US Army Corps
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SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Regulatory Branch
333 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-2197 PERMIT MANAGER: Richard Flynn PHONE: 415-977-8470 rflynn@spd.usace.army.mil

1. INTRODUCTION

The Sonoma County Water Agency, P.O. Box 11628, Santa Rosa, California 95406 (Contact: David Cuneo, 707-547-1935) has applied for a Department of the Army permit to fill 0.48 acre of jurisdictional wetlands and 0.04 acre of jurisdictional waters for the purpose of constructing additional wastewater storage capacity at a site located west of the Sonoma County Airport in Sonoma County, California. This individual permit application is being processed pursuant to the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C.1344).

2. PROJECT

a) Site Description and Location of the Project

The project area is located northwest of the City of Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California (refer to attached drawings, Sheet 1 of 8). The project area is a mixture of agricultural and rural residential areas. The storage pond site (Site D; sheets 4 and 5 of 8) is located along Mark West Station Road approximately two miles west of the Sonoma County Airport. A pipeline routes that connects Site D to existing facilities at the Sonoma County Airport will primarily following existing vineyard access roads and open pasture land areas (Sheets 6, 7 and 8 of 8). The storage pond site is a pasture area currently used as grazing land for dairy cattle. Windsor Creek, Slusser Creek, and unnamed drainages are located in the vicinity of the project area.

b) Purpose and Need for Project

The Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup Sanitation Zone (ASZ) treatment plant, which is operated by the applicant, provides wastewater treatment for an unincorporated area between the City of Santa Rosa and the Town of Windsor. The ASZ treatment plant is a non-discharge plant, which means none of the water coming out of the treatment plant can be released into a creek or river. All of the water coming from the ASZ treatment plant is used for agricultural irrigation. Storage ponds are used to hold this water until it can be used for irrigation. Flows into the ASZ treatment plant increase as growth occurs within the ASZ. The Agency has determined that an increase in storage capacity and irrigation disposal area is necessary to meet the projected growth within the ASZ.

c) Description of Project

The project components requiring work within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers consist of a storage pond and connecting pipeline as described below and as shown in the attached drawings (Sheets 1 through 8).

Site D Storage. This property (Assessors Parcel Number (APN) 66-280-47), owned by the applicant, is 38 acres in size and is located adjacent to Mark West Station Road approximately 3,000 feet east of Trenton-Healdsburg Road. The applicant plans to use approximately 25 acres of this site to construct a 110-million-gallon wastewater storage pond. The storage pond would be a pit-type pond with the pond levees constructed from soil excavated from the pond pit. The pond levees are expected to be up to 40 feet above the existing surface elevation on the southern levee for the pond. The applicant also plans to construct a booster pump station in the southwest corner of the property as part of the storage pond construction activities. A connecting pipeline would be installed across Mark West Station Road to connect the storage pond on Site D with an existing irrigation line located on the east side of Mark West Station Road. Construction of these facilities will result in the filling of approximately 0.5 acre of wetlands or waters subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Two small drainages in the southwest corner of the site that drain

into the roadside ditch along Mark West Station Road will be diverted away from the pond site. All diverted drainages will continue to flow into the roadside ditch along Mark West Station Road. Approximately 11 trees (mixture of valley oak, coast live oak, and Oregon ash) will be removed during construction of the storage pond facilities.

Connecting Pipeline. The applicant plans to provide water to the proposed storage pond on Site D and to additional irrigation users by constructing a pipeline between the storage pond site and the applicant's existing pipeline at the western edge of the Sonoma County Airport. The applicant states that this pipeline alignment will cross nine privately owned parcels between Site D and the Sonoma County Airport (APNs 66-280-7, 66-280-9, 66-280-27, 66-280-28, 66-280-34, 66-280-35, 66-280-36, and 66-280-37, 66-280-44).

