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## News Release

Public Affairs Office

Release No.

2

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For Release

Immediate

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Jan. 12, 1993

## Environmental groups are invited to Corps sponsored forum, Jan. 23

GALVESTON -- The Texas environmental community gathers in Galveston Jan. 23, 1993 for the first in a series of environmental forums sponsored by the Galveston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"Historically, the federal and state resource agencies have had a greater opportunity to participate in our programs," said Col. John P. Basilotto, District Engineer. "Private environmental groups have not."

The forums will establish better communication between the Corps and the environmental community, he said.

Topic for the first in the planned series of meetings is the Corps regulatory program. Speakers on the permitting process, the enforcement program, and current issues including the wetland delineation manual will be on the program, according to Rick Medina, forum coordinator.

"In order for the Corps of Engineers to effectively perform its mission, a better understanding of the concerns of the environmental community is essential," said Basilotto. "The forums allow the environmental community to express concerns, needs and opportunities in relation to our civil works programs."

Topics for future forums include: dredging and beneficial uses of dredged material, environmental engineering initiatives, the Corps planning process - how a project develops, and specific project discussion such as the Houston-Galveston Navigation Channels or the Wallisville projects.

The January 23 meeting starts at 10 a.m. in the Jadwin Building conference room, 2000 Fort Point Road, Galveston. Invitations went to 30 environmental groups in south Texas.

## **Environmental Forum**

Saturday, January 23, 2993

Galveston District Office

9:30 a.m.	Registration	1st Floor, Jadwin Building
10:00	Introduction	Col. John P. Basilotto
10:30	Update of General Investigation, Construction General & Operation and Maintenance Programs	George Rochen
11:00	Regulatory Program Overview	Fred Anthamatten
11:30	WORKING LUNCH (Video and Survey Feedback)	
12:15	Permitting Process	Dolan Dunn
12:45	Enforcement Program	Fred Anthamatten
1:15	Current Issues	Regulatory Staff
1:45	Questions & Answers	Regulatory Staff
2:45	BREAK	
3:00	Future Forum Topics	Col. Basilotto
3:30	Adjourn Tour of Facilities (optional)	