



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

Sacramento District  
1325 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

# Public Notice

Public Notice Number: 200325013

Date: March 4, 2003

Comments Due: April 3, 2003

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

The District Engineer, Sacramento District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) is evaluating a permit application from the Carson Tahoe Hospital. The purpose of this notice is to inform interested parties of a proposed work activity and to solicit comments. This proposal is being evaluated under Section 404, Clean Water Act, for excavation and / or discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. The proposed project is described below and shown on the attached drawings. This notice may also be viewed at the Corps web site at: <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/cespk-co/regulatory/PNs/>.

**Applicant:** Carson Tahoe Hospital, PO Box 2168, Carson City NV 89702-2168

**Location:** The project site is in northwest Carson City in Section 31, Township 16 North Range 20 East and Section 6, Township 15 North, Range 20 East, Carson City County, Nevada in the Carson City USGS Topographic Quadrangle.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the proposed fill is develop a new regional medical facility and provide for stormwater detention.

**Project Description:** The applicant is proposing to construct the Carson-Tahoe Regional Medical Facility on a 69 acre site, consisting of a main hospital, central plant building, and associated roads and parking lots. They are also proposing to construct a series of three stormwater detention basins that will require the relocation of a portion of Eagle Creek, a tributary of the Carson River. Approximately 1,520 feet of creek is proposed to be filled: 1,250 feet (0.63 acres) of the existing, unaltered creek and 270 feet of a channelized portion that is now a roadside ditch. Three detention basins are proposed: detention basin 1 (1.6 acres), detention basin 2 (2.3 acres), and detention basin 3 (2.1 acres). The creek is proposed to be filled to cause a new channel of the creek to flow thru the detention basins 2 and 3. A culvert from detention basin 3 will divert flows back into Eagle Creek. The channelized portion of the creek that is now in a roadside ditch will be culverted. Nearly all the creek from this point to the Carson River is now culverted. The purpose of relocating the creek and creating the detention basins is to control flood events and prevent flooding downstream. The bottleneck of the creek is the culvert as it passes under Highway 395. Pedestrian and vehicular access to the new facility will cross the creek via bridges over Eagle Creek. These creek crossings will span the creek and not involve a discharge in the creek. The attached maps and drawings provide additional project details.

The applicant believes there is a need to build a Carson-Tahoe Regional Medical Facility. There is also a need to provide stormwater detention to prevent north Carson City flooding problems. The existing hospital is over-capacity and lacks room to expand to provide additional services. The present site will allow for expansion, better access, and more medical services. The project site also provides an opportunity to provide badly needed stormwater detention. Rapid growth and development and the filling and culverting of existing creeks has created flooding issues.

The Corps requires that applicants consider and use all reasonable and practical measures to avoid and minimize impacts. If the applicant is unable to avoid or minimize all impacts, the Corps may require compensatory mitigation. The Corps has not determined if compensatory mitigation will be required if the proposed impacts are authorized. However, in anticipation of an affirmative permit decision and a need to provide compensatory mitigation, the applicant has proposed to route the filled creek portion through the lower two detention basins which will increase the (filled) creek length by 340 feet. The detention basins will also serve as expanded adjacent wetlands, providing common wetland functions. Detention basins 2 and 3 will be vegetated with native, hydrophytic plants to create localized habitat needs.

**Environmental Setting:** The project site is located in a rural, undeveloped portion of northwest Carson City. Eagle Creek is an intermittent tributary that originates less than two miles west of the project site; downstream of the project site, it appears to be culverted until it discharges into the Carson River. The existing creek has sporadic occurrences of willows and cottonwoods and very few adjacent wetlands. One adjacent wetland on the project site will be avoided and is just north of the proposed detention basin 2 location. The upland portion of the project site is typical of undeveloped Nevada: rural sagebrush community. The site is relatively flat, with about 90 feet of topographic relief from west to east.

**Additional Information:** Additional information may be obtained from the applicant in Carson City or by calling Richard Gebhart, Project Manager, Corps of Engineers at 775-784-5304 in Reno. Participation is encouraged so that the District Engineer is better able to complete a more thorough public interest review. Comments assist the Corps to make a reasonable decision based on public interest factors. The District Engineer is particularly interested in receiving comments related to the proposals probable impacts on the affected aquatic systems functional values and the cumulative and secondary effects.

**Water Quality Certification:** A permit for the described work will not be issued until certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, has been granted or is waived from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). A waiver will be deemed to occur if the state fails or refuses to act on the request for certification within 60 days.

**Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation:** The activity's impact on the public interest will include application of the 404 (b) (1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

**Public Hearing:** Before the expiration date of this notice, anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests shall specifically state the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the District Engineer 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.

**Endangered Species:** Preliminary review for species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 844) indicates that the described activity will not affect listed species or their critical habitat. Consultation under Section 7 of the ESA is not required for the described activity.

**Cultural Resources:** In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, initial review of cultural resources information available in the National Register of Historic Places and its current supplements indicates that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed activity. This notice was sent to the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office.

**Evaluation:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact 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 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 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:** Comments must be received on or before the expiration date (located on top of the first page of this notice) to be considered in subsequent actions on this application. When submitting comments, reference the Corps number. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. Anyone whose interests may be affected by the proposed work is invited to submit favorable or unfavorable written comments to:

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Reno Regulatory Office (Gebhart)  
300 Booth Street Rm 2103  
Reno NV 89509-1361  
Email: [richard.a.gebhart@usace.army.mil](mailto:richard.a.gebhart@usace.army.mil)

**Additional Requirements:** State law requires that leases, easements, or permits be obtained for certain works or activity in the described waters. These state requirements must be met, where applicable, and a Department of the Army permit must be obtained before any work within the applicable statutory authority, previously indicated, may be accomplished. Other local governmental agencies may also have ordinances or requirements which must be satisfied before the work is accomplished.

Michael J. Conrad, Jr.  
Colonel, US Army  
District Engineer

Attachments