



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
REGULATORY BRANCH, NORTHERN SECTION
1590 ADAMSON PARKWAY, SUITE 200
MORROW, GEORGIA 30260-1777

October 13, 2004

Regulatory Branch
200407750

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District/State of Georgia

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as follows:

Application Number: 200407750

Applicant: City of LaFayette
P.O. Box 89
LaFayette, Georgia 30728

Agent: QORE Property Sciences, Inc.
Attention: Mr. Bill Phillips
3903 Volunteer Drive, Suite 400
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37416

Location of Proposed Work: The 7-acre site is located adjacent to the 17th hole fairway on the LaFayette Golf Course, adjacent to the Chattooga River, south of the City of LaFayette, Walker County, Georgia.

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers: The applicant, the City of LaFayette, proposes to permanently fill 3.6 acres of wetlands to construct a driving range within the limits of the LaFayette Golf Course. The applicant states there are no other driving ranges near the golf course or within the city. The applicant proposes to fill 3.5 acres of wetlands to create the driving range, to fill 0.1 acre of wetlands for an access road, and to impound an area of wet weather conveyance to extend an existing pond.

The applicant proposes to provide compensatory mitigation by excavating a 3.6-acre area on the margin of the wetland that would be filled and placing additional wetland acreage in the area in an environmental easement so there would be no net loss of wetlands. The applicant believes that flooding from the Chattooga River, rainfall, and stormwater runoff will provide adequate hydrology for maintenance of the created wetlands. The created wetlands would be covered with approximately 4 inches of topsoil removed from the wetlands that would be filled and the area

planted with several species of hydrophytic oaks on 20-foot centers and seeded with native herbaceous wetland species. The wetlands would be monitored for five years with a 75 percent survival rate for the trees.

Prior to the approval of the purchase of wetland and/or stream credits from a commercial mitigation bank as compensatory mitigation, an applicant must demonstrate through documentation to the US Army Corps of Engineers that the option of mitigation on-site and within basin has been thoroughly investigated, with no potential sites located.

BACKGROUND

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the US Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required by an applicant for a Federal Permit to conduct an activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Water Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 25 cents per page. Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing. The application can also be seen in the US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Regulatory Branch, Northern Section, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777.

State-owned Property and Resources: The applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia that may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit, or other appropriate instrument.

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Preservation Division Act of 1966, as amended, we request the Georgia Historical Preservation Division or any other interested party review the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places to determine if the property has or does not have any registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion located on the site or in the area affected by the proposed work. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species: Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we request from the US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, or any other interested party, information on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area.

The applicant performed a systematic survey of the proposed project area for the presence of federally listed endangered and threatened species and their habitat on August 10, 2004, and determined that none are likely to be affected by the project.

Public Interest Review: 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 that 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; among those 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, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Consideration of Public Comments: The US Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American 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 US 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 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.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Regulatory Branch, Northern Section, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Mary Dills of the Regulatory Branch at (678) 422-2727.



Alan Miller
Acting Chief, Northern Section

- 3 Enclosures
1. Site Location Plan
 2. Site Map
 3. Project Plan