

PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

BUILDING STRONG®

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT Goat Canyon Sedimentation and Basin Maintenance Dredging Project

Public Notice/Application No.:SPL-2005-02068-RRSProject:Goat Canyon Sedimentation and Basin Maintenance Dredging ProjectComment Period:August 15, 2018 through September 15, 2018Project Manager:Robert Smith; (760) 602-4831; Robert.R.Smith@usace.army.mil

Applicant

Chris Peregrin CA Dept. of Parks & Recreation (CSP) (619) 575-3613 (x 303) 301 Caspian Way Imperial Beach, California 91932

Contact

Chris Peregrin CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation (619) 575-3613 (x 303) 301 Caspian Way Imperial Beach, California 91932

Location

The Goat Canyon Sediment Basin complex (GCSB), managed by California State Parks (CSP, the State), is a sediment capture/retention facility located within Border Field State Park (BFSP), 1500 Monument Road, San Diego, CA 92154. The basins site is located at the two Goat Canyon basins in the Tijuana River Valley where Goat Canyon creek flows within Borderfield State Park – State Preserve to the Tijuana River to the Pacific Ocean within/near the city of San Diego, San Diego County, CA (at: Latitude 32.54 degrees west, longitude-117.09 degrees north).

Activity

The applicant's proposed project consists of performing flood control maintenance, excavation, and hauling and disposing of material to upland landfills/sources and includes up to 80,000 cubic yards per annual maintenance event at the Goat Canyon Sediment Basin complex (GCSB), managed by California State Parks (CSP, the State). The project area is a sediment capture/retention facility located within Border Field State Park (BFSP), 1500 Monument Road, San Diego, CA 92154 as shown in the attached figures.

The two basins are approximately 19 acres in size and can hold approximately 50,000 to 80,000 cubic yards of material. Dredging and excavation impacts to non-wetlands waters of the U.S. total to 6.32 acres. The Corps is considering processing a long term 10 year permit in association with Goat Canyon Sedimentation Basin Cleanout project (see attached drawings). The excavated sediments are to be taken to an upland approved landfill after the material is screened for trash, debris, and tires. For more information see the Additional Project Information section.

Interested parties are hereby notified an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein and shown on the attached drawing(s). We invite you to review today's public notice and provide views on the proposed work. By providing substantive, site-specific comments to the Corps Regulatory Division, you provide information that supports the Corps' decision-making process. All comments received during the comment period become part of the record and will be considered in the decision. This permit will be issued, issued with special conditions, or denied under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Comments should be mailed to:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS REGULATORY DIVISION ATTN: Robert Smith Carlsbad Field Office 5900 La Place Ct., Suite 100 Carlsbad, CA 92008

Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: Robert.R.Smith@usace.army.mil

The mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program is to protect the Nation's aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions. The Corps evaluates permit applications for essentially all construction activities that occur in the Nation's waters, including wetlands. The Regulatory Program in the Los Angeles District is executed to protect aquatic resources by developing and implementing short- and long-term initiatives to improve regulatory products, processes, program transparency, and customer feedback considering current staffing levels and historical funding trends.

Corps permits are necessary for any work, including construction and dredging, in the Nation's navigable water and their tributary waters. The Corps balances the reasonably foreseeable benefits and detriments of proposed projects, and makes permit decisions that recognize the essential values of the Nation's aquatic ecosystems to the general public, as well as the property rights of private citizens who want to use their land. The Corps strives to make its permit decisions in a timely manner that minimizes impacts to the regulated public.

During the permit process, the Corps considers the views of other Federal, state, and local agencies, interest groups, and the general public. The results of this careful public interest review are fair and equitable decisions that allow reasonable use of private property, infrastructure development, and growth of the economy, while offsetting the authorized impacts to the waters of the United States. The permit review process serves to first avoid and then minimize adverse effects of projects on aquatic resources to the maximum practicable extent. Any remaining unavoidable adverse impacts to the aquatic environment are offset by compensatory mitigation requirements, which may include restoration, enhancement, establishment, and/or preservation of aquatic ecosystem system functions and services.

Evaluation Factors

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. 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. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Factors that will be considered include conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, if the proposal would discharge dredged or fill material, the evaluation of the activity will include application of the EPA Guidelines (40 CFR Part 230) as required by Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

The Corps of Engineers 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 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 the 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 need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Preliminary Review of Selected Factors

<u>EIS Determination</u>- A preliminary determination has been made an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work.

<u>Water Quality</u>- The applicant is required to obtain water quality certification, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. Section 401 requires any applicant for an individual Section 404 permit provide proof of water quality certification to the Corps of Engineers prior to permit issuance.

<u>Coastal Zone Management</u>- This project is located outside the coastal zone and preliminary review indicates it would not affect coastal zone resources. The Corps made a prior determination that the project was outside of the coastal zone with the prior Corps authorization and the project has not changed with the new request for re-authorization.

Essential Fish Habitat- No Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, occurs within the project area and no EFH is affected by the proposed project. Therefore, formal consultation under Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) is not required at this time.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>- The latest version of the National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and this site is not listed. This review constitutes the extent of cultural resources investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources.

Endangered Species (ESA)- The Corps received a Biological Opinion (BO) from the US Fish and Wildlife Service which may be used for ESA compliance. A USFWS Section 7 Formal Consultation (Endangered Species Act) occurred and resulted in a BO that determined the level of anticipated take is not likely to result in jeopardy to the federally-listed as endangered Least bells vireo (*Vireo belii pusilus;* LBV) and the California coastal gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*).

