



Public Notice

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

Number: 200500981

Date: August 3, 2006

Comments Due: September 5, 2006

SUBJECT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, (Corps) is evaluating a permit application to construct the New West Sacramento High School project, which would result in impacts to approximately 0.883 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, tributary or adjacent to the Sacramento River. 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 evaluated under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 for structures or work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States and/or Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States.

APPLICANT: Washington Unified School District
Attn: Denny Jones
930 Westacre Road
West Sacramento, California 95691
916-375-7604

LOCATION: The approximately 95-acre project site is located in West Sacramento in Township 8 North, Range 4 East, Yolo County, California, and can be seen on the West Sacramento USGS Topographic Quadrangle.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant is proposing to construct a new high school to accommodate approximately 3,000 students and a joint-use community park. Based on the available information, the overall project purpose is to construct a new high school. The applicant believes there is a need to provide adequate school facilities to meet the current and projected educational needs of West Sacramento. The attached drawings provide additional project details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Environmental Setting. There are approximately 1.221 acres of tributary drainages within the approximately 95-acre project area. The site is characterized by leveled fallow agricultural fields which were historically leveled and dry farmed. The larger area is undergoing rapid development with many parcels being converted from farming to residential use. Surrounding land uses include residential and commercial development, rural residence and agricultural land.

Alternatives. The applicant has 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 applicant has not provided a mitigation plan for the project but, has proposed to either purchase mitigation credits at an approved mitigation bank or contribute to an approved in-lieu fee fund.

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS: Water quality certification or a waiver, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board is required for this project. The applicant has indicated they have applied for certification.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: The applicant has that the records indicate there are no previously recorded sites located within the project site. They further state they are in the process of acquiring previous surveys done for the project site. The Corps will initiate consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as appropriate after the receipt of these surveys.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The proposed activity may affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. The Corps has initiated consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, for the federally listed giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*).

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The applicant has stated that 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 200500981, must be submitted to the office listed below on or before August 24, 2006:

William Guthrie, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Delta Office
1325 J Street, Room 1480
Sacramento, California 95814-2922
Email: William.H.Guthrie@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 William Guthrie, 916-557-5269, William.H.Guthrie@usace.army.mil.

Attachments: 6 drawings