



Public Notice

US Army Corps
of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice Number: 200000630

Date: January 30, 2002

Comments Due: March 1, 2002

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

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 place fill into 0.984 acre of waters of the United States, including wetlands, adjacent or tributary to Clover Creek in Redding, Shasta County as shown in the attached drawings.

APPLICANT: Phil Perry
City of Redding
P.O. Box 496071
777 Cypress Avenue
Redding, California 96001

LOCATION: The proposed project site is located in eastern Redding to the west of Old Oregon Trail. The site is approximately 0.5 mile north of State Route 44 and approximately 2.7 miles east of Interstate 5. The site is within the Clover Creek-Stillwater Creek watershed. Stillwater Creek is located to the east across Old Oregon Trail and Clover Creek runs through the northern portion of the site. The property is bordered on the south by a gravel road, Tarmac Road, to the north by Viking Way, and on the west by Abernathy Lane and the City of Redding Corporation Yard and Transfer Station. The site is located near the center of the USGS 7.5 minute Enterprise quadrangle, in Section 3, Township 31 North, Range 4 West, MDBM.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The purpose of the proposed project is to develop a multi-purpose sports complex within the city limits of Redding. The sports complex would consist of 3 softball fields, 1 adult and 2 youth baseball fields, 13 acres of soccer fields, 2 approximately 24,000 square foot multipurpose buildings, a pedestrian trail system, paved parking areas, batting cages, 8 outdoor volleyball courts, a playground, maintenance and storage facilities, restrooms, and a concession building. The project site consists of 104 acres of land on five parcels. Access to the complex would be from Viking Way and Old Oregon Trail. The City currently owns 84 acres and an additional 20 acres are being purchased from PG&E. The existing sewer line to the property is inadequate for the proposed development. A new sewer alignment is proposed to the south of the property which would connect to an existing sewer line at the terminus of Innsbruck Drive.

The distribution of waters of the United States on the 104-acre project site has been verified by the Corps. Of the 2.89 acres of waters present on the site, there are 1.60 acres of vernal pools and swales, 0.77 acre of seasonal wetland, and 0.52 acre of intermittent stream. The vernal pools

and swales exist in a complex confined to the southwest portion of the site. The Corps has not verified the delineation of waters of the United States within the 540-foot wide study corridor for the sewer alignment. The preliminary delineation has identified a total of 0.854 acre of potentially jurisdictional waters within the sewer alignment study corridor. The 0.854 acre of waters of the United States identified, include 0.003 acre of intermittent pool, 0.726 acre of seasonal wetland, 0.074 acre of vernal swale, and 0.051 acre of intermittent creek.

Proposed development of the property would be confined to the north and west portions of the site. No development is proposed within the vernal pool/swale complex in the southwest portion of the site. Grading and other construction activities would result in the permanent loss of 0.96 acre of waters of the United States, in the form of 0.52 acre of intermittent drainage and 0.44 acre of seasonal wetland. An additional 0.024 acre of intermittent drainages would be temporarily impacted by construction of the new sewer alignment.

AREA DESCRIPTION: The topography of the project site ranges from nearly level in the southern portion to gently rolling in the northern and eastern portions. The northern portion of the site consists of a dense blue oak woodland, the southern portion consists of an approximately 20-acre meadow. Other than a 115-foot wide electrical transmission corridor, which runs north to south through the east central portion of the site, the site is undeveloped.

Adjacent land uses to the south and east are primarily single family residential. The City's Transfer Station and Corporation Yard are to the west. An automobile dismantling yard, vacant industrial parcels, and one residence are north of the property along Viking Way.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and its monthly supplements have been reviewed and there are no places either listed or recommended as eligible which would be affected. A pedestrian survey was conducted over the entire project area on the behalf of the applicant. No archeological sites were identified during the survey. However, presently unknown cultural resources may be located in the permit area.

The following endangered species may be present in the permit area: vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), vernal pools tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), and slender Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia tenuis*). A comprehensive floristic inventory and special-status plant survey were conducted on the 104-acre property by the applicant in accordance with California Department of Fish and Game guidelines. No special status state or federally listed plants were identified during the survey. Protocol surveys for vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp were also conducted by the applicant within suitable habitat on the 104-acre site in accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *Interim Survey Guidelines to Permittees for Recovery Permits under Section 10(a)(1)(a) of the Endangered Species Act for the Listed Vernal Pool Branchiopods, April 19, 1996*. No special status vernal pool invertebrates were detected during these surveys. No plant or branchiopod surveys were conducted within the proposed sewer alignment. The Corps has initiated Section 7 consultation, pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to address any potential affect the proposed action may have on federally listed threatened or endangered species and designated critical habitat.

The City formed a committee to oversee review and selection of possible sites for the sports complex. Of the 16 sites initially reviewed, five were selected and reviewed in more detail in the Environmental Impact Report for the Redding Sports Complex (SCH 2000062097). However, the EIR does not specifically address the potential effects of the various alternatives on the

aquatic environment and the applicant will need to provide additional information before the Corps can determine if the proposed project is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative and is in compliance with the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines. The City has developed the proposed sewer alignment in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game.

The District Engineer has made this determination based on information provided by the applicant and on the Corps' preliminary investigation.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on or before **March 1, 2002**. 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 the applicant's agent, Wirt Lanning, telephone (530) 222-5347 x28, or William Ness, at the letterhead address, telephone (916) 557-5268.

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

Enclosures: 4 Drawings