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Dated: March 20, 2008.

**L.M. Bynum,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Potable Water Supply for Washington Parish Reservoir, Project

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The study area comprises Washington Parish in southeast Louisiana. Washington Parish currently consumes approximately 40 million gallons of water daily, 70 percent of which is supplied by groundwater. Decreasing groundwater levels (quantity) and groundwater quality, in combination with forecasted growth within the Parish require alternative water supplies to be developed. The purpose of the project is to identify a new water supply to address the current and future potable water demands of Washington Parish. The Local Project Sponsor is the Washington Parish Reservoir Commission.

**DATES:** A public scoping meeting will be held on April 10, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The public scoping meeting will be held in Bogalusa, LA at the Bogalusa City Hall, 202 Arkansas Avenue, Bogalusa, LA 70427.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Questions about the proposed action and Draft EIS should be directed to: Karen Dove-Jackson at (601) 631-7136, Vicksburg District, Corps of Engineers, 4155 Clay Street, CEMVK-OD-FE, Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to Louisiana House Bill 216, 2003 Regular Session, the Louisiana Legislature created the Washington Parish Reservoir Commission as a State Entity. This law gives the Washington Parish Reservoir Commission the power to obtain land needed for the reservoir pursuant to the State of Louisiana's principle of eminent domain, and in accordance with the Louisiana Laws and Revised Statutes for this principle.

1. The Washington Parish Reservoir Commission completed a site selection

study (January 2005) to determine a recommended best source of future potable water for Washington Parish. The study concluded that creation of a surface water reservoir by damming Bogalusa Creek was the most desirable. The Washington Parish Reservoir Commission subsequently completed a preliminary engineering report (December 2006) that presented preliminary design, planning level costs estimates, and preliminary construction plans for a water supply reservoir. Based upon review of the site selection report, the Corps concluded that the proposed project had the potential for significant impacts to the human and natural environment. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the preparation of an EIS for proposals that are subject to federal funding, control, responsibility and permitting, and which have the potential for significant impacts. The proposed project would affect wetlands, which are regulated by the Corps, and require a permit to comply with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Because the proposed project would require federal involvement, it is subject to NEPA. Preliminary alternatives being considered include construction of a new surface water supply reservoir, construction of distribution systems to make available existing surface water supplies, and increased use of groundwater.

2. The Southern Hills Aquifer system supplies Washington Parish with potable water. The Southern Hills Aquifer system is one of the most heavily pumped aquifers in Louisiana, supplying 290 million gallons per day for consumption. Recent studies indicate that the Southern Hills Aquifer system is supplying more water annually than it can sustain, and water levels in the aquifer are dropping as much as one foot annually. In addition to aquifer water levels, the water quality of the aquifer is also declining.

3. A public scoping meeting will be held (see **DATES** and **ADDRESSES**). Significant issues identified during this scoping process will be analyzed in depth in the Draft EIS.

4. Upon completion, the Draft EIS will be distributed for agency and public review and comment. Additionally, a public meeting will be held to present results of the Draft EIS evaluations and the recommended plan.

5. The Draft EIS is estimated to be completed in September 2008.

**Brenda S. Bowen,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. E8-6447 Filed 3-27-08; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Sierra Vista Specific Plan Project, Corps Permit Application Number 200601050

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Sierra Vista Landowner Group proposes to implement a large-scale, mixed-use, mixed-density master planned community with residential, commercial, office, public/quasi-public, and open space land uses, and parks. The Sierra Vista Specific Plan would include approximately 1,148 acres of residential uses; 281 acres of commercial, office, and commercial-mixed uses; 162 acres of parks and paseos; 83 acres of public/quasi-public land uses; 31 acres of urban reserve; and 190 acres of roadways and landscape corridors. The Specific Plan would also include 244 acres of open space; of these, 38 acres would be graded as part of the project and the remaining 206 acres would be preservation areas.

The Specific Plan would include 9,995 dwelling units (in a mix of low, medium, and high densities) and approximately 2,419,113 square feet of retail and office uses. The project would also provide four elementary schools, one middle school, and a fire station. The proposed project is expected to generate about 25,219 new residents and 5,821 jobs. It is anticipated that construction would begin in spring 2010. The duration of construction would depend on market conditions; full buildout would likely be completed within 20 years from construction commencement.

The proposed project site is approximately 2,138 acres and contains 51.87 acres of waters of the United States. The project, as proposed, would result in direct impacts to approximately 37.74 acres of waters of the United States. These acreages do not include indirect impacts from the proposed action or impacts anticipated to result from offsite infrastructure that may be determined to be required as part of the project through the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process.

