



Public Notice

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

Number: SPK-2007-300-SG
Date: March 8, 2007
Comments Due: April 8, 2007

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

SUBJECT: On May 7, 2002, the Sacramento District Engineer issued Regional General Permit 7 (RGP 7) for the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States, including wetlands, for the construction of minor new flood control facilities and the routine maintenance of existing flood control facilities in Clark County, Nevada. The currently authorized RGP 7 is scheduled to expire on May 1, 2007.

By this Public Notice, the District Engineer is advertising his intent to reissue a revised and modified RGP 7 and to extend the expiration date of the current RGP 7 until July 1, 2007, or until the revised version of RGP 7 becomes effective, whichever date comes first. Modifications of note include: 1) revisions in the compensatory mitigation requirements, 2) the definition of project to include expiration deadlines, and 3) extending the notification for maintenance activities from five days to ten. The text of the proposed revised RGP 7 follows below. This Public Notice may also be viewed at the Sacramento Corps web site at: <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html>.

Applicant: Clark County Regional Flood Control District
Attn: Tim Sutko
600 S Grand Central Parkway, Suite 300
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

Purpose: The RGP 7 is a modification of the RGP 7 issued on May 7, 2002, (Corps Public Notice No. 200025081), and is intended to authorize fill activities needed to construct and maintain flood control facilities funded by, or built in accordance with, the Clark County Regional Flood Control District (CCRFCD) program under one permit. The proposed GP7 is also intended to streamline the permitting process for routine maintenance activities, provide mitigation certainty for new construction projects, and authorize minor impact activities which do not qualify for issuance under a Nationwide permit. Activities that would qualify for processing through the proposed RGP7 are fill activities resulting in unavoidable relatively minor impacts and, therefore, do not warrant more detailed processing.

Scope of Work: The RGP 7 would authorize discharges of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States (waters) in Clark County, Nevada, for construction of some new flood control facilities and routine maintenance of existing flood control facilities. Individual project impacts may not exceed a total of 2 acres of impacts to wetlands or 5 acres of total impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Routine maintenance activities would include:

- cleaning and reshaping earthen channels to original contours or previously authorized dimensions;
- repair of lined channels;
- repair of erosion control structures;
- cleaning detention and debris basins, culverts and bridges;
- mechanical control and removal of vegetation;

- cleaning and repair of inlet/outlet structures;
- placing temporary fills for BMPs;
- construction access and dewatering.

The applicant shall notify the Corps prior to the start of the project in accordance with notification procedures described in the Special Conditions section. New construction projects must offer the least-damaging practicable alternative, including mitigation when required by this General Permit.

AUTHORITY: This General Permit is issued under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344), in accordance with provisions of "Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers" (33 CFR 320-330).

DEFINITIONS: For the purpose of these actions, the following definitions are applicable:

Alternatives - The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed fill into waters of the United States is unavoidable and the least environmentally-damaging practicable alternative. Where appropriate, consideration shall be given to alternative channel configurations that could accommodate restoration of native habitat and adjacent vegetated buffers and to available alternative linings such as vegetation, riprap and gabions. The applicant's chosen alternative must be feasible, considering costs, existing technology, and logistics in light of the overall project purpose, and must be designed in conformance with the *CCRFCD Hydrologic Criteria and Drainage Design Manual*.

Individual Permit - A type of standard permit that is issued following a public notice and full public interest review of the permit application, to include distribution of the public notice to all known interested persons and an evaluation of all comments and information received. Our goal is to complete processing of a standard permit within 60 days to 120 days, unless additional time is needed to extend the comment period, to conduct a public hearing, to prepare environmental documents, or to comply with other Federal laws.

Letter of Permission - An expedited process for a standard permit, wherein a public notice is not issued and the permit decision is made within 45 days. A Letter of Permission (LOP) is used only for projects with minor impacts where the applicant performs a thorough pre-application coordination among regulatory and resource agencies.

Mitigation - Mitigation includes first, avoiding impacts, second, taking steps to minimize impacts, and lastly, compensating for any remaining unavoidable impacts to the extent appropriate and practicable. For unavoidable impacts to channels, washes and wetlands, depending on the type of activity and location, this General Permit may require creation or restoration of wetland habitat or restoration and preservation of desert washes with riparian habitat. The applicant will submit a detailed proposal to restore, enhance and preserve wetlands and/or wash habitat upon application for review. Mitigation plans shall include the mitigation location and design drawings, vegetation plans, final success criteria, implementation schedule, monitoring schedule, financial assurances and a contingency plan presented in the format of the San Francisco and Sacramento District's *Mitigation and Monitoring Proposal Guidelines*, dated December 30, 2004. Minimum monitoring requirements for compensatory mitigation projects involving the creation, restoration, and/or enhancement of aquatic resources will be submitted to the St. George Regulatory Field Office for compliance/review as specifically outlined in USACE Regulatory Guidance Letter 06-03. When applicable, evidence of an appropriate in-lieu fee or mitigation bank purchase agreement must be provided to the Corps prior to authorization under RGP 7.