The alignment is located within existing vineyard access roads, with the remaining portions across pasture or grassland areas. This pipeline would be 18-inch diameter PVC plastic pipe and ductile iron pipe and would connect to an existing reclaimed water line that extends between Mark West Station Road near Site D and Windsor Creek. This line will require a creek crossing at Slusser Creek, Windsor Creek, and unnamed drainages, resulting in temporary impacts to 0.17 acre of jurisdictional wetlands and 0.07 acre of jurisdictional waters. Bore and jack construction methods for the Windsor Creek crossing will be used to avoid work within the streambed or vegetation riparian to the creek. The bore pit will be located outside of any areas under Corps jurisdiction. The pipeline will be trenched across Slusser Creek, because the crossing location has little vegetation (no overstory and a shrub layer consisting primarily of Himalayan blackberry) and no flow during the construction season.

d) Proposed Activity Within Jurisdictional Areas

Placement of the proposed pipeline would temporarily affect 0.17 acre of jurisdictional wetlands and 0.07 acre of jurisdictional waters. Activities in this phase of the project would include excavating a pathway through the jurisdictional areas, placement of the pipe, placement of a gravel layer above the pipe, and backfilling with the original soils to obtain pre-project grades.

Construction of the proposed storage pond would permanently affect 0.48 acre of jurisdictional wetlands and 0.04 acre of jurisdictional waters.

e) Mitigation

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the permanent loss of 0.48 acre of jurisdictional wetlands and 0.04 acre of jurisdictional waters by creating 1.5 acres of non-tidal, seasonal wetlands at an off-site location (Site C, APNs 164-170-14, -15) located adjacent to the ASZ treatment plant and approximately 2.5 miles from Site D (see Sheets 1 and 2 of 8). The northern portion of Site C will be used to create 1.5 acres of non-tidal, seasonal wetlands as in-kind replacement for the 0.52 acres of jurisdictional wetlands that will be permanently impacted at Site D (a replacement ratio of 2.9:1). Approximately 3.33 acres of wetlands in the northern portion of Site C will also be preserved. Temporary impacts to seasonal wetlands within pipeline construction areas will be mitigated by removing the topsoil and stockpiling separately for replacement upon backfilling.

3. STATE APPROVALS

Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1341), an applicant for a Corps permit must obtain a State water quality certification or waiver before a Corps permit may be issued. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) issued State water quality certification for this project on August 10, 2000.

Those parties concerned with any water quality issues associated with this project should write the Executive Officer, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region at 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Santa Rosa, California, 95403, by the close of the comment period of this public notice.

4. PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The Corps has assessed the environmental impacts of the action proposed in the subject permit application in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190), and pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations 40 CFR 1500-1508, and Corps of Engineer's Regulations, 33 CFR 230 and 325. Unless otherwise stated, the Preliminary Environmental Assessment presented herein describes only the impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) resulting from activities within the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. Supporting data used in the preparation of this Preliminary Environmental Assessment are on file at the Regulatory Branch, Corps of Engineers, 333

Market Street, San Francisco, California, 94105.

The Preliminary Environmental Assessment resulted in the following findings:

a. IMPACTS ON THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM

(i) Physical/Chemical Characteristics and Anticipated Changes

Substrate - Work will occur in seasonal wetlands and seasonal drainages in the project area. The wetlands on the storage pond site are seasonal swales that are supported by run-off and direct precipitation. A small drainage on Site D carries seasonal run-off from the site and uphill areas across the edge of the property and into a roadside ditch. Some of the swales on Site D will be permanently filled. In addition, the small seasonal drainage on Site D will be diverted around the storage pond site to allow runoff from watershed areas upstream of the storage pond site to continue flowing downstream of the site. However, all work will occur in the dry season when there will be no flow in most drainages in the project area. A pipeline crossing of Windsor Creek will occur. Flows in Windsor Creek occur year-round; however, the proposed bore and jack construction techniques will avoid work directly within a wet channel.

