water.

c. Letter from the Non-federal Sponsor (Central Arkansas Water) to USACE
affirming interest in moving forward to design and implementation of the project.

2. Per reference 1a., the Little Rock District submitted to the Southwestern Division
(SWD) the final feasibility report for the Maumelle River Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration
Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment Continuing Authorities
Program (CAP) – Section 206. The first cost of the recommended plan is \$2,464,000.
Per references 1b. and 1c., the non-federal sponsor, Central Arkansas River has
provided self-certification of financial capability and a letter indicating a desire to partner
on the design and implementation of the project.

3. The recommended plan creates 157 annual average habitat units (AAHUs) and
restores 470 acres. This plan achieves all three identified project objectives. Removal of
two low water dams (RC1 and RC2) will restore stream connectivity for numerous
aquatic species inhabiting the Maumelle River and Lake Maumelle. Notching of the
earthen levee adjacent to RC1 will reconnect the Maumelle River to side channel 1,
thereby restoring floodplain connectivity and restoring important spawning and nursery
habitat for native fish and other aquatic organisms. The restoration of Tributary A and
riparian reforestation will convert an existing 140-acre sod farm back to a natural
landscape. This restoration, together with the associated blockages of channelized
ditches, will decrease sediment and nutrient movement into the Maumelle River and
side channels. The reductions in water pollutant loading will result in a vast

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improvement of important habitat for many aquatic organisms. Implementation of the plan will result in incidental regional economic development benefits as well as environmental quality benefits associated with improved water quality for a downstream potable water reservoir, Lake Maumelle.

4. The report complies with all applicable policy and laws in place at the time of its completion. I hereby approve implementation of the recommended plan as described in the Maumelle River Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) – Section 206 referenced in 1a. above. Please sign the Finding of No Significant Impact and deliver a copy to SWD for the record.

5. Any modification to the approved recommended plan should be coordinated with SWD staff for a determination as to whether an additional amendment to the project report is required for submittal for SWD processing and action.

6. The point of contact for this action is Dr. Maria Wegner, Acting Chief, Planning and Policy Division, CESWD-PDP, at (202) 731-9962 or maria.m.wegner@usace.army.mil.

Encls

JAMES M. SCHULTZE, P.E.
COL, EN
Commanding