

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT 1325 J STREET SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2922

408 Permission Section

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO ALTER A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECT UNDER SECTION 408

TITLE: Knights Landing Boat Launch Improvement (18598).

PUBLIC NOTICE COMMENT PERIOD:

Begins: December 11, 2018 Ends: January 10, 2018

REQUESTER: In compliance with U.S.C. Title 33, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, Section 408, the Yolo County Parks and Resources Department (requester) has requested permission through the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (non-federal sponsor of the federally authorized project) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to alter the Sacramento River Flood Control Project, an existing federal flood risk management project, authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1917.

LOCATION: The proposed alteration is located at the Knights Landing Boat Launch Facility, on the waterside of the left (west) bank levee of Sycamore Slough in Knights Landing, Yolo County, California (Attachment 1).

REQUESTER'S PROPOSED ACTON: The proposed action is to improve the Knights Landing Boat Launch Facility. Facility improvements would include the following actions: remove wooden pilings and concrete debris from the Sycamore Slough channel; remove and replace a 6- by 200-foot wide sidewalk section next to the existing boat launch ramp with 5- by 8-foot precast concrete panels; remove and replace a 6- by 90- foot floating boat dock with a 4- by 12-foot gangway and 8- by 60-foot boating float anchored by a metal cable; construct a vault restroom, facility sign, information kiosk, fee collection facility, light and electrical poles, security cameras, water well and utility hookups; resurface the existing parking lot, place riprap, remove vegetation and plant new vegetation (Attachment 2), and place irrigation line. All access would occur on existing roads and the existing parking lot would be used for staging of equipment and materials.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed project area is currently a public boat launch facility. Although mostly paved, the park is surrounded by a narrow band of valley foothill riparian habitat. Surrounding land use is predominately agricultural production and the small community of Knights Landing is located immediately south of the project site, south of Sycamore Slough. Immediately west of the project site is a small oxbow that is also surrounded by riparian vegetation. See Attachment 3 for photographs of the proposed project site.

The proposed project site provides potential habitat for the federally threatened California Central Valley distinct population segment (DPS) of steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), threatened Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), threatened Southern DPS of North American green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*), threatened giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), threatened delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), and endangered Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*). Additionally, the proposed

project area contains designated critical habitat for California Central Valley DPS of steelhead, Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon, Southern DPS of North American green sturgeon, and Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon. The project area is also identified as essential fish habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposed project may have a variety of effects on federally listed species and habitat; however, a number of conservation measures have been incorporated into the proposed project design to avoid and minimize potential effects to listed species and critical habitat. USACE will ensure that consultation is completed under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

The proposed project will impact waters of the United States, see Attachment 4 for potential impacts to waters. The requester is responsible for obtaining any permits necessary under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344).

A cultural resources inventory report has been prepared for the proposed project and USACE will initiate consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Native American tribes pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Officer.

AUTHORITY: The authority to grant permission for temporary or permanent use, occupation or alteration of any USACE civil works project is contained in Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended, codified at 33 U.S.C. 408 ("Section 408"). Section 408 authorizes the Secretary of the Army, on the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of a USACE project if the Secretary determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project. The Secretary of Army's authority under Section 408 has been delegated to the USACE, Chief of Engineers. The USACE Chief of Engineers has further delegated the authority to the USACE, Directorate of Civil Works and Division and District Engineers, depending upon the nature of the activity.

