



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
Fort Worth District

# Public Notice

Section 408/Regulatory Project #: SWF-2015-00281

Date issued: January 21, 2021

Close of comment period: March 8, 2021

USACE Point of Contact: Leslie Crippen

**PUBLIC NOTICE UNDER SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION ACT  
FOR AN ALTERATION OF A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED CIVIL WORKS PROJECT UNDER 33 USC 408  
(SECTION 408)**

**TITLE:** Section 408 Regulatory Project Number SWF-2015-00281, San Pedro Creek

**REQUESTER AND NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR:** San Antonio River Authority (SARA).

**BACKGROUND:** San Pedro Creek is part of the San Antonio Channel Improvement Project (SACIP), a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized Civil Works project, subject to Section 408. A Section 408 permission and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act permit were issued to SARA on December 16, 2016. A decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). To comply with Section 106, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the USACE, the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer, and SARA was executed on December 16, 2016, which provides stipulations for construction monitoring and procedures regarding inadvertent discoveries for Phases 1 and 2 of the San Pedro Creek project.

**IMPACTS TO HISTORIC, CULTURAL, AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:**

Archaeological monitoring of construction activities along the east bank of San Pedro Creek identified buried structural foundations in late-February, 2020. During continued monitoring of the grading activities carried out in the vicinity, the isolated segments grew into a complex of foundations, which were assigned trinomial 41BX2359. Subsequent archival research and archaeological investigations indicate these foundations represent the remains of the Klemke/Menger Soap Factory (1847-1859), the St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E. Church) of San Antonio (1871-1877), the Alamo Ice Company (1878-1887), the Alamo Ice and Brewing Company (1887-1898), and the Alamo Brewery (1898-1904). Based on the results of extensive archival and archaeological research conducted to date, the USACE has determined that two of the archaeological components at the site are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Specifically, the Klemcke/Menger Soap Factory is eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A at the local level for its association with the

development of industrial soap manufacture. The A.M.E Church component is also eligible for listing under Criterion A at the local level of significance due to its association with Reconstruction Era-politics and African Americans communities' establishment of religious autonomy in San Antonio. The two components have also been determined eligible under Criterion B for their association with significant individuals, including the Klemcke and Menger families at the local level of significance, and Reverend William Rufus Carson, and several other individuals who played a significant role as community leaders and spearheaded growth of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the local, State, and National level of significance. Finally, due to the potential of the two components to yield significant knowledge related to the early industrial process of soap manufacture and the multi-faceted role of the church in the lives of the A.M.E. Church congregation, the two components are also considered eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion D.

Site 41BX2359 would be adversely affected by the continued construction of the SACIP as currently designed. In accordance with 36 CFR § 800.6, the USACE wishes to solicit the views of the public in resolving the adverse effects of the undertaking. We are seeking your comments and feedback on the enclosed draft report, *Archival and Archeological Assessment of Historic Foundations at Site 41BX2359* as well as the enclosed array of potential minimization and mitigation measures which may be employed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Written comments are being solicited from anyone having an interest in the undertaking's effect on historic property 41BX2359. Comments will become part of the USACE administrative record and will be considered in determining the resolution of adverse effects associated with the undertaking. Comments supporting, opposing, or identifying concerns with the documentation provided or the potential minimization and mitigation measures that may be considered by the USACE in its decision process are all welcome. Issuance of this notice does not imply USACE endorsement of the draft report in its current form or of any minimization or mitigation measures proposed.

**LOCATION:** The project is located on San Pedro Creek in Bexar County, in the City of San Antonio.

**ENCLOSURE(S):**

- 1) Archival and Archaeological Assessment of 41BX2359 Chapter 10: Summary and Recommendations
- 2) Appendix 10-1: San Pedro Creek Culture Park Preservation/Interpretation Study
- 3) St. James AME Church Archival and Archaeological Assessment

**SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:** The USACE is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; federally recognized tribes; and other interested parties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Comments received will be considered by the USACE to resolve adverse effects to historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA.

In addition to soliciting written public comments, two virtual public meetings have been scheduled to discuss the resolution of adverse associated with this undertaking:

- Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 4:00 pm CST at: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/768127765>.
- Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 6:00 pm CST at: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/154347917>.

Materials submitted as part of the Section 106 consultation process become part of the public record and are available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Individuals may submit a written request to obtain materials under FOIA or make an appointment to view the project file at the Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of Counsel.

**CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:** Written comments on the enclosed documentation and potential minimization and mitigation measures are requested on or before the close of the comment period. Comments must reference the Section 408 Request ID # and project name. Comments and requests for additional information should be submitted to CESWF-PEE-C, ATTN: Ms. Leslie Crippen, P.O. Box 17300, Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300, or by email to [DLL-CESWF-SPCIPComments@usace.army.mil](mailto:DLL-CESWF-SPCIPComments@usace.army.mil). Please note that names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice may be made publicly available. For more information on Section 408, visit the Fort Worth District Section 408 webpage at <https://www.swf.usace.army.mil/Missions/Section-408/>.