



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice

Public Notice Number: SPK-2002-00237

Date: May 6, 2008

Comments Due: June 6, 2008

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

SUBJECT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, (Corps) is evaluating a permit application to construct the Interstate 5 / Cosumnes River Boulevard Interchange (I-5/CRB) project, which would result in impacts to approximately 2.223 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, adjacent to Morrison Creek. This notice is to inform interested parties of the proposed activity and to solicit comments. This notice may also be viewed at the Corps web site at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html>.

AUTHORITY: This application is being considered pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States.

APPLICANT: City of Sacramento, Department of Transportation
915 I Street, Room 2000
Sacramento, California 95814-2604
Saed, Hasan, Senior Engineer, (916) 808-7923

LOCATION: The project site is located in Sections 13, 14 and 17, Township 7 North, Range 4 East, MDB&M, Sacramento County, California, and can be seen on the Clarksburg and Florin USGS Topographic Quadrangles.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant is proposing to construct a connector road from Freeport Boulevard to the current western terminus of Cosumnes River Boulevard at Franklin Boulevard in southwest Sacramento, California. The new road would include an elevated crossing and interchange at I-5 and an elevated crossing over the Morrison Creek floodway and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR).

Based on the available information, the overall project purpose is to provide a needed connection between Interstate 5 and developments to the east. The Interstate 5 and Cosumnes River Boulevard Interchange Project is a cooperative effort between the City of Sacramento (City), Department of Transportation; Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The applicant believes there is a need improve route continuity and regional east-west circulation in south Sacramento by connecting Franklin Boulevard to I-5, which would improve circulation between I-5, State Route 99 (SR 99) and points east, and improve traffic conditions along adjacent major City arterials such as Meadowview Road and Mack Road. The attached drawings provide additional project details

The four main I-5/CRB Project components are:

- Cosumnes River Boulevard Extension;
- I-5 Overcrossing and Interchange;
- Morrison Creek and the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) overcrossing; and
- Morrison Creek access road.

The Cosumnes River Boulevard Extension would be four lanes between Franklin Boulevard and 24th Street, six lanes between 24th Street and I-5, and four lanes between I-5 and Freeport Boulevard. The proposed I-5 interchange is a Type L-9 partial cloverleaf design that includes a four lane overcrossing structure and turn lanes provided at the on-ramps. The overcrossing would be located at approximately the same location as the existing Stonecrest Avenue overcrossing, which would be removed. The interchange would include two-lane diagonal off-ramps from I-5 in each direction with signalized termini and two loop on-ramps with provisions for ramp metering for southbound and northbound movements. Both on-ramps would be two lanes with one of the lanes being a high occupancy vehicle (HOV) bypass lane.

Bicycle and pedestrian movements would be accommodated on the I-5 overcrossing with the use of signalized crossings at the on-ramps.

The Morrison Creek overcrossing would measure 89 feet wide, 740 feet long, having 27 vertical feet of clearance over the UPRR and 18 vertical feet of clearance over the Morrison Creek levees. Six piers and two abutments would support the overcrossing superstructure. Each pier would consist of four columns pinned to a pile/pile cap foundation. The bridge abutments would be constructed on earthen approach ramps constructed on the landsides of the Morrison Creek floodway levees.

A permanent access road would be constructed in the Morrison Creek floodway to allow 65-foot-long trucks carrying materials access to the temporary construction area within the Morrison Creek floodway. This would require the discharge of fill material (gravel) into seasonal wetlands within the floodway. Prior to access road work, permissions will need to be obtained from UPRR to cross their tracks and from Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD). The road would remain permanently to allow future bridge and levee inspections by maintenance vehicles.

Temporary access to the floodway may be necessary from the west using a temporary embankment over the west levee. A temporary bypass pipe or culvert(s), sized to maintain expected downstream flow, would be placed in Morrison Creek to allow the construction of an earthen ramp from the top of the levee to the construction area. The ramp would be capable of supporting large construction equipment and haul trucks. All the material used to create the temporary embankment over the levee would be removed entirely and the area disturbed would be restored to preconstruction contours and elevations as soon as practicable following construction completion. Barren soil areas would be re-vegetated, as necessary, to reduce erosion that could cause turbidity in adjacent water bodies. Prior to access ramp work, permissions will need to be obtained from UPRR to cross their tracks and from SRCSD.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Environmental Setting. The project traverses primarily agricultural lands and vacant open-space grasslands. The SRCSD Bufferlands are located directly south of the proposed alignment. Primarily urban land uses border the project area, including residential, commercial, industrial, park/open space, and public/institutional lands. There are approximately 2.223 acres of permanent impacts and 3.176 acres of temporary impacts to seasonal wetlands, agricultural drainage ditches, seasonal wetland swales, creek, floodway wetland and drainage ditch wetlands within the project area.

Alternatives. The applicant has not provided information concerning project alternatives. Additional information concerning project alternatives may be available from the applicant or their agent. Other alternatives may develop during the review process for this permit application. All reasonable project alternatives, in particular those which may be less damaging to the aquatic environment, will be considered.

Mitigation. The Corps requires that applicants consider and use all reasonable and practical measures to avoid and minimize impacts to aquatic resources. If the applicant is unable to avoid or minimize all impacts, the Corps may require compensatory mitigation. The applicant has proposed to implement several mitigation measures, including various best management practices during construction and restoring all temporarily affected areas to pre-construction contours and the natural substrate. The project will also implement a drainage plan that will allow increased runoff volumes to pass with minor constrictions.

The applicant is proposing to compensate for impacts to wetlands and endangered species habitat through the purchase of off-site creation and or restoration credits at approved mitigation banks (locations not yet determined).

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS: Water quality certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is required for this project. The applicant has not indicated they have applied for certification, but has indicated they would apply. The applicant would also apply for a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Game along with and encroachment permit from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: The applicant has provided a letter of concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer that the proposed project will not affect historic properties listed or eligible for listing under the National Historic Preservation Act.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The proposed activity may affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. FHWA, the lead federal agency for the project, has completed consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. As a result, a Biological Opinion was issued by USFWS, dated March 11, 2005, that includes terms and conditions to protect species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, including the Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), and the Giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), or their designated critical habitat. The biological opinion concluded that the project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the protected species or their habitats.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed project will not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as defined in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The above determinations are based on information provided by the applicant and our preliminary review.

EVALUATION FACTORS: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the described 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 described activity, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the described activity will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain 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 activity's impact on the public interest will include application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (40 CFR Part 230).

The Corps 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 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 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.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: Written comments, referencing Public Notice SPK-2002-00237 must be submitted to the office listed below on or before June 6, 2008.

Angela L. De Paoli Conn, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Sacramento Office
1325 J Street, Room 1480
Sacramento, California 95814 2922
Email: angela.l.conn@usace.army.mil

The Corps is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposal's probable impacts on the affected aquatic environment and the secondary and cumulative effects. Anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state, with particularity, the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the Corps determines that the information received in response to this notice is inadequate for thorough evaluation, a public hearing may be warranted. If a public hearing is warranted, interested parties will be notified of the time, date, and location. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. If you have questions or need additional information please contact the applicant or the Corps' project manager Angela L. De Paoli Conn, (916) 557-6782, angela.l.conn@usace.army.mil.

Attachments: 7 drawings