



Public Notice

US Army Corps
of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Number: 200600922

Date: January 11, 2007

Comments Due: February 12, 2007

SUBJECT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, (Corps) is evaluating a permit application to construct the Glendale Water Treatment Plant Diversion project, which would result in temporary impacts to approximately two acres and permanent impacts to one acre of waters of the United States, including wetlands, in or adjacent to the Truckee 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 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States.

APPLICANT: Truckee Meadows Water Authority
1355 Capital Blvd.
Reno, Nevada 89520
775-834-8000

LOCATION: The project site is located in Reno in Section 7, Township 19 North, Range 20 East, Washoe County, Nevada. The project site is just upstream of the Glendale Avenue Bridge.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant is proposing to replace and upgrade the existing Truckee River diversion structure for the Glendale Water Treatment Plant. The current diversion structure is composed of unconsolidated rock that is susceptible to failure at high flows. Based on the available information, the overall project purpose is to construct a safe, reliable and efficient diversion structure to the treatment plant.

The project area would be dewatered during low flows for approximately three months over the course of two summers. Work will include placement of the new diversion structure and reconstruction of the south bank of the river, including tree planting and revegetation. River flow will be diverted into the Eastman Ditch during construction. Dewatering and construction activities will disturb approximately 2.1 acres of the Truckee River temporarily. Approximately 1.1 acres of the river will be impacted permanently. In addition, a roughened channel fish passage will be constructed. This channel has been designed to permit unobstructed upstream and downstream migration of all life stages of native listed species and other fish resident to this reach of the river. A fine plate fish screen and bypass pipeline will prevent fish entrainment into the water treatment plant and return them to a downstream high velocity section of the river.

The applicant formed a Working Group in August 2004 to obtain agency and public input on the project. Comments received were used to refine the project and accommodate concerns such

as boater safety, fish passage and flood flow capacity. The attached drawings provide additional project details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Environmental Setting. The project area is in a semi-urbanized setting, adjacent to the Glendale Avenue Bridge, in the general area of Interstate 395 and the Reno airport. The west bank of the river is adjacent to Fisherman's Park. The Northern Nevada Restitution Center and Glendale Water Treatment Plant are located on the east bank. Vegetation bordering the river includes whiplash, sandbar, Gooding's and white willow, Fremont cottonwood, thinleaf alder, and Russian olive. Federally threatened Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and endangered Cui-cui could be present in the project area.

Alternatives. The applicant has provided information concerning project alternatives. Alternatives considered included an infiltration gallery, the existing location, with a 2% side channel for fish passage, a new diversion structure 500 feet upstream of the existing location, a new diversion structure 700 feet upstream, and a diversion structure and pumping station 2,100 feet upstream of the existing location. Additional information concerning project alternatives is 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. Potential adverse impacts resulting from the proposed activity are expected to be short-term and minimal. On the other hand, benefits of the project are expected to include improved water quality, as a result of reduced sediment loads and enhanced fish passage. Overall, the proposed project is expected to result in a net improvement to the environment.

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS: Water quality certification or a waiver, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection is required for this project. The applicant has indicated they have applied for certification.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: Based on the available information (including the applicant's report entitled "A Cultural Inventory of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority's Glendale Water Treatment Plant, Reno/Sparks, Washoe County Nevada") potentially eligible cultural resources may be affected by the proposed project. The Corps has initiated consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and pertinent Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

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.

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 200600922, must be submitted to the office listed below on or before January 19, 2007:

Ms. Kathleen Dadey, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Nevada Regulatory Office
C. Clifton Young Federal Building, 300 Booth Street, Room 2103
Reno, Nevada 89509-1361
Email: kathleen.a.dadey@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 Ms. Kathleen Dadey, 916-557-7253, kathleen.a.dadey@usace.army.mil.

Attachments: 4 drawings