**DATES:** A scoping meeting will be held on April 16, 2008 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The scoping meeting will be held at the City of Roseville Civic Center

(Meeting Rooms 1 and 2), 311 Vernon Street, Roseville, CA 95678.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Nancy Haley, (916) 557-7731, e-mail: [SierraVista@usace.army.mil](mailto:SierraVista@usace.army.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on the permit application on or before April 29, 2008. Scoping comments should be submitted within the next 60 days, but may be submitted at any time prior to publication of the Draft EIS. To submit comments on this notice or for questions about the proposed action and the Draft EIS, please contact Nancy Haley, 1325 J Street, (Room 1480), Sacramento, CA 95814-2922. Please refer to Identification Number 200601050 in any correspondence.

The Sierra Vista Landowner Group consists of eleven property owners. Each property owner has filed an application for a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Because these applications are interrelated, the Corps is considering them in a comprehensive and combined manner. The joint purpose of these applications is to construct a large-scale mixed-use, mixed-density master planned community. To comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Corps has decided to prepare an EIS to assess the potential impacts to waters of the United States from these combined applications. No project alternatives have been defined to date. The proposed project and the alternatives to its proposed size, design, and location will be developed through the EIS process.

Perennial streams, including Curry Creek; perennial marshes; seasonal wetland swales; seasonal wetlands, including vernal pools; and ephemeral and intermittent streams are located throughout the proposed project site. Verified wetland delineations show that 51.87 acres of waters of the United States occur on the proposed project site. The proposed project will result in direct impacts to approximately 37.74 acres of waters of the United States and will avoid approximately 14.13 acres of these waters of the United States for construction of the project. These acreages do not include indirect impacts from the proposed action or impacts anticipated to result from offsite infrastructure that may be determined to be required as part of the project through the EIS process.

The proposed site for the Sierra Vista Specific Plan Area is in unincorporated Placer County, CA, immediately west and south of the City of Roseville's

existing city limits. The majority of the proposed project site is within the City of Roseville's Sphere of Influence (SOI), and approximately 447 acres of the proposed project site are situated west of the City's SOI boundary.

The proposed project site is approximately 6 miles west of Interstate 80 and State Route 65, 10 miles northeast of the City of Sacramento, 10 miles east of State Route 99, 5 miles west of downtown Roseville, and 4 miles east of the Sutter County line. The proposed project site is west of Fiddymont Road, north of Baseline Road to approximately 1/2 mile west of the Baseline Road intersection with Watt Avenue, and south of the West Roseville Specific Plan area.

The project site for the EIS does not include one 40-acre parcel situated within the Sierra Vista Specific Plan area. This parcel is owned by a nonparticipating landowner, and the parcel is not included in the proposed action subject to this NEPA process. At such a time as the owner of the 40-acre parcel decides to develop that property, a separate environmental review would be required.

The Corps' public involvement program includes several opportunities to provide oral and written comments on the Sierra Vista Specific Plan project through the EIS drafting process. Affected federal, state, and local agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested private organizations and parties are invited to participate. Significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the EIS include impacts to waters of the United States, including vernal pools and other wetlands; agricultural resources; cultural resources; threatened and endangered species; transportation; air quality; surface water and groundwater; hydrology and water quality; socioeconomic effects; and aesthetics.

Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) have been identified as occupying certain areas on the project site during past surveys. Some of these areas are proposed by the Applicant for impact. The Corps will initiate formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for proposed impacts to vernal pool fairy shrimp. USFWS may also consider adding additional federally listed species to the formal consultation process.

No known historic resources on the project site have been listed on or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). However,

the Corps will initiate consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer under Section 106 of the NHPA as outlined in the Corps' Interim Guidance to 33 CFR Part 325 Appendix C.

It is anticipated that the Draft EIS will be made available to the public between April and October 2009.

Dated: March 28, 2008.

**James A. Porter,**

*Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army, Deputy District Engineer.*

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**BILLING CODE 3710-EH-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### **Notice of Public Hearing for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Homeporting of Additional Surface Ships at Naval Station Mayport, Florida**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

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**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508 the U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on March 28, 2008, which evaluates the potential environmental consequences of homeporting additional surface ships at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Mayport, Florida. A Notice of Intent for this DEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on November 14, 2006 (FR14NO06-25).

A public hearing will be held to provide information and receive oral and written comments on the DEIS. A preferred alternative has not been selected or identified in the DEIS. The Navy seeks comments from the public or interested parties regarding the sufficiency of the DEIS and the choice of a preferred alternative. Federal, state, and local agencies and interested individuals are invited to be present or represented at the hearing.

*Date and Address:* One public hearing will be held. The hearing will be preceded by an open house session to allow interested individuals to review information presented in the DEIS. DON representatives will be available during the open house session to provide clarification as necessary related to the DEIS. The open house session will occur from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.