



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
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CESPD-ZA

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: South Pacific Division (SPD), Engineering with Nature (EWN) Proving Ground

1. Reference: Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020, H.R.7575, Sections 113, 114, 115, 123, 124, 116th Cong. (2020).

2. Purpose: Articulate Command Support of SPD as an EWN Proving Ground.

3. Applicability. This Command Support statement applies to all SPD Civil Works projects and project delivery teams.

4. Discussion. The current operating environment for our Civil Works Program is characterized by accelerating change and uncertainty on multiple fronts. This context requires we adapt our approaches to planning and design to achieve long term and sustainable solutions. We must adopt bold and inclusive strategies to develop holistic solutions that provide multiple benefits including flood risk reduction and ecological services to secure our nation, energize our economy and reduce disaster risk.

a. EWN is the intentional alignment of natural and engineering processes to deliver economic, environmental, and social benefits efficiently and sustainably. Incorporating natural and nature-based features into project scoping, design, and construction, from a foundation of inclusive and collaborative engagement, creates a broad array of opportunities to meaningfully strengthen community resilience into the future.

b. The benefits of employing natural and nature-based features are broadly recognized and specifically required by reference 1.a, which further directs USACE to consider their inclusion in project development. In addition to the requirements in WRDA, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Honorable Michael Connor, stated in his Intent for Civil Works in May 2022 that:

"...We need to take advantage of nature-based infrastructure and figure out how we can bring multiple benefits to our projects, so that we're not just doing flood risk and coastal storm management, but we are also helping to further environmental restoration and even augment water supply where we can."

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c. In recognition of the value of delivering systems-based, holistic solutions, SPD is committed to integrating EWN into our guidance and processes to facilitate the meaningful inclusion of natural and nature-based features into our projects and processes. This not only includes new studies and projects, but also incorporates EWN concepts into existing civil works projects and emphasizes the public interest benefits of EWN for the Regulatory Program.

d. SPD is partnering with ERDC to become the first Major Subordinate Command-level EWN Proving Ground. We are joining a dynamic and growing community of practice at ERDC and across the USACE enterprise to implement EWN into our Civil Works program. We will leverage our Tribal Partners traditional knowledge and take advantage of the power of ERDC to develop and apply new knowledge in our planning and design solutions. The desired outcome is that we are serving our communities with projects that apply and are informed by EWN.

5. I ask that you join me in advancing SPD as an EWN Proving Ground. You are encouraged to ask questions and to seek all opportunities within the civil works program to apply EWN. My point of contact for this memorandum is SPD Operations and Regulatory Division, Ms. Tori White, Tori.White@usace.army.mil, or (415) 416-0329.

ANTOINETTE R. GANT, PMP
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

SPD Division and District Commanders, Deputy Commanders, and DPMs

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EWN Program Managers