<u>Public Hearing</u>- Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearing shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Proposed Activity for Which a Permit is Required

<u>Basic Project Purpose</u>- The basic project purpose comprises the fundamental, essential, or irreducible purpose of the proposed project, and is used by the Corps to determine whether the applicant's project is water dependent (i.e., requires access or proximity to or siting within the special aquatic site to fulfill its basic purpose). Establishment of the basic project purpose is necessary only when the proposed activity would discharge dredged or fill material into a special aquatic site (e.g., wetlands, pool and riffle complex, mudflats, coral reefs). Because no fills are proposed within special aquatic sites, identification of the basic project purpose is not necessary. The basic project purpose for the proposed project is to perform flood control maintenance in an existing flood control facility. The project is water dependent.

<u>Overall Project Purpose</u>- The overall project purpose serves as the basis for the Corps' 404(b)(1) alternatives analysis and is determined by further defining the basic project purpose in a manner that more specifically describes the applicant's goals for the project, and which allows a reasonable range of alternatives to be analyzed. The overall project purpose for the proposed project is to perform flood control maintenance within two existing flood control sediment basins at Goat Canyon, in the city of San Diego, CA.

Additional Project Information

<u>Baseline information-</u>. CSP is submitting an application for a ten year standard permit for the proposed Goat Canyon Sediment Basin Maintenance project. The Tijuana River Watershed spans some 1,700 square miles with nearly 75% of this drainage located in Mexico; it crosses the International Border at the main channel four miles from the Pacific Ocean and also at various tributaries/sub-watersheds, and then flows into the Tijuana Estuary. Since the early 1980's, increasing volumes of sediment and solid waste originating in Mexico are deposited in alluvial wash habitat, riparian habitat, tidal channels and salt marsh habitat, and near-shore and dune habitats of the Reserve. The Goat Canyon Sediment Basin was constructed in 2005, at a cost of nearly \$6 million dollars, in order to capture the large volumes of sediment and solid waste directly impacting estuarine and ocean habitats associated with the Reserve.

The basins have been extremely effective at protecting the estuary and to date have captured a total of 514,000 cy of material at a cost of \$10 million dollars. The basins were constructed to protect the wetlands in 2003-2005 and downstream. The installation of the project commenced in mid-October 2003 and was completed in September 2005. Components of the mitigation project involved grading and engineering work (basin and weir construction, diversion berm, and screening berm creation) and native plant restoration.

To address the problems that have developed due primarily to development in the Tijuana River Hydrologic Unit (watershed) and the resulting erosion and unnatural sediment loads, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Coastal Conservancy, and Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association collaborated efforts to implement the Goat Canyon/Cañon de los Laureles Enhancement Plan. Actions outlined in the enhancement plan that would assist the management of sediment deposition into the Goat Canyon floodplain/Tijuana River Valley were developed and resulted in the implementation of the project. The initial phase involved the installation of a diversion structure into Goat Canyon Creek that would divert water flow into two downstream sediment basins separated by a berm that is fitted with a weir (engineered to convey creek flow from a 100-year flood event) located near the entrance of Border Field State Park. In addition to creating sediment basins, staging and loading areas, a berm to visually block the basins (screening berm), new access roads, and improvements to Monument Road were constructed.

<u>Project description-</u> The basins require yearly maintenance, including excavation of accumulated sediment/vegetation, sorting of excavated material, and cleaning out of two debris barriers (trash booms). Excavated material is hauled to an adjacent 9 acre processing pad where the material is mechanically sorted to separate rock, sand, and debris, and then hauled to appropriate upland locations off site. Maintenance activities may start in July and go through September.

The project maintenance activities include dredging/excavation activities. Large dozers will push the sediment to the eastern edge of the basins forming a long pile of sediment. Excavators will load it into trucks which will haul it to the processing pad which is adjacent to the basins. The soil processing equipment will separate the sediment into the different components. The sediment removed is re-used for backfilling underground utility lines. All material to be excavated including sediments, tires, plastics, and trash are to be placed in upland landfills. The sediment basins are intended to control and prevent sediment deposition into future estuarine restoration projects downstream of the Goat Canyon Creek floodplain. Based on project impacts to 6.32 acres of waters of the U.S, the Corps would be reauthorizing the next additional phase of maintenance (excavation) and stockpiling and disposal activities for the project where the dredged material would also be screened and all trash removed and taken to an upland landfill. Any suitable clean sand would be taken to an approved upland source or landfill.

<u>Proposed Mitigation</u>– Also in coordination with the Goat Canyon project CSP created a 25.76 acre mitigation site downstream of the basins as mitigation for the original project and the mitigation has met all success criteria per the agency review done in 2010.

For additional information please call Robert Smith of my staff at (760) 602-4831 or via e-mail at <u>Robert.R.Smith@usace.army.mil</u>. This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Division.



Regulatory Program Goals:

- To provide strong protection of the nation's aquatic environment, including wetlands.
- To ensure the Corps provides the regulated public with fair and reasonable decisions.
- To enhance the efficiency of the Corps' administration of its regulatory program.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS Carlsbad Field Office 5900 La Place Ct., Suite 100 Carlsbad, CA 92008 WWW.SPL.USACE.ARMY.MIL/MISSIONS/REGULATORY

Figure 1. Work Location



Figure 2. Project Area







2 OF 4







Figure 7. Concrete crossing



