

9.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

A flood damage reduction project at Huntington would provide benefits to the public. As such, coordination with the appropriate Federal, state, regional and local agencies, and the public was an integral part of the planning process. This section describes the coordination actions taken for this study.

On February 5, 2007, letters were sent to various federal, state regional and local agencies by the USACE on behalf of Fairfax County announcing the beginning of the Huntington Community Flood Damage Reduction Study. The letters explained that the study was being conducted under the Floodplain Management Services Program and provided information about the study and alternatives under evaluation. Several responses from local, state and federal agencies were received. An example of the letters mailed, mailing list, and responses received can be found in Appendix A.

Three Community Meetings were held during the study at the Walt Whitman Middle School. The first meeting was held on January 11, 2007 and had approximately 300 people in attendance. This meeting presented the findings in the *June 2006 Flood Investigation for Cameron Run* report, which was completed in January 2007, and also provided an overview of work to be completed through the Huntington Flood Damage Reduction Study.

Roughly 100 residents attended the second meeting on April 24, 2007. During the meeting, preliminary flood damage reduction alternatives were presented and input was received from the community. Additional input was received through questionnaires, which were distributed during the meeting. Approximately 20 questionnaires were completed by the public. Of the questionnaires that were received, many residents were in favor of the dredging, levee, and/or combination levee/dredging alternatives, and were against the flood proofing alternative. An equal number of responses were in favor of buyouts as were opposed.

The third public meeting was held on January 15, 2008 with approximately 85 residents in attendance. The purpose of this meeting was to present the final two flood damage reduction alternatives to the community (levee and levee/dredging combination) and discuss residents' issues and concerns. Comment cards were handed out during the meeting, and eight responses were received. A number of the comments made during the meeting and on the comment cards favored some amount of dredging as part of any solution.

Two newsletters were created and mailed to residents and other interested parties during the study. The first newsletter was sent in September 2007 and the second newsletter was mailed in May 2008. The intent of these newsletters was to keep the people informed of the study's progress, provide additional information relevant to flood damage reduction in the community, and answer questions or concerns raised during previous meetings or through questionnaire or comment card responses. Refer to Appendix F for copies of the newsletters, which include a summary of meetings held and questionnaire/comment card responses.