



# Public Notice

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Sacramento District  
1325 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice Number: 200000317

Date: April 10, 2001

Comments Due: May 9, 2001

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

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## **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

**SUBJECT:** Application for a Department of the Army permit under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to fill approximately 3.12 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, to develop a nursery facility, as shown in the attached drawings.

**APPLICANT:** Jeff Null  
Hines Horticulture, Inc.  
8633 Winters Road  
Winters, California 95694

**LOCATION:** This project is located 5 miles south of the City of Winters, west of Interstate 505 in Solano County, California. The study area is bounded on the south by Allendale Road, Winters Road on the east, Timm Road on the west, and private property to the north. The project site is within Township 7 North, Range 1 West, Los Putos Land Grant, Solano County, California.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Hines Horticulture proposes to develop a plant growing nursery facility on 598 acres of their 846-acre property. A total of 28.59 acres of wetlands and other waters of the United States occur within the 846-acre study area. The applicant proposes to fill a total of 3.12 acres of waters of the United States, including 1.16 acres of seasonal wetland (SW), 0.03 acre vernal pool (VP), and 1.93 acres of intermittent channels (CH), on the 613 acres west of the Putah South Canal. The 248 acres east of the Putah South Canal are not proposed to be affected by the project at this time. Approximately 25.47 acres of waters will not be directly filled by the proposed project. However, over 6.13 acres of waters, including wetlands, may be lost due to dewatering or other indirect impacts based on the available plans. Hines Horticulture has proposed to set aside 83 of the 598 acres of land by deed restriction or by other appropriate legal methods as a condition of receiving all necessary permits. This land includes approximately 4.46 acres of wetlands and other waters of the United States. The project would be developed in several phases over a five to ten year period. The first phase would involve constructing nursery facilities on about 30 acres west of the Putah South Canal. The attached drawings show the area to be graded and the area to be set aside. Grading for the Allendale Nursery Project would occur during late spring, summer and fall when soils are dryer and less

likely to be subject to erosion from rainfall. The applicant will develop a mitigation plan subject to agency approval.

During operations of the Allendale Nursery, the applicant proposes to protect water quality by physical constraints as well as through implementation of the following operational guidelines and policies:

- 1) Water will be conserved through the use of a closed recycle system for the entire site, and through the use of drip irrigation. No irrigation water leaves the site during the growing season (typically March to October).
- 2) An Integrated Pest Management Program, as is currently the practice on other Hines nurseries in California, will be implemented to reduce pesticide use.
- 3) Strict, controlled use of pesticides. State Certified Applicators supervise all pesticide applications.
- 4) A Stormwater Management Program, as is currently the practice on other Hines nurseries in California, will be implemented to capture the first flush of stormwater run-off.

**AREA DESCRIPTION:** The Allendale Nursery Project area is in the foothills of the Vaca Mountains in western Solano County. The topography in the study area is primarily undulating hills. The elevation of the study area ranges from 125 to 206 feet above sea level. The applicant has stated the low fertility soils support nonnative annual grassland used primarily for livestock grazing.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The applicant provided an alternatives analysis. An evaluation was conducted by the applicant of alternative sites that could be used to accomplish the project purpose within a 5-mile radius of the proposed site. The evaluation focused on seven items: economic requirements; location/operations; water quality and quantity; topography; soils; climate; and environmental.

Based on the available information, there are no historic properties either listed or recommended as eligible which would be affected by this project. This activity would not affect any federally listed threatened or endangered species or their designated critical habitat. The District Engineer has made these determinations based on information provided by the applicant and on the Corps' preliminary investigation.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on or before **May 9, 2001**. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed 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 proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be

considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain 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 the 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.

If additional information is required, please contact Jeff Null at Hines Horticulture, Inc., telephone (530) 795-6030, R. John Little, at Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc., telephone (916) 427-0703, or Nancy Haley, at the letterhead address, telephone (916) 557-7772.

Michael J. Walsh  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

Enclosures: Drawings (7)