



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

Public Notice

Public Notice Number: SPK-2006-00704

Date: June 16, 2008

Comments Due: July 16, 2008

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

SUBJECT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, (Corps) is evaluating a permit application to construct the Homewood Lumber Relocation project, which would result in impacts to approximately 0.918 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, in and adjacent to an unnamed tributary to Sucker Ravine and adjacent wetlands. 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.

APPLICANT: Homewood Lumber
Post Office Box 1364
Loomis, California 95650
ATTN: Hamid Noorani (916) 652-4655

LOCATION: The approximately 8.8-acre project site is located on the east side of Sierra College Boulevard, between Brace Road on the south and Taylor Road on the north, in the Town of Loomis, Placer County, California. The project site is located on an unnamed tributary to Sucker Ravine, within the southwest ¼ of Section 9, Township 11 North, Range 7 East, MDB&M, and can be seen on the 7.5-minute Rocklin USGS Topographic Quadrangle.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant is proposing to retain an existing 0.044 acre of fill material in seasonal wetland and impact an additional 0.011 acre of roadside ditch and 0.863 of seasonal wetland, for a total of 0.918 acre of impact. In addition, the applicant is proposing to restore/enhance and preserve 0.297 acre of seasonal wetland, create and preserve approximately 1.10 acre of seasonal wetland, and preserve 0.063 acre of roadside ditch and unnamed drainage within an approximately 3.5 acre preserve on the north side of the property. Based on the available information, the overall project purpose is to construct a commercial lumber facility. The applicant believes there is a need to continue providing building materials and services within the Town of Loomis and the surrounding region and expand the facilities in order to meet growing demand. The attached drawings provide additional project details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Environmental Setting. The upland portion of the site is characterized by blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) woodland with an annual grassland understory and scattered Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and gray/foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*). There is approximately 0.074 acre of open water, including roadside ditches and an unnamed tributary to Sucker Ravine within the project area. The unnamed seasonal drainage enters the property at the northeast corner and flows along the northern

boundary of the site, possibly rerouted to accommodate an orchard previously located onsite. The unnamed tributary is largely unvegetated, but supports sandbar willow (*Salix sessilifolia*) and Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*) along its banks. A 1.160 acre seasonal wetland complex extends from the eastern boundary to the western boundary through the center of the property, possibly occupying the unnamed tributary's ancestral channel before it was ditched and rerouted for orchard activities. The seasonal wetland discharges into the unnamed drainage at the northwestern corner of the property, which then leaves the property to the west via culverts under Sierra College Boulevard. The seasonal wetlands are characterized primarily by iris-leaved rush (*Juncus xiphioides*), dissected geranium (*Geranium dissectum*) fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*), slender spike-rush (*Eleocharis acicularis*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), umbrella sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*), ruggut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), and hyssop loosestrife (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*).

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 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 restore/enhance 0.297 acre of seasonal wetland, create approximately 1.10 acre of seasonal wetland, preserve 0.063 acre of roadside ditch and unnamed drainage within an approximately 3.5 acre preserve onsite.

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

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: Based on the available information (including applicant's report entitled Cultural Resource Survey for Homewood Lumber Relocation Project, Loomis, Placer County, California, April 28, 2006), cultural resources eligible for listing in the National Registrar of Historic Places are not located within the project's area of potential effect.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The proposed activity may affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat, including the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*). The Corps will initiate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as appropriate.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: 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 SPK-2006-00704 must be submitted to the office listed below on or before July 16, 2008.

Erin Hess, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Sacramento Office
1325 J Street, Room 1480
Sacramento, California 95814 2922
Email: erin.e.hess@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 Erin Hess, (916) 557-6740, erin.e.hess@usace.army.mil.

Attachments: 3 drawings