



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

Public Notice

Public Notice Number: SPK-2007-02249

Date: May 12, 2008

Comments Due: June 11, 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 FedEx Ground North Salt Lake Expansion project, which would result in impacts to approximately 1.29 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, in or adjacent to a tributary to the Great Salt Lake. 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 by the Corps under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States and by the State of Utah for Section 401 water quality certification.

APPLICANT: Bryan Smith
FedEx Ground
Facilities and Material Handling System
1000 FedEx Drive
Moon Township, PA 15108
(412) 269-1000

LOCATION: The project site is located near a tributary to the Great Salt Lake, Section 2, Township 1 North, Range 1 West, SLB&M, Davis County, Utah, and can be seen on the Salt Lake City North USGS Topographic Quadrangle. The project site is located at approximately 900 North 350 West, North Salt Lake City, Utah 84054.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant is proposing to expand the existing hub for the FedEx Ground Facility (720 North 400 West, North Salt Lake) onto an adjacent, previously undeveloped, 32.5-acre parcel in order to provide increased parking facilities for tractor trucks, long- and short-trailers, dolly parking and automobiles. Based on the available information, the overall project purpose is to expand the parking capacity of the FedEx Ground hub to accommodate an increased demand for production in the region. The applicant believes there is a need to expand its current infrastructure in order to meet that increased demand. The attached drawings provide additional project details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Environmental Setting. Portions of this site are believed to be remnant landfill that was cleaned up and capped with a clay layer. The topography of the site appears to reinforce the evidence that the site has been altered. Topography of the site slopes toward the west with the eastern portion receiving irrigation water from two cement outlet structures. These structures provide irrigation water to the upper terrace on the site. According to the soils map, the east hillslope was previously used as a dump. The east hillslope rises approximately 10 feet. Two wetland areas on the hillslope total 0.77 acre of

wetland habitat. Two seasonal ponds, totaling 0.51-acre, remain on the site. It also appears that the property has been recently filled and there no longer appears to be a continual surface water source. Native soils on the site consist of loam and silt loam, although a granular fill material was also documented on the site. Many grass and weed species comprise the vegetation on the site. The two ponds contain seasonal wetland vegetation dominated by rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), alkali mallow (*Malvella leprosa*), three-square bulrush (*Scirpus pungens*), and inland saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*). The two hillslope wetlands are dominated by giant reed (*Phragmites australis*), fox-tail barley (*Hordeum jubatum*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), woods rose (*Rosa woodsii*), and poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*).

Alternatives. The applicant has provided information, detailed below, 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.

Alternative A: Total Avoidance of on-site Wetlands:

Total avoidance of on-site wetlands is not the preferred alternative as this expansion alternative could only be accomplished at extraordinary higher costs. This alternative would necessitate the removal 45,000 cubic yards of material on the east end of the site and the relocation of 2 gas lines or moving the the facility to another location.

Alternative B: On-site Fill and Off-site Mitigation:

This alternative would have the same footprint as the preferred alternative and would require the filling of all 1.29 acres of wetlands on the proposed site. Compensation for the wetland loss would be accomplished by purchasing an offsite property for the purpose of enhancing or creating wetlands to compensate for the impacts to the wetlands on the proposed expansion site. This is not the applicant's preferred mitigation alternative because this mitigation proposal could create an isolated wetland and be costly to manage during the monitoring phase.

Alternative C: On-site Fill and Mitigation at a Bank:

The applicant's preferred alternative to accommodate the expansion of existing FedEx facility is to construct the additional parking capacity on the adjacent vacant parcel.. This footprint for this alternative would involve filling all of the 1.29 acres of wetlands on the expansion site in order to create the desired parking capacity. To offset the impacts of permanent loss of wetlands on the site, the applicant would purchase mitigation credits at a Corps-approved wetland mitigation bank.

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 purchase credits from an approved wetlands mitigation bank.

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 (non-point sources) of wastes which will occur only during the actual construction activity and where best management practices would be employed to minimize

pollution effects. Written comments on water quality certification should be submitted to Ms. Shelly Andrews, Utah Division of Water Quality, 288 North 1460 West, Post Office Box 144870, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870, or email shellyandrews@utah.gov, on or before **June 11, 2008**.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: Based on the available information (including applicant's report entitled 404 Individual Permit Application for Expansion of the FEDEX North Salt Lake Hub), cultural resources are not within the project's area of potential effect. The Corps will not initiate consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act unless additional information warrants consultation.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Based on preliminary review, 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 Corps will not initiate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act unless additional information warrants consultation.

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.

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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-2007-02249 must be submitted to the office listed below on or before **June 2, 2008**.

John Urbanic, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Utah Regulatory Office
533 West 2600 South, Suite 150
Bountiful, Utah 84010
Email: john.e.urbanic@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 applicant's agent, Adam Morrill, Wetland Specialist, PEPG, 801-562-2521, or the Corps' project manager John Urbanic, (801) 295-8380 ext. 13, john.e.urbanic@usace.army.mil.

Attachments: 6 drawings