



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

JUL 26 2016

Colonel David Ray
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Public Notice (PN) SPK-2015-00513, Placer County, CA

Dear Colonel Ray:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the subject PN dated June 21, 2016. The applicant proposes to construct the Placer Parkway Phase 1 Improvement Project, which would result in the permanent fill of approximately 2.63 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands, in Rocklin, CA.

The following comments were prepared under the authority of, and in accordance with, the provision of the Federal Guidelines (Guidelines) promulgated under section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) at 40 CFR Part 230. Based on the information provided, including an Alternatives Analysis and a Tier I Final Environmental Impact Statement for the entire alignment, the chosen alignment appears to be the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA). However, a mitigation plan has not been submitted, as is required under the Guidelines.

Pursuant to the Guidelines, any indirect impacts that cannot be avoided must be mitigated in addition to the unavoidable direct impacts. There are several intact, large vernal pools and wetland swales which will be partially filled, thereby indirectly impacting the portions that will remain. These remaining features will be altered hydrologically, and will be directly adjacent to the Parkway, thereby being subject to polluted runoff, noise, trash, and air pollution. These are significant indirect impacts and their acreage should be included in the calculation of compensatory mitigation required.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Public Notice. As additional information becomes available on this project, please contact Leana Rosetti of my staff at (415) 972-3070, or rosetti.leana@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Brush".

Jason Brush
Supervisor
Wetlands Office

Cc: Leah Fisher, Corps of Engineers Sacramento Office