Project - Work that will commence within 2 years of RGP 7 authorization and will be completed within 3 years, or by the expiration date of the reissued RGP 7, whichever comes first.

New Facilities- All new flood control facilities including any addition of fill into waters of the U.S. that expands the original footprint of existing flood control facilities

Chapter 8 Facility Specific Analysis - The Bureau of Land Management, in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, prepared the *Clark County Regional Flood Control District Flood Control Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)* (1990) and the *Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Clark County Regional Flood Control District 2002 Master Plan Update (SEIS)* (2004). Each report utilized a programmatic approach to identify and analyze potential impacts. In addition to containing an overall analysis of the entire CCRFCD Master Plan, the reports contain a procedure for a site- and facility-specific impact analysis. This procedure was originally outlined in Section 14 of the FEIS and was revised as Chapter 8 in the SEIS. The Record of Decision of the CCRFCD Flood Control Master Plan SEIS requires the preparation of environmental analysis using the procedure described in Chapter 8 of the SEIS. A Chapter 8 analysis will be prepared for all new construction authorized under this General Permit for the area covered by the SEIS. For new construction outside of the SEIS project area, a comparable site-specific impact analysis will be prepared.

Section 401 Water Quality Certification - - In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, any applicant requiring a Corps permit to fill waters of the United States must request State certification that the proposed activity will not violate State and Federal water quality standards. The certification is based on a finding made by The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Quality Planning, that the proposed Section 404 discharge will comply with all pertinent water quality standards. Any requirements of Section 401 Water Quality Certification or waiver of certification will be a condition of the General Permit authorization.

Waters of the United States - Waters of the U.S. include intrastate lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, sloughs, wet meadows, playa lakes, natural ponds, and tributaries of these waters, where their use, degradation, or destruction could affect interstate or foreign commerce. Intermittent and ephemeral streams which show confined flow and a surface water connection to another jurisdictional water body or stream are considered waters of the U.S. at this time.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: Mitigation for unavoidable impacts to waters of the United States including wetlands will be required as follows:

Maintenance Projects:

Concrete-lined Channels and other concrete structures: **No mitigation required.**

Earthen Channels supporting wetlands: Project work outside of Las Vegas Beltway including outlying areas in Clark County may require mitigation for maintenance activities through a case-by-case determination by the Corps. Inside the Beltway, no mitigation will be required for maintenance, provided adverse project impacts to wetlands are less than 2 acres.

New Construction: (New Construction includes, but is not limited to, expanding footprint of existing facilities and lining earthen channels):

Per federal regulation, compensatory mitigation will be required for all new construction that negatively and permanently impacts waters of the United States. The applicant will be responsible for designing and submitting an appropriate plan for review by USACE and appropriate resource agencies such as USFWS and USEPA. Because of a regional lack of private lands and available water resources, the applicant will be free to develop a plan that effectively creates, restores, enhances, or preserves (or any combination thereof) aquatic resources of the region or

watershed. The applicant will also have the option of purchasing credits from local in-lieu fee programs and mitigation banks as they are approved by the resource agencies and become available.

NOTIFICATION: The applicant must submit notification to the Corps prior to initiating any work under this General Permit. For projects that qualify as maintenance activities as identified above, notification will consist of faxing or mailing a one-page form (Appendix 2) to the Corps' St. George Regulatory Office. The notification must be **received** 10 calendar days prior to initiation of work. For projects involving new construction, notification shall follow procedures outlined in Special Condition 1(a)-1(i) below and must be submitted to the St. George Regulatory Office 45 days prior to the beginning of work. If the Corps does not provide objections, make a determination of the need for additional project/mitigation information, or provide project-specific conditions within 10 days for maintenance activities, or within 45 days for new construction projects, from the date the complete application was received, the work and mitigation as proposed is authorized under this General Permit.

For emergency situations when work needs to be performed immediately, notification must be faxed to the St. George Regulatory Office (435-986-3981) and followed with a telephone call (435-986-3979) to verify that work may proceed under authority of this General Permit. Emergency work will require approval of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and other state and local jurisdictions.

All projects authorized by GP7 must comply with all applicable general and special conditions of this General Permit.

