



Public Notice

US Army Corps
of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice Number: 200100270

Date: January 16, 2002

Comments Due: February 14, 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 create a reliable potable water supply reservoir for the City of Plymouth on an intermittent drainage. The proposed water source for this project is from Blood Gulch and Big Indian Creek, as shown in the attached drawings.

APPLICANT: City of Plymouth
Ms. Valerie Klinefelter
9426 Main Street
Plymouth, California 95669

LOCATION: The project is located north of the City of Plymouth in Sections 35, Township 8 North, and Sections 2 and 11, Township 7 North, all in Range 10 East, MDB&M, Amador County, California.

PURPOSE: The propose of the project is to resolve the current shortage of water supply for the City of Plymouth. The City of Plymouth does not have a significant water storage facility.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project consists of the construction of a reservoir and associated pipeline. The construction of the reservoir will include a sixty feet high earthen dam with associated berms that will store 1,500 acre feet of water. The dam is considered by the City of Plymouth to be an off-stream facility because it is not located on a major stream, but it is located on an unnamed intermittent drainage. The project proposes to use diversion dams to extract water from Big Indian Creek and Blood Gulch. The reservoir is proposed to have a surface area of approximately 80.00 acres. The spillway for the proposed reservoir directs overflow back to Big Indian Creek. The applicant proposes to import 75,000 cubic yards of imported clay or sand, and use 120,000 cubic yards of existing earth fill material to create the reservoir. The outflow from the reservoir is proposed to be placed in a 12-inch diameter pipeline underneath the Arroyo Ditch and run approximately 600 feet to the City's existing pumps and treatment facility. A total of 8.41 acres of waters of the United States are within the project boundary. The proposed project entails flooding or filling 7.11 acres of waters of the United States to construct the main reservoir. An additional 0.29 acres will be filled and flooded with

the creation of the Big Indian Creek diversion dam, and 0.04 acres will be filled and flooded for the creation of the Blood Gulch diversion dam. Another 0.06 acres of waters of the United States are proposed to be filled with the construction of the pipeline project to be buried under the Arroyo Ditch.

AREA DESCRIPTION: The project is located in an oak woodland of the foothills of the Central Sierra Nevada at the 1,090 to 1,150 feet elevation. The project site has been grazed and there are two stock ponds within the flood up zone of the proposed reservoir. A portion of the proposed flood up area of the reservoir is currently a vineyard. There are a few large diameter valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) trees on the project site.

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. Surveys have been conducted and several sites have been located within the project area and adjacent to the reservoir footprint. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act has been initiated to evaluate these cultural resources within the project area for eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places.

This activity is not expected to affect any threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. The California Department of Fish and Game is requiring the City of Plymouth to maintain a by-pass flow of 1 cfs for Big Indian Creek. There is no by-pass flow required for Blood Gulch at this time.

The 1996 Engineering Report for this project states that the proposed project is needed for the existing residents of the City of Plymouth for health and safety reasons. Additionally, the expected yield of the reservoir will meet City needs and allow for approximately 12% growth within the community, but would not sustain uncontrolled growth from large subdivisions. The City of Plymouth is currently under a building moratorium and must ration water from time to time.

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 **February 14, 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 Ms. Terry Cox, telephone 209-533-8810, or Mr. John German, telephone 916-455-5000, representing the applicant; or Ms. Kathy Norton, for the Corps at the letterhead address, telephone 916-557-5260, or e-mail at knorton@spk.usace.army.mil.

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

Enclosures: Drawings (3)

Mailing List

California _____

Amador County _____

Special _____

Additional:

Ms. Valerie Klinefelter
City of Plymouth
9426 Main Street
Plymouth, CA 95669

Mr. John German
German Engineering
3000 Franklin Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95818

Mr. Waring Laurendine
Quad Knopf
5500 Ming Avenue, Suite 410
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Ms. Terry Cox
P.O. Box 38
Soulsbyville, CA 95372

Mr. Doug Boxter
Environmental
Rural Utilities Service
430 G Street, AGCY 4169
Davis, CA 95616-4169

Mr. Frank Risso
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Development Manager
1222 Monaco Court, Suite 19
Stockton, CA 95207-6793

Additional Continued---

Mr. Gary Carlton
California Regional Water
Quality Control Board
3443 Routier Road Suite A
Sacramento, CA 95827-3003