US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

Public Notice For Public Hearing

Regulatory Branch
Post Office Box 3755
Seattle, Washington 98124-3755
Telephone (206) 764-3495
ATTN: Ron Wilcox, Project Manager

Public Notice Date: September 12, 2004

Reference: 200400681
Name: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Transportation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ducks Unlimited, US Army Corps of Engineers

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, will hold a public hearing to record public comments related to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Transportation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Ducks Unlimited's application for a Department of the Army permit under the authorities of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The proposed project would restore tidal inundation to 300 acres of diked lands adjacent to the Willapa River; raise the portion of US 101 running through the project site to prevent flooding once the dike is removed; and enhance over 100 acres of freshwater wetlands for use by migratory birds. The proposed project is located approximately one mile downstream of the City of South Bend, adjacent to Potter Slough.

In addition to its involvement as a permitting authority, the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is a sponsor of the proposed project. Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 allows the Corps to modify the structure or operation of a Corps project to restore fish and wildlife habitat. The proposed work would replace some of the habitat lost between the 1930s and 1970s when dredged material was placed in intertidal wetlands part of the Seattle District's Willapa River and Harbor Project.

DATE AND TIME – September 14, 2004, 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION – South Bend Community Center
1st at Alder Street
South Bend, Washington

HEARING PURPOSE – The purpose of the hearing is to obtain public views and opinions on the proposed project that are relevant for consideration in making a permit decision for the proposed project.

HEARING FORMAT – Between 3:00 and 4:00, an information session will be held. Between 4:00 and 5:00, the forum will be one formal hearing with verbatim recording. A second information session will be held between 6:00 and 7:00, followed by a second formal hearing session between 7:00 and 8:30.

The hearing will be conducted in accordance with procedures set forth in 33 CFR, Part 327 (see Federal Register, Volume 51, Number 219, dated November 13, 1986, page 41249 et. Seq.). The District Engineer or her representative will preside over the hearing. Questions may be asked during the information sessions, but no questions or rebuttals will be allowed during the hearing.

All interested parties are invited to be present or to be represented at this public hearing. Interested parties may present specific information on the project proposal, potential impacts, alternatives, and other related concerns. Oral statements will be heard, but for accuracy of the administrative record, important testimony should be submitted in writing. Oral statements should be brief, and the speaker should summarize any extensive written material so that there will be time for all interested persons to be heard. If necessary, a specific time limit may be applied per speaker.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD – The Corps will accept written comments until September 24, 2004. All comments must include the commentor's name, address, and phone number. Please include the following reference number and name on all written comments: 200400681, Public Hearing Comment. Written comments can be provided at the hearing; e-mailed to ronald.j.wilcox@nws02.usace.army.mil, subject line: 200400681, Public Hearing Comment; or mailed to:

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Seattle District, Regulatory Branch
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ATTN: CENWS-OD-RG, Ron Wilcox, Project Manager

Comments mailed must be postmarked no later than September 24, 2004. Comments e-mailed must be received no later than September 24, 2004.

Please note that a National Environmental Policy Act environmental assessment and a Department of the Army permit application public notice will be issued prior to the public hearing. Each will have a 30-day comment period, so the total project comment period may extend beyond September 24, 2004.