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

TITLE: Surplus Canal Storm Drain (SL3660).

PUBLIC NOTICE COMMENT PERIOD:
Begins: January 3, 2019
Ends: February 2, 2019

REQUESTER: In compliance with U.S.C. Title 33, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, Section 408, South Salt Lake City (requester) has requested permission through the Salt Lake County Department of Public Works (non-federal sponsor of the federally authorized project) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to alter the Jordan River Project, an existing federal flood risk management project, authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1946.

LOCATION: The alteration is located on the right (east) bank of the Surplus Canal, at approximately 2780 South in South Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Utah (Attachment 1).

REQUESTER'S PROPOSED ACTON: The proposed action is to authorize an existing storm drain facility penetrating the east levee of the Surplus Canal, and to install a new positive closure device on the waterside of the levee. This would include the installation of a 4- by 4-foot precast box with a 30-inch diameter manhole ring and cover that would include a waterman C-10 slide gate with pedestal or approved equal. The existing pipeline would be modified to connect with the proposed box and the slide gate to provide positive closure for this facility.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed project is located on the waterside of the levee; however, there would not be any in-water work. Therefore, no effects to aquatic species or water quality are expected. Some clearing and grubbing would take place to install the positive closure device. The vegetation in the project area consists largely of weedy, ruderal species and there would be no removal of woody riparian vegetation. The proposed project is located adjacent to an industrial area and does not provide suitable habitat for species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

A cultural resources inventory report will be prepared and USACE will initiated any appropriate consultations with Native American tribes and the State 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 Surplus Canal Storm Drain, 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 Jordan River 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 Jordan River Project.

**SUBMITTING COMMENTS:** Written comments, referencing Identification Number SL3660
must be submitted to the office listed below on or before February 2, 2019.

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) Vicinity map
2) Site map
Attachment 1 – Vicinity Map
Attachment 2 – Site Map

Existing 18-inch storm drain

Discharge pipeline

Existing manhole with flap gate

2780 South