



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice

Public Notice Number: 200050096

Date: August 9, 2001

Comments Due: August 28, 2001

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 discharge fill material in connection with reconstruction of the intersection of Interstate 15 and State Road 75 in waters and wetlands adjacent to Utah Lake, as shown in the attached drawings.

APPLICANT: Lars Anderson
Utah Department of Transportation
825 North 900 West
Orem, Utah 84057

LOCATION: The project is located at the intersection of I-15 and SR-75 in Springville within Sections 13 and 19, Township 7 South, Range 3 East, Utah County, Utah.

PURPOSE: Current traffic volumes on the Interchange for access from southbound traffic are causing excessive delays and illegal traffic movements as motorists attempt to avoid the congestion, therefore, additional turning capacity is needed. Due to a failing bridge deck and poor bridge structure, the bridge over I-15 is in need of reconstruction. The current interchange also has substandard vertical alignment for clearance and sight distance and must be updated to current UDOT geometric and safety standards.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project will completely reconstruct the structure over I-15 by adding an additional 3 lanes (56 feet). The structure profile will be raised 4.3 feet and will be placed on piles. Wingwalls of the structure will be 12 feet by 12 feet. Additional capacity will be added to the ramps in the northwest, northeast and southeast quadrants of the interchange to improve traffic flow by providing extra turning capacity. The northwest quadrant ramp will be widened from 19.7 feet to 47.2 feet and the northeast and southeast quadrant ramps from 19.7 feet to 35.4 feet. The interchange will also be upgraded to UDOT's current geometrical and safety standards by raising the existing ramps. The northwest quadrant ramp will be raised 3.3 feet and the northeast and southeast quadrant ramps raised 8.2 feet. Approximately 40,645 cubic yards of clean fill material will be placed into 2.8 acres of wetlands adjacent to Utah Lake as shown on the attached plans.

AREA DESCRIPTION: The project is located at the existing I-15 and SR-75 interchange. The western on/off-ramps are bound by Provo Bay, a lacustrine fringe of Utah Lake. The eastern on/off-ramps are bound on the north by wetlands and irrigation canals, and on the south by irrigation canals and Flying J Truck Stop. Hobble Creek transacts the southeast off-ramp and eventually empties into Utah Lake. Saline wet meadows are located between the southern ramps and marshes are located between the northern ramps. The vegetation within the Saline wet meadows is dominated by salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*), rabbit grass (*Polypogon monospeilensis*), and creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). The marsh vegetation consists of cattail (*Typha latifolia*), alkali bulrush (*Scirpus pungens*), reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and other wetland vegetation.

PROPOSED MITIGATION: UDOT recently purchased a 12-acre mitigation site located southwest of the project area off 6300 South Street, northwest of the town of Benjamin. To mitigate for the 2.8 acres of wetland impact, UDOT will enhance the mitigation site. Nine acres are saline wet meadow, with hydrology, soils, vegetation and wildlife functions similar to the impacted site. Enhancement will include grazing exclusion, exotic species removal, and planting a diversity of native shrubs along the wetland boundaries and in the upland portion of the site for wildlife use.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Certification that the proposed work, if permitted, will not violate applicable water quality standards has been requested from the Utah Bureau of Water Pollution Control. For further information, please contact Mr. Lars Anderson with the Utah Department of Transportation, telephone (801)-227-8089, or Mr. Anthony Vigil, at the Utah Regulatory Office, 533 West 2600 South, Suite 150, Bountiful, Utah 84010, email avigil@spk.usace.army.mil, or telephone (801) 295-8380, extension 15.

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. Presently unknown cultural resources may be located in the permit area. The District Engineer has made this determination based on information provided by the applicant and on the Corps' preliminary investigation.

Certification for this project, according to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act has been requested from the Utah Division of Water Quality. The Utah Division of Water Quality intends to issue certification, provided that the proposed work will not violate applicable water quality standards. Projects are usually certified where the project may create diffuse sources (nonpoint sources) of wastes which will occur only during the actual construction activity, and where best management practices will be employed to minimize pollution effects. Written comments on water quality certification should be submitted to Mr. William O. Moellmer, Utah Division of Water Quality, 288 North 1460 West, P.O. Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870, on or before **August 28, 2001**.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments to the Corps of Engineers - Utah Regulatory Office on or before **August 28, 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.

Please reference Public Notice 200050096 when submitting comments concerning this project. Comments can be mailed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Utah Regulatory Office, ATTN: Anthony Vigil, 533 West 2600 South, Suite 150, Bountiful, Utah 84010, or emailed to avigil@spk.usace.army.mil.

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

Enclosures: 6 Drawings