Flood Control Function of Impacted Wetlands - The wetlands on the project site are shallow-sloped swales that do not pond and provide minimal rainwater storage capacity. Diversion of the small drainage on Site D is not anticipated to alter the flood control function of jurisdictional areas in the project area. Construction of a storage pond will effectively create a detention basin that will capture direct rainfall falling into the pond; however, the flood control benefits created by the storage pond are considered minimal.

Erosion/Sedimentation Rate - No impacts to erosion or sedimentation rates within aquatic ecosystems are expected to result from completion of the project.

Streamflow/Drainage Patterns - As noted above, a small seasonal drainage within Site D will be diverted around the storage pond. This drainage pattern will only be altered within the footprint of Site D. Drainage from Site D would continue into the roadside ditch adjacent to Site D, as it does now.

Water Quality (including suspended particulates/turbidity) - Construction activities will occur in the dry season, and all work in drainages containing water will be avoided. Trenching will only occur in dry channels. Bore and jack construction techniques will be used as needed to avoid work in wet channels. No impacts to water quality, including suspended particulates and turbidity, are expected to result from construction of the project.

State and federal programs require project owners to prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that includes identification and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Contractors will be required to submit a work plan addressing access to the work area, including a project-specific SWPPP. All erosion and siltation controls would be used and maintained in effective operating condition during the entire construction period, and all exposed soil and fill would be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date.

Groundwater Recharge

A map of natural groundwater recharge areas provided in *Evaluation of Groundwater Resources in Sonoma County* prepared by the State of California Department of Water Resources in cooperation with the Sonoma County Water Agency (1982) indicates that the majority of the storage pond site is mapped as a slow recharge area, with a small portion mapped as a groundwater recharge area.

The storage pond on Site D will be constructed with a compacted soil liner to limit infiltration of the treated wastewater into groundwater; therefore, the footprint area of the storage pond will be removed as potential groundwater recharge area.

(ii) Biological Characteristics and Anticipated Changes

Special Aquatic Sites

The project would permanently affect 0.48 acre of jurisdictional wetlands and 0.04 acre of jurisdictional waters. The permanently impacted wetlands are associated with seasonal swales on Site D that appear to be saturated long enough during the growing season to be Corps jurisdictional wetlands. These swales have been heavily disturbed by grazing. The jurisdictional waters are associated with a small drainage on Site D that will be diverted to allow flows to continue past the pond site. This drainage has also been heavily disturbed by grazing.

The project would temporarily affect 0.17 acre of jurisdictional wetlands and 0.07 acre of jurisdictional waters. These temporary impacts are associated with pipeline crossings of seasonal swales and drainages. In jurisdictional wetland areas, the top 6" to 12" of topsoil would be removed during trenching and stockpiled separately. The stockpiled topsoil from the wetland areas would be used as the top 6" to 12" of backfill for wetland areas along the pipeline route. Replacement of the topsoil layer after the area is recontoured to pre-construction grade will promote rapid recolonization of wetland vegetation and reestablishment of wetland functions.

Threatened or Endangered Species

Plants

At least four special status plant species occur or have been identified as occurring in vernal pools in the project area according to the California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) records: *Downingia pusilla* (dwarf downingia), *Lasthenia burkei* (Burke's goldfields), *Navarretia leucocephala* ssp. *bakeri* (Baker's navarretia), and *Navarretia leucocephala* ssp. *plieantha* (many-flowered navarretia). At least two other special status species not currently recorded in the CNDDB also occur in vernal pool habitats within the Healdsburg quadrangle -- *Blennosperma bakeri* (Sonoma sunshine) and *Ranunculus lobbii* (Lobb's aquatic buttercup).

Blennosperma bakeri (Sonoma sunshine), *Navarretia leucocephala* ssp. *plieantha* (many-flowered navarretia), and *Lasthenia burkei* (Burke's goldfields) are listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The other special status plant species with potential to occur in the project area are associated with either freshwater marsh/riparian scrub areas (*Alopecurus aequalis* var. *sonomensis*/Sonoma alopecurus) or woodland/chaparral areas (*Arctostaphylos densiflora*/Vine Hill manzanita and *Monardella villosa* ssp. *globosa*/round-head coyote mint).

