



# Public Notice

US Army Corps  
of Engineers

Sacramento District

1325 J Street

Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Number: 200550486

Date: January 23, 2006

Comments Due: February 22, 2006

**SUBJECT:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, (Corps) and Utah Division of Water Quality are evaluating a permit application to construct the Interstate 80 (I-80) from Castle Rock to Wyoming/Utah State Line project, which would result in impacts to approximately 5.54 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, in or adjacent to Echo 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 evaluated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States and Section 401 for water quality certification.

**APPLICANT:** Lars Anderson  
Utah Department of Transportation, Region 2  
2010 South 2760 West  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84104-4592  
801-975-4900

**LOCATION:** The project site is located along I-80 in Echo Canyon between Castle Rock and the Wyoming/Utah State Line in Sections 2, 10, 11, 15, 22, 28 and 30, Township 5 North, Range 7 East, and Section 36, Township 6 North, Range 7 East, and Sections 16, 17, 19 20, 30 and 36, Township 6 North, Range 8 East, Summit County, Utah, and can be seen on the Wahsatch, Shearing Canyon and Castle Rock USGS Topographic Quadrangles.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The applicant is proposing to re-construct approximately 21.7 miles of I-80 between Castle Rock and the Wyoming/Utah State Line. The proposed project would be constructed in two phases (see figure 2). The first phase is scheduled for construction in 2006 and extends from the Wahsatch Interchange to the Wyoming/Utah State Line. As proposed, phase 1 would have 1.73 acres of impact to wetlands adjacent to the highway. The second phase is scheduled for construction in 2007 and extends from Castle Rock Interchange to the Wahsatch Interchange. This phase proposes to impact 3.81 acres of wetlands, for a total of 5.54 acres of wetland impacts for the entire highway reconstruction project. Phase 2 has not reached final design, however, UDOT has stated that the impacts will not increase as the proposed alternative is the "worst case scenario". Impacts may be reduced in phase 2 through avoidance or minimization by creating steeper cut/fill slopes along certain portions of the highway, where feasible.

The project includes improving safety by increasing the length and sight distance of the deceleration and acceleration lanes at the interchanges. Additionally, the super-elevation at horizontal curves will be constructed for a 75 mile-per-hour design speed and several areas with substandard shoulder and clear zone widths would be constructed to meet current standards. Further, the project consists of replacing any areas of deteriorated concrete pavement. This will be done by a process called "crack and seat", where the concrete pavement is cracked in place and covered with new road material.

Based on the available information, the overall project purpose is to bring I-80 up to current State and Federal Transportation Standards. The applicant believes there is a need to improve safety along this stretch of I-80 by reconstructing the project area. The attached drawings provide additional project details.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Environmental Setting.** There are approximately 43.1 acres of waters of the United States within the project area. These waters include 40.02 acres of wet meadow wetlands, 0.08 acre of springs, 1.5 acres of scrub/shrub, 0.6 acre of emergent marsh wetland and 0.11 acre of open water (Echo Creek) habitat. The site is located within the narrow confines of Echo Canyon with high, steep walls in the vicinity of the Castle Rock area and ascends to a relatively flat meadow near the State Line. Within the canyon, the valley is characterized as a rural, sparsely populated area dominated by sloping meadows predominantly used for grazing. I-80 and the Union Pacific Railroad traverse the middle of the valley as they climb out of the canyon towards Evanston, Wyoming. Historically, large portions of Echo Canyon were presumably wetlands, over which I-80 was constructed. Consequently, the wetlands proposed to be impacted are located at the toe of the existing cut/fill slopes of the highway.

Echo Creek enters the project area just southwest of the Wahsatch Interchange. On the southeast side of I-80 the creek is a meandering, vegetated swale. However, as the creek crosses under the highway and flows down the median, it is confined to a trapezoidal, concrete channel until the valley widens and the slopes lessen (see sheets DR-22 ad DR-23). At this point, Echo Creek becomes a large wetland complex in between the lanes of traffic, which drains down slope towards the Weber River.

**Alternatives.** The applicant has provided information concerning project alternatives. The applicant has stated that the proposed project includes improving safety and replacing deteriorated concrete pavement along I-80. The only other alternative considered was the No Build Alternative which would not meet the project purpose and need. The design will consider avoiding and minimizing impacts to wetland areas by creating steeper cut/fill slopes where reasonable. 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 compensate for the project related impacts to the aquatic environment by creating/restoring wetlands and open water habitat at the I-80 rest stop located near Park City. Currently, the 13-acre rest stop is closed because it is located too close to the Silver Creek Junction Interchange. The rest stop was construct in the 1960's by filling portions of the headwaters of East Canyon Creek and its adjacent wetlands. The mitigation proposal is to remove this facility and all fill material to restore approximately 10 acres of historical wetlands, creek channels and riparian habitat (see drawing 41).

**OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS:** Water quality certification or a waiver, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Utah Division of Water Quality, is required for this project. The Utah Division of Water Quality intends to issue certification, provided that the proposed work will not violate applicable water quality standards. Projects are usually certified where the project may create diffuse sources (nonpoint sources) of wastes which will occur only during the actual construction activity and where best management practices will be employed to minimize pollution effects. Written comments on water quality certification should be submitted to Mr. William O. Moellmer, Utah Division of Water Quality, 288 North 1460 West, Post Office Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870, **on or before February 22, 2006.**

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES:** Based on the available information, potentially eligible cultural resources may be affected by the proposed project. UDOT has conducted a Historic Properties Survey and has initiated consultation with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The project will not affect any Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat that are protected by the Endangered Species 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 200550486, must be submitted to the office listed below on or before **February 22, 2006:**

Jason Gipson, Project Manager  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District  
Utah Regulatory Office  
533 West 2600 South, Suite 150  
Bountiful, Utah 84010-7744  
Email: [jason.a.gipson@usace.army.mil](mailto:jason.a.gipson@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 Jason Gipson, 801-295-8380, extension 22, [jason.a.gipson@usace.army.mil](mailto:jason.a.gipson@usace.army.mil).

Attachments: 41 drawings