LIMITS OF SECTION 408 AUTHORITY: A requester has the responsibility to acquire all other permissions or authorizations required by federal, state, and local laws or regulations, including any required permits from the USACE Regulatory Program under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344), and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413). In addition, an approval under Section 408 does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges nor does it authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

EVALUATION FACTORS: The decision whether to grant the requested permission for project alteration under Section 408 will be based on several factors. 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 proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. Review of requests for alteration will be reviewed by a USACE technical review team considering the following factors:

- 1) Impair the Usefulness of the Project Determination. The review team will determine if the proposed alteration would limit the ability of the USACE project to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project conditions, purposes or outputs. In order for an alteration to be approved, the Requester must demonstrate that the alteration does not impair the usefulness of the federally authorized project.
- 2) Injurious to the Public Interest Determination. Proposed alterations will be reviewed to determine the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the public interest. Factors that may be relevant to the public interest evaluation depend upon the type of USACE project being altered and the nature of the proposed alteration and may include, but are not limited to,

such things as conservation, economic development, historic properties, cultural resources, environmental impacts, water supply, water quality, flood hazards, floodplains, residual risk, induced damages, navigation, shore erosion or accretion, and recreation. This evaluation will consider information received from the interested parties, including tribes, agencies, and the public. The benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be compared against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to approve an alteration will be determined by the consideration of whether benefits are commensurate with risks and by the net impact of the alteration on the public interest using the public interest factors.

3) Environmental Compliance. A decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action, and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental compliance requirements. While USACE is responsible for ensuring environmental compliance, the requester is responsible for providing all information that the district identifies as necessary to satisfy all applicable federal laws, executive orders, regulations, policies, and procedures. NEPA and other analysis completed to comply with other environmental statutes (e.g. Endangered Species Act) should be commensurate with the scale and potential effects of the activity that would alter the USACE project. The district will work with the requester to determine the requirements, which will be scaled to the likely impacts of the proposed alteration and should convey the relevant considerations and impacts in a concise and effective manner.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; tribes; and other interested parties regarding the Knights Landing Boat Launch Improvement Project, a proposed alteration to an existing federally authorized project. Comments received within 30 days of publication of this notice will be used in the evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed action on important resources and in the evaluation of whether the proposed alteration would be injurious to the public interest and/or would impair the usefulness of the authorized project. Only the specific activities that have the potential to occupy, use or alter the Sacramento River Flood Control Project will be evaluated. Please limit comments to the area of the alteration and those adjacent areas that would be directly or indirectly affected by the alteration to the Sacramento River Flood Control Project.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: Written comments, referencing Identification Number 18598 must be submitted to the office listed below on or before January 10, 2018.

Kaleigh Maze, Biologist US Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District 1325 J Street, Room 1460 Sacramento, California 95814-2922

Email: Kaleigh.Maze@usace.army.mil

Attachments:

- 1) Site maps
- 2) Site planting plan
- 3) Site photographs
- 4) Potential impacts to waters of the U.S.