Site D is primarily non-native annual grassland and moderately sloped swales with mature trees and riparian areas adjacent to the proposed storage pond site. This site has been used extensively for pasture area, and overgrazing has led to sparse cover intermixed with thickets of thistle (*Silybum marianum*). The site has an on-going history of heavy grazing, and this grazing appears to have negatively affected the wetland features delineated on Site D. Heavily disturbed communities do not typically support suitable habitat for the special status plant species. The moderate- to steep topography and moderately well-drained sandy loam soils present on Site D suggest, however, that these wetland features would probably be relatively marginal even if grazing did not occur. Based on the results of the applicant's botanical surveys, potential habitat for special status freshwater marsh/riparian and upland plant species does not exist, and potential habitat for special status wetland plant species was marginal. No special status plant species were observed during two years of surveys by the applicant.

The pipeline route crosses open grassland, pasture areas, riparian areas, vineyard, roadway, and irrigated fields. Portions of this route have been used extensively for grazing, and overgrazing has led to sparse cover. No special status plant species were observed.

Wildlife

Special status wildlife species with potential to occur in the Study Area were determined by performing a records search of the CNDDB for the Healdsburg USGS quadrangle (CNDDB 1997).

The habitat types found on Site D include dry pasture, mature oak woodland, willow riparian, and seasonal wetlands. Most of the bird species observed during surveys were associated with the mature oaks and willow riparian. No special status species were recorded in the field survey of Site D. The oak woodland on Site D supports potential nesting habitat for raptors.

The pipeline route occurs over open dry pasture, vineyard roads, irrigated dairy pasture, and one crossing of Windsor Creek. Windsor Creek provides potential habitat for California freshwater shrimp; however, the proposed bore and jack construction techniques in this area will avoid work within Windsor Creek. None of the special status species listed in Table 4 were observed along this pipeline route.

Habitat for Fish, Other Aquatic Organisms, and Wildlife

The wetlands on Site D and within the pipeline route are seasonal swales on slightly sloped topography. No ponding was observed within these wetlands. It is not expected that wetlands in the project area support animal species specifically adapted to aquatic habitats.

The small drainage on Site D that will be diverted drains a small watershed area uphill of the pond site. Flows in this drainage generally occur immediately following rainfall events and are short-term in nature due to the small watershed drainage area. This drainage also flows into a roadside ditch and culvert. This drainage is not expected to provide habitat capable of supporting fish.

b. IMPACTS ON RESOURCES OUTSIDE THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM

(i) Physical Characteristics and Anticipated Changes

Air Quality
Construction of the project would result in short-term air quality impacts associated with construction dust and vehicle exhaust. No long-term impacts to air quality would occur.

Noise Conditions
Construction activities, including clearing, excavation, and grading, have a potential for disturbing nearby residential areas. Construction vehicle traffic traveling to and from the construction site would also generate noise. Pumps associated with the storage pond have the potential for generating noise during operation.

Geologic Conditions
The project would result in a permanent change in topography as a result of constructing the levees for the storage pond.

(ii) Biological Characteristics and Anticipated Changes

A substantial percentage of the Project Area and vicinity is classified agricultural with neighboring rural residential areas. Site D was part of an adjacent dairy operation and was used as grazing land. Site D continues to be used as grazing land for cattle by the previous property owner. The disturbance of past and continuing agricultural and residential activities has reduced the wildlife value of the upland areas. However, these parcels still provide habitat for various species, including black-tailed jackrabbit, black-tailed deer and wild turkey.

Construction of a storage pond on Site D will remove the grassland area and some woodland areas as potential habitat; however, the construction of a storage pond will partially offset this habitat loss by creating approximately 20 to 35 acres of open water habitat for water birds.