PROPOSED SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

1. *For new facilities construction*, including expansion of the footprint of an existing facility and lining earthen channels, the applicant shall submit a completed and signed Department of the Army application, **ENG Form 4345**, for the proposed activity at least 45 days prior to initiation of work in waters of the United States. The project description shall include:

- (a) volume and type of material to be placed into waters of the United States;
- (b) total area of waters of the United States to be directly and indirectly affected;
- (c) representative pre-construction photographs of the project site;
- (d) a description of existing environmental resources (a Section 8 Facility-Specific Analysis or facility-specific environmental assessment can be used);
- (e) a description of any environmental impacts that are expected to occur including a discussion of impacts to biological, ground water, and water quality functions at the project site, a description of best management practices to be used, and an evaluation of effects to Federally-listed threatened or endangered species (In part, a Chapter 8 Facility-Specific Analysis or facility-specific environmental assessment can be used);
- (f) consideration of alternatives demonstrating that the proposed fill into waters of the United States is unavoidable and the least environmentally-damaging practicable alternative (in part, the facility design or alternatives summary memorandum can be used);
- (g) dewatering plan, if applicable;
- (h) proposed construction schedule;
- (i) any other information pertinent to the stream channel or wash involved;
- (j) a list of all other permits and authorizations as required by law, ordinance, or regulation;
- (k) a mitigation and monitoring plan and/or a proposal to purchase credits at an approved in-lieu fee program or mitigation bank;
- (l) for new construction projects affecting greater than one-half (0.5) acre of waters of the United States, including wetlands, the applicant shall send a courtesy notification package to NDEP, NDOW, USFWS, and USEPA. If agencies have comments or objections to provide, they shall provide these

comments to the Corps within 20 days of receiving the project information. Notification for routine maintenance work is described in Special Condition 2 below.

2. *For routine maintenance activities*, the applicant shall mail or fax a completed and signed notification form (Appendix 2) to the Corps at least 10 calendar days prior to initiation of project construction. Upon request or when wetlands are impacted, the Corps will fax a copy of this form to the resource and regulatory agencies.

3. *For project areas supporting habitat for migratory birds*, clearing of land (or other surface disturbance) shall be timed to avoid the bird breeding season which occurs approximately March through August. Destruction of nests with eggs or young is a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (15USC 701-718h). Under the Act, active nests of migratory birds may not be harmed, nor may migratory birds be killed.

If clearing of habitat cannot be performed outside the breeding season, a qualified biologist shall survey the area prior to land clearing. If active nests are located, or if other evidence of nesting (mated pairs, territorial defense, carrying nesting material, transporting food) is observed, a protective buffer should be delineated and the entire area avoided to prevent destruction or disturbance to nests until they are no longer active. The applicant shall contact USFWS for additional information.

4. *For both maintenance activities and new construction*, erosion and siltation controls (Best Management Practices, BMPs) must be used and maintained throughout the construction period until all disturbed areas are stabilized. If straw bales are selected as a BMP, they shall be certified as weed free. The permittee shall submit photographs of best management practices used during construction and post-construction photographs within 30 days of project completion to demonstrate the project was constructed in accordance with the conditions of RGP 7.

5. A Department of the Army Individual Permit or Letter of Permission will be required for activities where the District Engineer determines that more than minimal impacts may occur as a result of the proposed work. In addition, this General Permit does not apply to work that may impact a Federal enforcement action or to work where construction is initiated prior to satisfying all the terms and conditions of this General Permit.

6. To ensure that RGP 7 does not result in significant direct, indirect, and cumulative adverse effects to waters of the United States, the Corps in coordination with USFWS, USEPA, NDOW, and NDEP will make yearly inspections of permitted projects to assess the success and effectiveness of the required mitigation and to review pending construction projects and their associated mitigation. The Corps will coordinate the review with CCRFCD and will solicit the participation of the resource and regulatory agencies. **(Note that the Corps may elect to inspect a representative sample of projects in the event that an especially large number of projects are authorized within a single year.)**

7. The fill activity must be part of a single and complete project.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

1. This General Permit is proposed to expire on **JUNE 1, 2012**, unless modified, extended or revoked.

2. No activity is authorized which may affect historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places until the Corps has complied with the provisions of 33 CFR 325, Appendix C. The prospective permittee must notify the Corps if the authorized activity may affect any historic properties listed, determined to be eligible, or which the prospective permittee has reason to believe may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and shall not begin the activity until notified by the Corps that the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. Information on the location and existence of historic

resources can be obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Register of Historic Places.

