



Public Notice

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

Number: 200600962
Date: March 6, 2007
Comments Due: April 5, 2007

SUBJECT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, (Corps) is evaluating a permit application to construct the cypress pump stations 3 & 4 replacement project, which would result in impacts to approximately 0.155 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, in or adjacent to Sand Mound Slough. 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: Shea Homes Limited Partnership
Attn: Rob Wainwright
P.O. Box 5064
Livermore, California 94551-5064
925-245-3707

LOCATION: The project area is located adjacent to Sand Mound Slough along Sandmound Boulevard in Township 2 North, Range 3 East, MDB&M, in unincorporated eastern Contra Costa County, California and can be seen on the Jersey Island USGS Topographic Quadrangle.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant is proposing to reconstruct and upgrade two existing pump stations, known as pump stations PS3 and PS4 for East Cypress Reclamation District 799, located in Township 2 North, Range 3 East, MDB&M, in unincorporated eastern Contra Costa, California. Based on the available information, the overall project purpose is to reconstruct and upgrade two pump stations. The applicant believes there is a need to provide added pumping capability. The purpose of the upgrades is to elevate the pumps above projected 100-year flood elevations, provide improved safety and reliability and provide redundant (backup) pumping capacity to two pump stations originally constructed in the early 1900s. Both existing pump stations PS3 and PS4 along with their outfalls to Sandmound Slough will be reconstructed and upgraded. The PS3 stormwater conveyance system will be composed of four 24 parallel force main flow lines. The PS4 stormwater conveyance system will be composed of two 24 parallel force main lines.

The proposed reconstructed pump stations will have a 2-story building with all the control panels, generator set and generator fuel tank located on the second floor above the 100-year flood elevation. Pump station PS3 will include four identical submersible pumps with design discharge capacity with one unit out of service (i.e. counted as redundant). Pump Station PS4 will contain two identical pump with design capacity with one for redundancy. Each of these pumps will have an individual concrete intake structure, intake and discharge pipeline. The pumps will allow diversion of their discharge back through the intake of the other pumps to provide flushing for long-term maintenance. The attached drawings provide additional project details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Environmental Setting. There are approximately 0.155 acres of wetlands within the project area. The lands surrounding the two existing pump stations along Sandmound Boulevard are developed primarily as single-family residences. The Summer Lake subdivision, which is a high density residential development that is currently under construction, is located immediately to the west of the pump stations. An existing levee is located on the landward edge of Sandmound Slough.

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 proposes to compensate for the impacts to waters of the United States that would result from the proposed project through the purchase of mitigation credits from an approved wetland mitigation bank.

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORIZATIONS: Water quality certification or a waiver, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, is required for this project. The applicant has stated they will apply for water quality certification.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: The Corps will initiate consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as appropriate.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The proposed project may potentially affect habitat for Federally-listed threatened and endangered species including giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), Green Sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*). The Corps will initiate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as appropriate.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed project may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat. The Corps will initiate consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service, pursuant to Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as appropriate.

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 200600962, must be submitted to the office listed below on or before April 5, 2007:

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: 7 drawings