



Public Notice

US Army Corps
of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice Number: 200050477

Date: December 20, 2000

Comments Due: January 8, 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 place fill in wetlands, as shown in the attached drawings.

APPLICANT: Utah Department of Transportation
2010 South 2760 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104

LOCATION: The project is located between Lake Point City and Tooele City on SR-36 within Section 35, Township 1 South, Range 4 West, Tooele County, Utah.

PURPOSE: The applicant proposes to widen State Route 36 to correct design deficiencies. These deficiencies include insufficient lane capacity, substandard intersections, inadequate access control, insufficient shoulder width, inadequate roadway clear zone and continued deterioration of the level of service. Additionally, the project is needed to accommodate projected traffic growth.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to reconstruct a three-mile segment of State Route 36 between Mills Junction and the Hardy Road overpass near the junction of Interstate 80 and State Route 36. The proposed work will widen the roadway from two to four lanes. An auxiliary center turn lane will be added where warranted. Approximately 100 feet of additional right-of-way will be acquired along the route to accommodate the widening. Other work will include: the relocation of the eastbound Interstate 80 offramp to State Route 36 to the south of the McDonald's Restaurant; the realignment of crossroads, the reduction of uncontrolled driveway and crossroad access and the control of future access; and the construction of ten-foot-wide shoulders along with the removal of obstructions in the clear zone and flattening of roadway side slopes. The proposed project will directly impact 1.35 acres of wetland. This includes 0.09 acres of emergent marsh and 1.26 acres of wet meadow. As mitigation for these impacts, the applicant proposed a combination of wetland creation and enhancement. The applicant proposes to purchase and preserve 1.65 acres of existing wetland and .68 acres of upland. The applicant will also create 1.11 acres of wet meadow and emergent wetland at the site.

AREA DESCRIPTION: State Road 36 is the primary access to Interstate 80 for the city of Tooele and Tooele Valley. The project area is largely undeveloped grassland used for agricultural purposes. There is limited commercial development at the intersection of Interstate 80 and State Route 36.

ALTERNATIVES: A number of alternatives were considered prior to selecting the preferred alternative of widening the right-of-way by expansion on the west side only. The no-build alternative was considered but was not selected because it does nothing to satisfy the existing problems with State Route 36. Widening the right-of-way on the east side only and widening the right-of-way equally on both the east and west sides were also considered. However, these alternatives would impact more wetland acreage than the preferred alternative and both would necessitate the taking of both commercial and residential properties.

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. Presently unknown cultural resources may be located in the permit area. This activity would not affect any threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. 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, Ph.D., Utah Division of Water Quality, P.O. Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870, on or before **January 8, 2001**.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on or before **January 8, 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 Tamerha Maxwell with the Utah Department of Transportation, telephone (801) 975-4900, or Mr. Anthony Vigil, 1403 South 600 West, Suite A, Bountiful, Utah, e-mail avigil@spk.usace.army.mil, telephone (801) 295-8380.

Michael J. Walsh
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Enclosures: 4 Drawings