



# Public Notice

US Army Corps  
of Engineers

Sacramento District  
1325 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice Number: 199825095

Date: September 30, 2002

Comments Due: October 30, 2002

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

**Subject:** Department of the Army Permit Application. The District Engineer, Sacramento District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) is evaluating a permit application from the Nevada Department of Transportation. The purpose of this notice is to inform interested parties of a proposed work activity and to solicit comments. Participation is encouraged so that the District Engineer is better able to complete a more thorough public interest review. Comments assist the Corps to make a reasonable decision based on public interest factors. The District Engineer is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposals probable impacts on the affected aquatic systems functional values and the cumulative and secondary effects. The Corps requires that applicants consider and use all reasonable and practical measures to avoid and minimize impacts. If the applicant is unable to avoid or minimize all impacts, the Corps may require compensatory mitigation. The proposed project is described below and shown on the attached drawings. This notice may also be viewed at the Corps web site at:

<http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/cespk-co/regulatory/PNs/>.

**Applicant:** Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), Environmental Services Division, 1263 S Stewart St, Carson City, NV 89701-5229.

**Location:** The project site is located in Sections 29 and 32, Township 18 North, Range 20 East; Sections 4, 5, 6, and 7, Township 17 North, Range 20 East; and Sections 12, 13, 14, 23, 26, and 27, Township 17 North, Range 19 East, Washoe County, Nevada.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the proposed fill is to construct a freeway extension project.

**Project Description:** The Nevada Department of Transportation is proposing to construct the I-580 freeway extension project. This 8.5 mile freeway segment will involve placing fill for roadway construction that will impact approximately 16.2 acres of wetlands and portions of 11 various creek segments and their riparian areas. The affected creeks are: Galena Creek (B-4); Brown's Creek (B-5); Casey's Diversion Ditch (B-7, 8, 9, & 10); and unnamed intermittent creeks (B-2, B-7, B-9, & B-11 (there are three unique creek segments and includes 5854 feet of various ditches in B-11)). Refer to the attached drawing (Sheet 2 of 4) to locate the B-x references in the previous sentence. The freeway will be six lanes wide and extend from the Mt Rose interchange (on the north) to Winters Ranch (on the south end of the project). Bridges will be constructed over Galena Creek and Brown's Creek to allow migratory movements of deer and other wildlife; other creek segments will be culverted. The enclosed maps and drawings show project location and additional project details. Typical wetland and creek impacts (B-8, 10, & 11) are also depicted. More information can be viewed at the applicant's web site:

[www.freewayextension.com](http://www.freewayextension.com). The attached maps and drawings provide additional project details.

The Corps has not determined whether mitigation will be required if the proposed impacts are authorized. However, in anticipation of an affirmative permit decision and a need for compensatory mitigation, NDOT has proposed to construct water quality sediment / infiltration basins on-site to treat highway runoff; wildlife habitat and other functional impacts will be mitigated at NDOT's mitigation site at the south end of Washoe Lake, within Washoe Lake State Park (this mitigation area is already constructed and functioning).

The applicant believes there is a need to construct this freeway extension to facilitate commuter traffic between Reno / Sparks and Carson City. The wider lane will provide faster and safer road travel between these two heavily traveled metropolitan areas.

It is also noted that an environmental impact statement and a supplement was prepared and published in 1983.

**Environmental Setting:** The project area includes a typical developing rural Nevada setting. Pastures that are often irrigated are transitioning into rural homesteads that are often several acres large. There are several unnamed tributaries that originate from the Sierra Nevada foothills and are usually fed by incremental (groundwater) discharges. Additionally, some of these tributary systems are channelized and diverted for irrigation water redistribution. Nearly all of the impacted wetland areas are small with only 3 of the 10 identified wetland areas larger than 0.4 acres. The wetland complex shown on the attached drawing B-11 (Sheet 3 of 4) is 9.2 acres and interspersed with over a mile of creek / irrigation channel segments.

**Additional Information:** Additional information may be obtained from Gail Bellenger, NDOT, at 775-888-7889 in Carson City or by calling Richard Gebhart, Project Manager, Corps of Engineers at 775-784-5304 in Reno.

**Authority:** This proposal is being evaluated under Section 404, Clean Water Act, for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

**Water Quality Certification:** The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has granted certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act on June 25, 2002.

**Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation:** The activity's impact on the public interest will include application of the 404 (b) (1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

**Public Hearing:** Before the expiration date of this notice, anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the District Engineer determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location.

**Endangered Species:** As determined by the published environmental impact statement, the described activity will not affect listed species or their critical habitat protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844).

**Cultural Resources:** In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, initial review of cultural resources information available in the *National Register of Historic Places* and its current supplements indicates that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed activity. This notice was sent to the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office.

**Evaluation:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the described activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the described activity will be considered

including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and / or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

**Submitting Comments:** Comments must be received on or before the expiration date (located above) to be considered in subsequent actions on this application. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. Anyone whose interests may be affected by the proposed work is invited to submit favorable or unfavorable written comments to:

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Nevada Office (Gebhart)  
300 Booth Street Rm 2103  
Reno NV 89509-1361  
Email: [richard.a.gebhart@usace.army.mil](mailto:richard.a.gebhart@usace.army.mil)

**Additional Requirements:** State law requires that leases, easements, or permits be obtained for certain works or activity in the described waters. These state requirements must be met, where applicable, and a Department of the Army permit must be obtained before any work within the applicable statutory authority, previously indicated, may be accomplished. Other local governmental agencies may also have ordinances or requirements which must be satisfied before the work is accomplished.

Michael J. Conrad, Jr.  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

Attachments