



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: Holman Road Bridge (19510)

PUBLIC NOTICE COMMENT PERIOD:

Begins: December 07, 2020

Ends: January 05, 2020

REQUESTER: In compliance with U.S.C. Title 33, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, Section 408, Holman Investors, LLC (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 Bear Creek Project, an existing federal flood risk management, project, authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 (Public Law 534, 78th Congress, Second Session).

LOCATION: The proposed bridge is located along the northern extension of Holman Road over Bear Creek within the City of Stockton, San Joaquin, California (Attachment 1 & Attachment 2).

REQUESTER'S PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed Holman Road Bridge at Bear Creek Project will consist of building a new bridge crossing over Bear Creek for the northern Holman Road extension to Eight Mile Road. The bridge will accommodate four vehicular lanes (two in each direction), a sidewalk on the eastern side, and a barrier separated pathway and sidewalk on the west side. The proposed bridge will be approximately 210 feet in length and a maximum width of 83 feet. The abutments will be constructed at the top of the levees and will consist of a single row of 36-inch diameter cast-in-drilled-hole (CIDH) piles. There will be 10 piles at each abutment in the single row. The piers will be inside the top of levees and will each have two rows of 36-inch diameter CIDH piles. Each row will have 16 piles for a total of 32 piles per pier. None of the piers or piles will be constructed within the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) or low flow channel of Bear Creek (Attachment 3).

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTION: Bear Creek is classified as lower perennial riverine habitat. The banks of Bear Creek are gently sloping and primarily vegetated with ruderal grassland species such as wild oats, ripgut brome, cocklebur, fennel, field mustard, field radish, yellow star-thistle, prickly Russian thistle, and Bermuda grass. Additionally, as described above, patches of bulrush sedge grow along the transition zone between the ruderal grassland and Bear Creek habitats.

USACE determined the project may have an adverse effect on the federally listed giant garter snake and delta smelt. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a biological opinion and determined the project, including avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures are consistent with the San Joaquin County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and would not jeopardize the existence of the giant garter snake and delta smelt.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a Letter of Concurrence (LOC) for the proposed Holman Road Bridge project. NMFS concurs that the Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon, Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon, and California Central Valley Steelhead, and these species' critical habitats are not likely to be adversely affected by the proposed bridge. Additionally, NMFS determined that there is no adverse effects to Pacific Salmon essential fish habitat (EFH) in the action area.

USACE has completed Section 106 consultation under the Historic Preservation Act with the State Historic Preservation Office and Native American Tribes. USACE could have future consultation responsibilities under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery.

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 Sacramento 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 Sacramento 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 Holman Road Bridge, 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 Bear Creek 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 Bear Creek Project. Please note that all comment letters received are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS: Written comments, referencing Identification Number 19510 must be submitted to the office listed below on or before January 05, 2020.

Oren M. Ruffcorn, Biologist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
1325 J Street, Room 1460
Sacramento, California 95814-2922

Email: *CESPK-408-PN@usace.army.mil*

Attachments:



1) General Vicinity map



2) Location map



3) Proposed Footprint map