



**US Army Corps
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Philadelphia District

News Release

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— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

Corps of Engineers and NJDEP to conduct Public meeting on Pond Creek Salt Marsh Restoration Project October 13 in West Cape May Borough Hall

PHILADELPHIA (Oct. 3, 2005) --- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its partner the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection have scheduled a public meeting to present an overview of the proposed Pond Creek Salt Marsh Restoration Project and collect comments, documents and other information as required under the National Environmental Policy Act. The meeting, scheduled for two sessions, will be held October 13, at the West Cape May Borough Hall located at 732 Broadway.

The goal of the proposed Pond Creek Salt Marsh Restoration Project is to restore Pond Creek to an estuarine intertidal emergent marsh, dominated by native species such as saltmeadow cordgrass (*Spartina*). Pond Creek is located within the Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area adjacent to the Delaware Bay in Lower Township and the Borough of West Cape May, Cape May County, New Jersey.

The restoration will be accomplished by reestablishing daily tidal inundation to Pond Creek with the construction of a new 920-foot-long channel from the Delaware Bay to a newly constructed water-control structure. The top elevation of the proposed water-control structure is 1.3 feet higher than the elevation of a 500-year Delaware Bay storm and would allow daily inundation of approximately 200 acres to eradicate the Phragmites now in the salt marsh.

For additional project information and to view the Draft Environmental Assessment please visit the Philadelphia District web site at <http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/cenap-pa/news.htm#public>.

Each session of the public meeting will follow the same time schedule and people who do not get the opportunity to speak during the first session can attend the second session. The first session will begin at 3 pm and end at 5 pm while the second session will begin at 7 pm and end at 9 pm.

3:00 pm	Public meeting begins
3:15 pm	Overview of the Pond Creek Salt Marsh Restoration Project

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3: 45 pm Public comment begins; each person will have three minutes to speak.
(People wishing to speak should sign up before the session begins.)
4:45 pm Public comment closes and project team members will address individuals
who have questions about the project.
5:00 pm The first session closes and the next session will run from 7 pm to 9 pm
following the same schedule as outlined above.

Additional comments, under the NEPA process, will be accepted until Nov. 13, 2005.
Please send your comments to the following address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Philadelphia District, ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn
Square East, Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390.

For further information please contact Merv Brokke, Philadelphia District, at
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