



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice

Number: 200500901

Date: February 10, 2006

Comments Due: March 13, 2006

Subject: The US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, (Corps) is evaluating a permit application from the City of Sparks to construct the Sparks white water park in the Truckee River. This notice is meant 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 evaluated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States.

Applicant: City of Sparks
431 Prater Way
Sparks, Nevada 89432
Phone: 775-353-2375 (Andy Hummel)

Location: The project site is located at Rock Park in Sparks in Sections 8 & 17, Township 19 North, Range 20 East, Washoe County, Nevada, on the Reno USGS topographic quadrangle map.

Project Description: The City of Sparks is proposing to construct a white water park on the Truckee River adjacent to Rock Park. The proposal will impact approximately 1120 feet of river and an adjacent wetland, approximately 0.04 acres. The applicant is proposing to construct five drop structures, four current deflectors, and place large boulders (see attached drawings). To install the drop (grade control) structures, the river will be dewatered by placing (jersey / K-rail) barriers and diverting the water to one side of the river. All construction will occur behind these dewatered areas. The north half of the river is expected to be dewatered first; after construction of the north bank portion of the project, the south half of the river will be dewatered to complete the project. After dewatering, the river substrate will be excavated to approximately 5 feet before large boulders and river rock will be placed across the excavated hole to create the drop structures. The boulders (1-5 feet in diameter) and rock (4-8 inches in diameter) will then be cemented or grouted in place thus forming a deeper pool on both the upstream and downstream side of the drop structure. The rest of the excavated substrate will be overlain with natural river rock to restore the excavated substrate impact. Four current deflection structures will be placed at the lower portion of proposed project (see attached maps for location and details, Sheet 2 & 3 of 6). Additionally, several large boulders will be placed, as shown on the attached drawings, to create desirable white water park flow features and permanent river channel features. The deflection structures are expected to be completely submerged as Truckee River flows exceed 300 feet / second; the structures are designed to create shoreline sandbar / beach accretion areas.

The proposed project also includes two ramps designed to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to provide ingress (at the upper portion of the park) and egress (at the lower portion of the park) for those who need this kind of access. The ADA ramps will not be constructed below the ordinary high water (OWH) elevation of the Truckee River, but will, instead, terminate where a sand bar / beach is expected to accrete as a result of structure placement. As part of the overall project, a bike path on the north side of the Truckee River will be upgraded and moved away from the river. The

upgrade will include making the path wider to accommodate emergency vehicles. This will also allow the north bank to be sloped from a 1 horizontal to 1 vertical slope to a gentler 5-3 horizontal to 1 vertical slope. This will provide more cross sectional area, better capability to stabilize the bank with desirable vegetation remove undesirable vegetation (notably Himalayan blackberry shrubs), and provide easier pedestrian access to the river. The north bank will revegetated with native riparian vegetation with some areas being protected with rock riprap.

As shown on the attached maps, the staging area will be away from the river, on the north side, and protected to prevent construction-related pollutants from entering the river. There will also likely be a smaller staging area on the south side of the channel. In general, excavated river substrate material, particularly larger cobbles to larger rock, will be reused within the project area. Material not suitable for use, generally smaller grained materials, will be hauled off site for disposal. Most excavated material is expected to be reused on the project site. The grout will be mixed off-site and brought to the site with heavy equipment and hand placed between boulders or by using a metered / controlled grout pump.

Two of the structures will incorporate fish passage channels (see Sheet 6 of 6). These structures will be rough bottomed and will have a 5-foot wide bottom width. The maximum slope is planned to be between 1.5 to 2 % with a maximum velocity 4 feet / second.

It is estimated that approximately 1,370 cubic yards of rock, 5,720 cubic yards of boulders, and 1,200 cubic yards go Portland cement / grout will be used to construct the above described structures.

The drawings attached to this notice provide additional project details.

Environmental Setting. The Truckee River, at this location, is relatively stable with minor artificially caused disturbances. The project area does have some large riparian trees, however most have been removed by past human activities. The Reno-Tahoe International Airport is borders the south portion of the project site and Rock Park, a frequently used Sparks park, borders the north bank of the project site. The south bank has steeper banks with little bank vegetation and higher erosion than the north bank, which is fairly stable because of riparian vegetation and rock riprap. The overall slope of this segment of the river, from top of project to the end, is about 6 feet of drop over 1200 feet of river.

Water Quality Certification: Water quality certification or a waiver, required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is being sought from Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

Historic Properties: Based on the available information, cultural resources not expected to be impacted by the proposal. There are no known cultural resources within the project's area of potential effect.

Endangered Species: The Corps has determined that the proposed project may affect but not adversely affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species (Lahontan cutthroat trout). The Corps is initiating consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

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.

Public Hearing: 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.

Submitting Comments: 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. 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 (see below). You may submit written comments, referencing Corps Number 200500901, on or before March 13, 2006 to:

Richard Gebhart, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Reno Regulatory Office
300 Booth Street, Room 2103
Reno, Nevada 89509-1361
Email: richard.a.gebhart@usace.army.mil

Phone: 775-784-5307

Attachments