(iii) Socioeconomic Characteristics and Anticipated Changes

Aesthetics
Construction of a storage pond on Site D would result in levees up to 40 feet high that would alter the views for the residential areas to the north, south, and east of the site. The change in views for the residences east of the site would be less than significant because of the distance between the pond site and the residences. In addition, grading and landscaping is expected to soften the visual effect of the pond for the residences to the north, south and east of the site. Mitigation measures identified in the EIR for the project will reduce the potential impacts to a less than significant level.

Public Health and Safety
Construction of the storage pond and pipelines will involve the use of heavy equipment, which raises the potential for injury to operators and others working in the area. The use of heavy equipment during construction often requires on-site storage of hazardous materials such as fuels, oils/lubricants, and solvents. In addition, there would be the potential for a spill to occur that could expose workers and/or the public to hazardous materials.

To ensure public safety, all structures and fill shall be properly maintained. The wastewater storage pond is under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). The storage pond will be designed, constructed, and operated in accordance with the standards established by the DSOD to ensure public safety.

There are residential units, roadways, or places with public or private property owner access around all of the proposed pond sites. The public could come into contact with recycled water if the water is allowed to drift or flow off-site in an uncontrolled manner. In addition, storage ponds can be an attractive nuisance which can result in the public accessing a storage pond site and coming into contact with recycled water. People, animal, or plant populations could be subject to potential public health and safety impacts resulting from direct contact with treated wastewater. To protect public health and safety, the storage pond site will be fenced to restrict public access to the area.

Potential health hazards or nuisances exist related to the creation of potential breeding habitat for mosquitoes and other insects. The Agency would coordinate its operations with the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) to minimize the potential for the project to create habitat for breeding mosquitoes and other insects. According to the District, large storage ponds generally do not present mosquito problems. Large ponds are subject to wind and wave action which discourages mosquito egg laying. In addition, storage ponds that are designed with three-to-one or steeper slopes for the inside levee embankments discourage emergent vegetation that can provide habitat for mosquitoes. The ASZ's ponds are maintained in a manner that discourages mosquito habitat. This design would also be effective against other insects that require similar habitat as mosquitoes. Other insects, such as chironomids and other midges that are bottom dwellers or attach to various materials under the water surface, may require other control methods, such as the introduction of "mirror-sided carp," a bottom feeding fish utilized for biological control for certain insects. The applicant will coordinate with the District and implement control methods as necessary.

Water-Related Recreation

No water-related recreation activities are expected to be impacted by the project.

(iv) Historic-Cultural Characteristics and Anticipated Changes

Examination of Site D revealed flakes of chert and obsidian. In addition, dark, organic soil observed within this site may be a residue of prehistoric habitation. There are no other known cultural or paleontological resources that could be affected by the construction and operation of the project. However, construction could affect unknown buried cultural or paleontological resources. The applicant has hired a cultural resource specialist to conduct a detailed examination of the area, including subsurface examination, prior to pond construction. In addition, the cultural resource specialist will be present during initial earth moving for construction activities on Site D. If a discovery of culturally significant artifacts occurs during construction, construction activities in the area of discovery will be halted until the applicant contacts the Corps of Engineers and the Northwest Information Center at Sonoma State University. If necessary, a data recovery program will be implemented to document and recover items of cultural significance.

c. SUMMARY OF INDIRECT IMPACTS

Filling the seasonal wetland on the project site will not impact other wetlands in the region. The majority of flows off-site are generated by run-off of upland areas within the site and from watershed lands uphill of the project area. The proposed drainage modifications will allow flows to continue around the site. Filling the seasonal wetlands is expected to have an insignificant impact to downstream uses.

d. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Conversion of land to agricultural, residential, or other uses over the past 150 years has resulted in the loss or change in much of the area's plant and animal habitats. The majority of grasslands and wetlands that support native plant species and provide nesting or forage habitat for wildlife have been replaced by agricultural crops, residential units, and other uses. The loss of grassland and wetland habitats that would occur as a result of constructing the project is considered to contribute to cumulatively significant impacts when all of the impacts to grassland and wetland habitats that have occurred in the Santa Rosa Plain as a result of past human activities are considered.

e. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on an analysis of the above identified impacts, a preliminary determination has been made that it will not be necessary to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the subject permit application. The Environmental Assessment for the proposed action has, however, not yet been finalized and this preliminary determination may be reconsidered if additional information is developed.

5. EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

Evaluation of the project impacts includes application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(b)). An evaluation under the 404(b)(1) Guidelines indicates that the project is not water dependent. The applicant, however, has submitted an Analysis of Alternatives for the project and it will be reviewed for compliance with the Guidelines. The applicant states that there is no practicable alternative site for his project.

Description of Alternatives

A reasonable range of alternatives in addition to the "No Project" alternative were considered for the

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that was prepared for the project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) . The EIR for the project included alternatives consisting of groupings of one or more of the project components analyzed in the EIR. The project components described in the EIR include: (1) the minimum and maximum size storage ponds on five potential sites (Sites A through E); (2) seven potential pipeline routes; (3) reclamation facilities; and (4) upgrade of the ASZ treatment plant to tertiary level of treatment. Upgrading the ASZ treatment plant to a tertiary level of treatment could increase disposal options for the ASZ including connection with the City of Santa Rosa's Geysers Recharge Project and/or joint use operation with the Town of Windsor. The environmental impacts of the project components were identified and evaluated in the Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures chapter of the EIR.

No Project Alternative

The No Project Alternative consists of no action by the Agency to upgrade the treatment plant to a tertiary level of treatment, no increase in storage capacity, no expansion of the reclamation system for the ASZ, and no connection to the Geysers Recharge project. Agency staff has determined that there is not enough existing storage and reclamation capacity during extreme wet weather conditions to sufficiently manage the amount of effluent that is currently being discharged by the treatment plant. Additional storage and reclamation capacity is also necessary for future expected flows within the ASZ.

The applicant states that the existing reclamation area is not sufficient to handle the existing flows into the treatment plant under heavy rainfall conditions. The Agency is continually looking for additional reclamation lands to provide for expanding reclamation needs. The No Project alternative would affect the reliability of the ASZ facilities and would require (1) that water continue to be transferred to Windsor's system (assuming Windsor has sufficient excess capacity to handle such transfers) during high flow periods, or (2) that the storage ponds be allowed to overflow into a surface drainage in violation of its Regional Water Quality Control Board Water Reclamation Requirements. The occurrence of such critical shortfalls of storage will increase in frequency as development within the service area continues.

Proposed Project Alternative

The proposed project would construct a pond up to 110 million gallons on Site D to provide for current and near-term storage needs, and to construct a 60 to 80 million gallon pond in the southern portion of Site C as needed at a future date. The southern portion of Site C could be utilized for reclamation disposal purposes until needed for additional storage. Ponds on Site C and Site D would collectively provide an additional 170 to 190 million gallons of storage capacity, which closely meets the project objective of providing approximately 200 million gallons of storage.

6. PUBLIC INTEREST EVALUATION

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity and its intended use. Evaluation of the probable impacts the proposed activity may have on the public interest requires a careful weighing of all those factors which become relevant in each particular case. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonable foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal and if so the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

7. CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties to consider and evaluate the impacts of this project. Any comments received by the Corps will be considered by the Corps of Engineers 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 overall public interest of the proposed activity.

8. SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS

Interested parties may submit in writing any comments concerning this activity. Comments should include the applicant's name, the number, and the date of this notice and should be forwarded so as to reach this office within the comment period specified on page one of this notice. Comments should be addressed to Regulatory Branch, Attn: Richard Flynn. It is the Corps policy to forward any such comments which may include objections to the applicant for resolution or rebuttal. Any person may also request, in writing, within the comment period of this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Additional details may be obtained by contacting the applicant whose address is indicated in the first paragraph of this notice, or by contacting Richard Flynn of our office at telephone number 415-977-8470, or by email at rflynn@spd.usace.army.mil. Details on any changes of a minor nature which are made in the final permit action will be provided on request.