



# Public Notice

Public Notice Number: 200200116

Date: June 12, 2002

Comments Due: July 12, 2002

US Army Corps  
of Engineers

Sacramento District  
1325 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

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## 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 dredge or fill material in the Middle Fork American River, as shown in the attached drawings.

**APPLICANT:** Steve Jones  
Placer County Water Agency  
P.O. Box 667  
Foresthill, California 95631

**LOCATION:** The proposed Ralston Afterbay Sediment Management project is located on the border of Placer and El Dorado Counties, in the Tahoe and El Dorado National Forests, Sections 33, 2, 3, and 4, Townships 13 and 14 North, Range 11 East, Michigan Bluff USGS 7.5" quadrangle.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The primary purpose of the proposed project is to increase the sediment storage capacity of the Ralston Afterbay Reservoir (Afterbay). In order to accomplish this, the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) proposes to excavate 75,000-100,000 cubic yards of fine and coarse sediments from the Afterbay. About 48,000 cubic yards of the excavated material would be placed immediately downstream of the Ralston Dam on 1.96 acres of Indian Bar. An existing parking area at Indian Bar would then be expanded onto the sediment pile. The remaining 27,000-52,000 cubic yards would be transported to an alternative disposal site within the El Dorado National Forest, known as the Ralston Ridge site. Additionally, the PCWA proposes to initiate sediment-pass-through (SPT) operations, allowing finer sediments to pass through the dam's low-level outlet gate during high flow events. SPT operations would be conducted whenever river flows exceed 3,500 cubic feet per second. The applicant has not indicated what volume of material might be released during SPT operations. The proposed project has been designed as a small scale pilot project. If proven successful, the PCWA would consider the placement of additional excavated material at Indian Bar or other locations further downstream.

**AREA DESCRIPTION:** With the exception of the Ridge disposal site, the proposed project is located on the border of Placer and El Dorado Counties in the Middle Fork American River Canyon, between the Tahoe and El Dorado National Forests, in the Sierra Nevada.

**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.

The applicant has indicated that 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.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on or before **July 12, 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 Placer County Water Agency, telephone 530-885-6917, or Mr. William Ness, at the letterhead address, telephone 916-557-5268.

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

Enclosures: 5 Drawings