



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice

Public Notice Number: 200200811

Date: January 14, 2004

Comments Due: February 13, 2004

SUBJECT: Application for a Department of the Army permit under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to construct the Skyline Roadway project in the City of Susanville, as shown in the attached drawings.

APPLICANT: Larry Millar
City of Susanville
Department of Public Works
707 Nevada Street, Suite 4
Susanville, CA 96130

LOCATION: The proposed Skyline Road Project is located East of the City of Susanville, Lassen County, California. Sections 27 & 28, Township 30 North, Range 30 East, and Sections 3 & 4, Township 29 North, Range 12 East.

PURPOSE: The Skyline Roadway project proposes to provide local and interstate vehicular traffic with an alternative East-West route to relieve existing traffic congestion on State Routes (SR) 36, 139, and the downtown area within the City of Susanville, California.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project combines two proposed Lassen County/Federal Highways projects, Skyline Road East and Skyline Road Extension into the Skyline Roadway project. This project proposes to construct a new two-lane undivided road and a bicycle path from SR 36, East of the City of Susanville, around the city to the northeast and connect to SR 139 at Skyline Road North. From SR 139 to Numa Road new two-lane undivided road and bike path will be constructed. The final segment from Numa Road to Paiute Road along the existing Skyline Road the road will be reconstructed and improved. The project would create a 24 foot wide asphalt roadway with four foot wide paved shoulders and a paved bike path. This would be constructed on existing County right-of-way (ROW) on the Paiute Road to Numa Road segment and on a new and yet to be purchased ROW for the remainder of the project. A delineation of waters of the United States was previously verified for a portion of the project area. That delineation has been updated to include the entire project area and any changes to the previously delineated area since the original verification. This updated delineation depicts approximately 3.81 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, within the project area and has yet to be verified by the Corps of Engineers. The project will result in the permanent impact to approximately 3.33 acres of jurisdictional waters and the temporary impact to an additional 0.38 acres of jurisdictional waters. See the attached table for a more complete listing of project impacts. Impacts to waters of the United States as a result of this project are being mitigated at an offsite mitigation area that is currently being developed. The exact acreage of required mitigation for impacts to waters of the United States, as a result of this project, have not been determined.

AREA DESCRIPTION: Elevations in the project area range from 4,280 ft on the northern area to 4,140 ft above sea level on the southern portion of the project. The area is relatively flat across the Honey Lake Valley floor. The area is dominated by grassland/irrigated pasture over most of the route with some juniper and sage brush covered areas on the northern portion and some cultivated fields to the South. The project crosses several drainages including the Susan River, Brockman Slough, Jensen Slough, and several smaller unnamed drainages. These drainage areas are dominated by common woody riparian species.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The project area has been surveyed by archaeologists for cultural resources. No known cultural resources occur in the project area. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Federal Highways Administration has occurred and the SHPO has concurred that no cultural resources will be affected by this project. 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. There are no threatened or endangered species known to occur in the project area.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on or before **February 13, 2004**. 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 Lassen County Larry Millar, telephone 530-251-8288, or Mr. Matthew Kelley, at the letterhead address, telephone 530-223-9534.

Enclosures: 3 Drawings