Attachment 1 - Site Maps

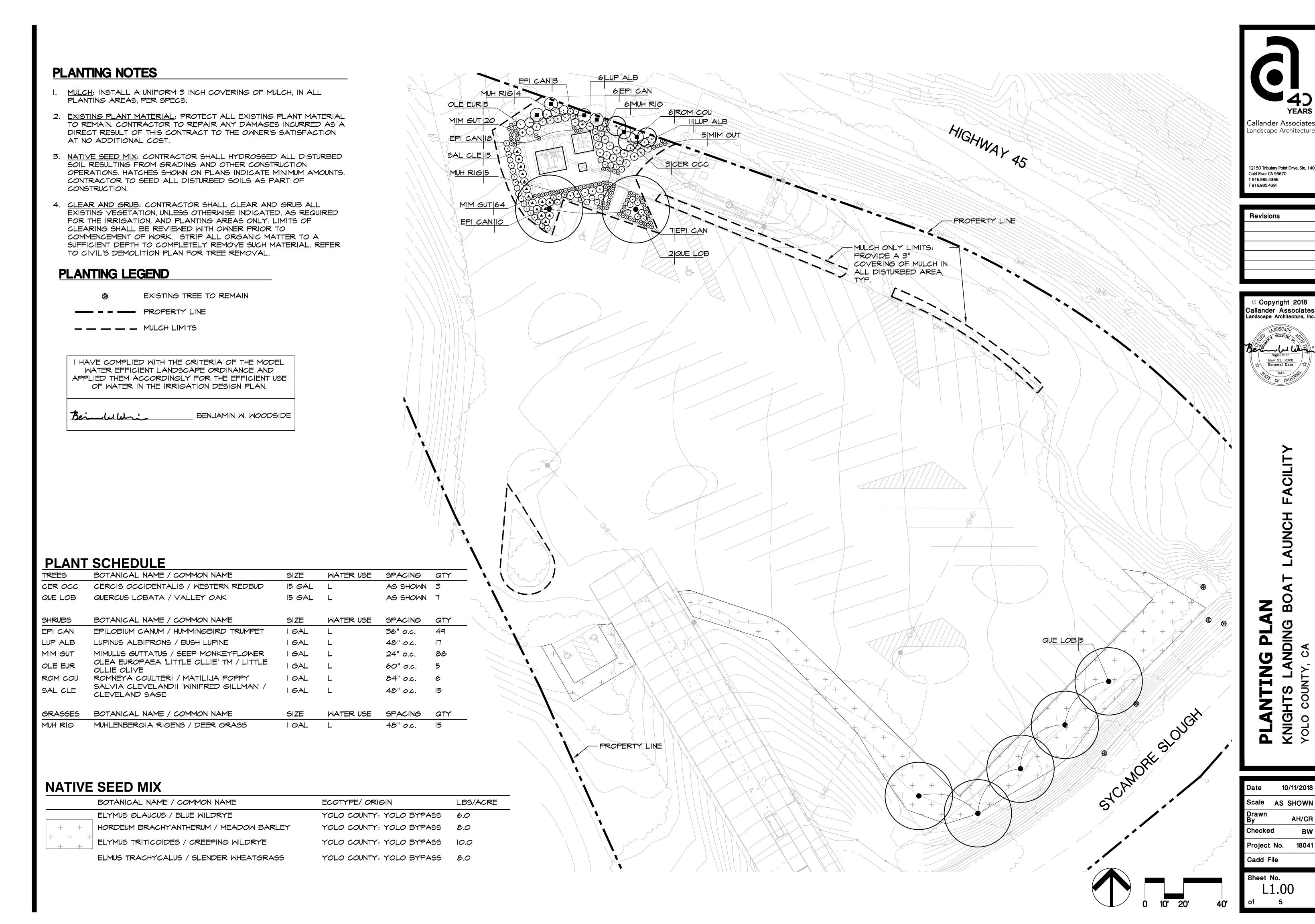


Figure 1. 18598 vicinity map.



Figure 2. 18598 detail map.

Attachment 2 – Planting Plan



YEARS

AH/CR

Attachment 3 – Site Photographs

Photo 1. Aerial View of Town of Knights Landing and Boat Launch Facility

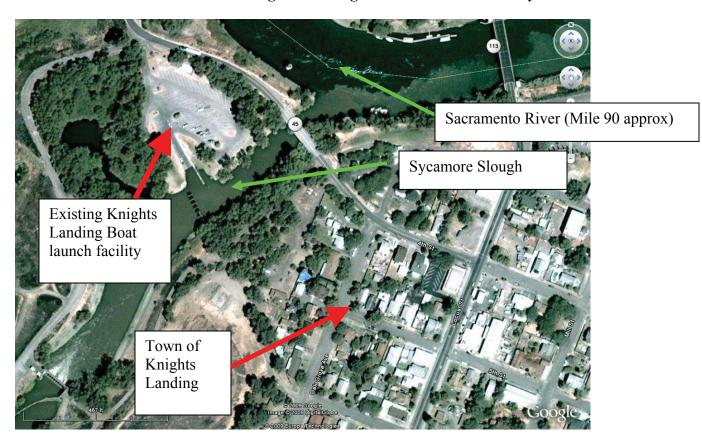


Photo 2. Ex boarding float on Sycamore Slough



Photo 3. View of ex. parking lot



Photo 4. View of Existing Launch Ramp



Attachment 4 – Potential Impacts to Waters of the United States

