



Public Notice

US Army Corps
of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice Number: 200100162

Date: August 21, 2002

Comments Due: September 20, 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 material into 1.46 acres of seasonal wetlands and an unnamed drainage, as shown in the attached drawings.

APPLICANT: Randy Meeker, Chico Unified School District, 1163 E. 7th Street, Chico, CA 95929

LOCATION: The proposed Canyon High School project is located at the northwest corner of Raley Boulevard and Bruce Road, Chico, Butte County, California. Section 31, Township 22 North, Range 2 East. Latitude 39-42-58.7090 Longitude 121-47-13.7394, UTM Zone 10, 603959.85 North, 4396767.61 East.

PURPOSE: To construct a new high school campus in the City of Chico to meet current student demands.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Chico Unified School District (CUSD) proposes to construct the Canyon View High School serving 1600 to 2000 students in grades 9 to 12 and 100 to 12 staff members. The proposed project includes classrooms, administrative buildings, sports facilities, and on-site parking. The proposed site is located on a 51-acre parcel in southeast Chico, on the northwest corner of Raley Boulevard and Bruce Road. The project would result in the placement of fill material into and the loss of 1.46 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands. The proposed high school was previously a component of a larger project, the Canyon View High School/Bruce Road Development, Department of the Army public notice number 200000612. The CUSD has chosen to separate from the previous proposal and seek their own permit for the high school campus.

AREA DESCRIPTION: The project site is non-native annual grassland, containing an intermittent drainage and interspersed with seasonally inundated wetlands. The 51 acre site is located within a larger 98.05 acre parcel which has remained fallow for a number of years. The project site is located in a rapidly urbanizing portion of the City of Chico.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Draft Environmental Impact Report for the project stated that the probability of the presence of cultural resources is low to moderate. However, presently unknown cultural resources may be located in the permit area.

The following endangered species are known to be present in the permit area: vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), and Butte County meadowfoam (*Limnanthus floccose californica*). 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 **September 20, 2002**. Personal information in comment letters is subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. 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 Randy Meeker from the Chico Unified School District, telephone 530-891-3000, or Matthew Kelley, at the letterhead address, telephone 916-557-7724.

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

Enclosures: 3 Drawings