3. If any previously unknown historic or archeological remains are discovered while accomplishing the activity authorized by this General Permit, the permittee must immediately notify the Corps. The Corps will initiate the Federal and state coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

4. No activity is authorized which is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for listing or which is likely to destroy or adversely modify the critical habitat of such species, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). The prospective permittee shall notify the Corps if any listed species or critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the Corps that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized.

5. The permittee must maintain the activity authorized by this General Permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this General Permit, and is not relieved of this requirement if the permittee abandons the permitted activity, unless the permittee makes a good faith transfer to a third party. Should the permittee wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, the permittee must obtain authorization from the Corps which may require restoration of the area.

6. The permittee must allow representatives from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of the General Permit.

7. Limits of this authorization:

- a. This General Permit does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, state, or local authorizations required by law.
- b. This General Permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
- c. This General Permit does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
- d. This General Permit does not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal projects.

8. Limits of Federal Liability. In issuing this General Permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:

- a. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.
- b. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.
- c. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.
- d. Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.
- e. Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Most documents referenced in this GP are available from the Sacramento District Regulatory Program website at <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html> and Clark County Regional Flood Control District Website at <http://www.ccrfcd.org>.

The decision whether or not to reissue RGP 7 will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposal on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, 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 received will be used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment 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-2007-300-SG, must be submitted to the office listed below on or before **April 8, 2007:**

Steve Roberts, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
St. George Regulatory Office
321 North Mall Drive, Suite L-101
St. George, Utah 84790-7310
Email: Steven.W.Roberts@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 should specifically state, with particularity, the reason(s) for holding a public hearing. If the Corps determines that 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, Steve Roberts, 435-986-3979, email: Steven.W.Roberts@usace.army.mil.

4 Attachments: (Appendix 1 and 2, Clark County Map, Beltway Location Map)

APPENDIX 1 -- AGENCY CONTACTS**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

St. George Regulatory Office
321 North Mall Drive, Suite L-101
St. George, Utah 84790-7314
Phone: (435) 986-3979/1961
Fax: (435) 986-3981
Attention: Steve Roberts

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Southern Nevada Field Office
701 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130
Phone: (702) 515-5230
Fax: (702) 515-5231
Attention: Amy Lavoie

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region IX, Wetlands Section
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105-3901
Phone: (415) 972-3474
Fax: (415) 947-3537
Attention: Elizabeth Goldman

Nevada State Historic Preservation Office

Capitol Complex, 100 Stewart Street
Carson City, Nevada 89710
Phone: (775) 684-3448
Fax: (775) 684-3442
Attention: Rebecca Palmer

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

Bureau of Water Quality Planning
333 West Nye Lane, Room 138
Carson City, Nevada 89706-0851
Phone: (775) 687-4670
Fax: (775) 687-6396
Attention: Glen Gentry

Nevada Division of Wildlife

Southern Region Office
4747 West Vegas Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89808
Phone: (702) 486-5127
Fax: (702) 486-5133
Attention: Bradley Hardenbrook

**APPENDIX 2
FLOOD CONTROL FACILITY ROUTINE MAINTENANCE
GENERAL PERMIT 7 NOTIFICATION**

RESPONSIBLE PARTY (PERMITTEE)

NAME:

AGENCY:

ADDRESS:

CONTACT NAME:

PHONE:

SIGNATURE: _____

PROJECT/CHANNEL/FACILITY NAME:

LOCATION:

FROM (Street Name)

TO (Street Name)

WORK ACTIVITY AREA:

CHANNEL LENGTH (Feet) _____ WIDTH (Feet) _____

FACILITY AREA (Acres) _____

TYPE OF MAINTENANCE (check all that apply):

___ Vegetation Clearing

___ Reshape Earthen Channel

___ Debris/Sediment Removal
sediment disposal area _____

___ Repair Lined Channel
describe _____

___ Clear/Flush Culvert & Bridges

___ Temporary Fills For Construction, Access, Dewatering & Bmp's

___ Other describe _____

ESTIMATED TIME FRAME:

Begin Date _____ End Date _____

___ Work area does not support habitat for migratory birds.

___ Work area supports habitat for migratory birds; work is timed to avoid the bird breeding season.

___ Work area supports migratory birds; biological survey has been completed and sensitive areas will be avoided.

Ten days prior to starting work sign and fax this form to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. George Regulatory Office, **FAX: (435) 986-3979**. Inform this office of any substantial changes from planned maintenance or any unusual events encountered. Thank you for your cooperation.

Corps Contact: Steve Roberts, Chief, St. George Regulatory Office
321 North Mall Drive, Suite L-101, St. George, Utah 84790-7314, Phone 435-986-3979