

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS St. Louis District Gateway to Excellence Reply To: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Attn: CEMVS-OD-F 1222 Spruce Street St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

Public Notice No.

Public Notice

P-3080 Public Notice Date February 16, 2018

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

Expiration Date March 9, 2018

FILE NUBMER: MVS-2017-949

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and shown on the attached maps.

<u>COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>: Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers File Number shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch 1222 Spruce Street St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833 ATTN: Samantha Hollenberg

APPLICANT: Rockwood School District, 17146 Manchester Road, Wildwood, Missouri 63040

AGENT: SCI Engineering Inc., 130 Point West Blvd, St. Charles, Missouri, 63301

LOCATION: The project area is generally located directly east of the school building on the Eureka High School campus located at 4525 Highway 109 in Eureka, St. Louis County, Missouri. More specifically, the proposed project occurs in Section 36, Township 33 North, Range 3 East, within the Eureka Quadrangle in St. Louis County, Missouri. The approximate geographic coordinates of the project within an unnamed tributary to Flat Creek are 38.516081° North, -90.629244° West. Flat Creek is a primary tributary to the Meramec River.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant, Rockwood School District, seeks authorization to conduct grading and filling activities in an unnamed tributary to Flat Creek for the reconfiguration of the bus loading area and additional parking to support the new construction of a STEM building and stormwater detention basin. The proposed project includes the enclosure of approximately 790 linear feet of an intermittent tributary between the two existing road crossings. Previously, a Nationwide Permit was verified on March 29, 2011 to authorize the piping of 265 linear feet of the channel to support additional parking. The previous impacts were mitigated through the purchase of 1,034 stream bank credits from Fox Creek Mitigation Bank. The tributary has been continually maintained with mowed turf grass to the top of bank for many years and is experiencing bank erosion and

sedimentation of the downstream length. The applicant submitted a preliminary Analysis of Alternatives for the project describing the avoidance and minimization measures considered for the project, as well as logistical, environmental, and engineering justifications for the proposed impacts. The tributary bisects the eastern 1/3 of the campus and had been primarily avoided for many years, however, within the recent years the Eureka branch of the Rockwood School District has experienced rapid growth in enrollment due to the construction of several large subdivisions within the district. Due to development of the adjacent properties, the applicant is limited within the current footprint of the Eureka High School campus. Constrictions on the site are that the southern portion of the campus is located within the floodplain, any layout would need to support expedient vehicular traffic through the campus, and any layout would need to be approved by the Fire Marshall for emergency responder access to the campus.

A summary of the alternatives considered across a three year period demonstrated the Districts initial avoidance of the tributary by placing the building to the south of the current science wing. However, following flooding on the campus in December 2015/January 2016 within the initially proposed footprint (which FEMA has since remapped to be in the floodplain) lead the District to consider layouts that did not place new classrooms in the floodplain. It was then determined that the most feasible layout, that avoided building in the floodplain, would require the placement of the STEM building within an area to the north which currently supports existing classroom and parking areas. The proposed STEM building location requires the enclosure of the channel to support bus & emergency response traffic and to replace lost parking capacity. The applicant has proposed to purchase stream credits from an in-lieu fee provider as mitigation for the unavoidable impacts to the aquatic resource. The District will consider comments submitted by interested parties regarding mitigation requirements.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See attached. In addition, the project plans may be viewed in color and in more detail by visiting the Public Notice section of our website at http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/ConOps/permits/pn.htm

<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Samantha Hollenberg, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8186 or by e-mail to Samantha.L.Hollenberg@usace.army.mil

<u>AUTHORITY</u>: This permit will be processed under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The project plans have been submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification is requested as of the date of this Public Notice, and if issued, will express the Agency's opinion that the proposed activities will not violate applicable water quality standards. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Missouri should be addressed to: Water Protection Program, Post Office Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with a copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION: The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

<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 the applicant's proposal. Any request for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for the hearing, and must be based on issues that

would warrant additional public review.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, as amended, has been made that the work that is proposed will have NO EFFECT on threatened and endangered species. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals through this Public Notice.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the public in response to this public notice. The Corps will coordinate with SHPO and Native American Tribes as appropriate.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the described activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the activity described, will be considered including the cumulative effects. Among factors considered are: conservation; economics; aesthetics; general environmental concerns; wetlands; historic properties; 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 and fiber production; mineral needs; consideration of property ownership; and in general the needs and welfare of the people.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The U.S. Army 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 the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army 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 need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

DANNY D. MCCLENDON Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 21 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.



