



REPORT TO LAW & LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671

STAFF REPORT
October 18, 2011

Honorable Members of the
Law and Legislation Committee

Title: Proposed Resolution Opposing Location of Federal and State Joint Operation
Center in American River Parkway

Location/Council District: Not applicable

Recommendation: Approve and forward to the full City Council a resolution opposing
the location of a proposed federal and state Joint Operations Center in the American
River Parkway near Nimbus Dam.

Contact: Leslie Fritzsche, Downtown Development Manager, 808-5450

Presenters: None

Department: Economic Development

Division: Downtown

Organization No: 18001021

Description/Analysis:

Issue: At the Sept. 20th City Council meeting, Councilmember Cohn brought up the
proposed relocation of the Joint Operations Center (a center to house the State Dept. of
Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) to a site along the American
River Parkway at Nimbus Dam. Councilmember Cohn asked that an item be placed on
the agenda opposing this site.

Following the Council meeting, Economic Development staff was asked to look into this
matter; prepare a resolution opposing the site as suggested by Councilmember Cohn;
and identify any alternative sites in the City that could be explored for the facility. A brief
synopsis of the research revealed the following:

1. The proposed Joint Operations center is a co-location of the State Dept. of Water
Resources/State Water Project and the Federal Central Valley project of the U.S.
Bureau of Reclamation with a combined staffing of 600.
2. The agencies are currently located in various leased space in the Downtown and
on El Camino Avenue with leases due to expire in 2015.
3. The proposed new facility would be about 200,000 sq. ft. in size with a
preference for the agencies to own the facility.

Work to identify a new site dates back to 2004 and involved an extensive look at options focusing on sites that were Federally or State-owned. Three potential sites have been included in a recently released EIR/EIS: the Nimbus Hatchery site, Kilgore-Crawford and Mather on Peter A. McCuen Boulevard. The first two sites would involve new construction and the third would involve expansion of an existing 110,000 sq. ft. building. A fact sheet outlining the project including a map illustrating the sites is included as Attachment 1.

At their meeting of September 20th, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution opposing the Nimbus location for its detrimental effect on the Parkway, adjacent neighbors and the public and its incompatibility with the American River Parkway Plan. The resolution also indicated support in working to site the Center at either of the other two locations. There is benefit in bringing this item forward to Council to assure its consideration prior to close of the Draft EIR/EIS comment period on November 7, 2011. A draft resolution is included herein as Attachment 2.

Due to the fact that a complete EIR/EIS has been prepared and an extensive review of site options has been considered, City staff has not pursued other options within the City. Staff will continue to support the maintenance of these agencies and their employment within the County.

Policy Considerations: The location of the facility within the American River Parkway is in conflict with the policies and purposes embedded in the American River Parkway Plan which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2008 with concurrence from the City Council, State Legislature and the Governor.

Environmental Considerations: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); Under the CEQA guidelines, continuing administrative activities do not constitute a project and are therefore exempt from review. A draft EIS/EIR has been prepared for the Joint Operations Center and is available for public review and comment at www.usbr.gov/mp/cvol/joc.html.

Sustainability: Not Applicable

Commission/Committee Action: Not Applicable

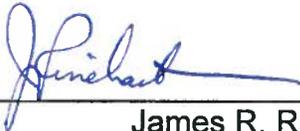
Rationale for Recommendation: The proposed location of the facility within the American River Parkway is in conflict with the policies and purposes embedded in the American River Parkway Plan. The construction of the center would damage the scenic vistas and natural habitat enjoyed in the Upper Sunrise portion of the American River Parkway. In addition, residents of the unincorporated Sacramento County communities of Gold River and Fair Oaks, along with friends of the American River Parkway have expressed great concern about the impact the proposed Center would have on their enjoyment of their own property and the public's enjoyment of the American River Parkway.

Other viable site alternatives within the County have been identified and studied as part of an extensive site selection and EIR/EIX process. Selection of one of the other sites would ensure the continued presence of the California State Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation at a Joint Operations Center within the County thus maintaining approximately 600 jobs.

Financial Considerations: Not Applicable

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not Applicable.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Leslie Fritzsche
Downtown Development Manager

Approved by: 
James R. Rinehart
Director, Economic Development Department

Recommendation Approved:


JOHN F. SHIREY
City Manager

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September 2011

Joint Operations Center Relocation Project

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service (NWS) are currently co-located in a joint operations center (JOC) near Watt Avenue (Figure 1) in Sacramento, California (Existing JOC) that includes the following:

- DWR's Division of Operations and Maintenance, Operations Control Office, State Water Project (SWP) Power and Risk Office, and Division of Flood Management's Offices of Operations and Maintenance and Hydrology and Flood Operations including the State-Federal Flood Operations Center;
- Reclamation's Central Valley Project (CVP) Operations Office; and
- NWS Sacramento Weather Forecast Office (WFO) and California-Nevada River Forecast Center (RFC).

The existing lease expires in June 2015. The existing JOC no longer meets critical requirements of the agencies, including:

- essential service requirements;
- safety and physical security requirements; and
- space for future expansion.

The cost to retrofit the existing JOC and requirements to temporarily vacate the building during remodel make such actions impractical and cost-prohibitive. As a result, the agencies are proposing to construct and operate a new JOC.

Project Description

The proposed new JOC would provide the special needs, essential services, and requisite office space for the combined occupancy of Reclamation, DWR, and NWS. Special needs are defined as two control centers, flood operations center, backup power supplies, primary and backup communication systems, intense computer infrastructure, physical and cyber security systems, and meeting state essential service criteria. The screening

criteria used by Reclamation, DWR, NWS, and the California Department of Government Services (DGS) to establish a new JOC site include the following:

- must be along or adjacent to a major traffic thoroughfare and within a 25 mile commute from downtown Sacramento (DWR headquarters);
- must be outside of the 200-year floodplain;
- must allow line of sight for specialized communications systems and equipment, redundant communication systems, and excellent availability, reliability, and redundancy of power service;
- must be large enough to provide clear space building set-back allowances (100 feet from all off-site vehicle approaches) for physical security;
- must be able to maintain a secure perimeter;
- must have a lower risk of incompatible adjacent development; and
- must have access to alternative transportation, bus service, and/or light rail.

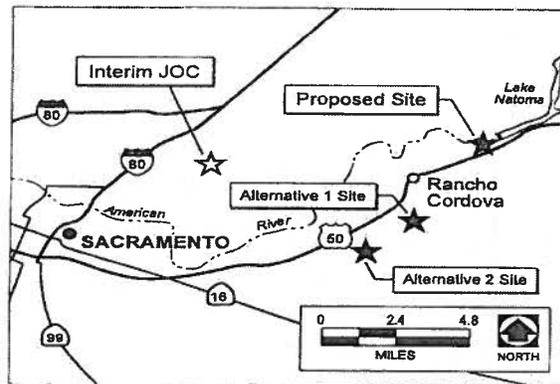
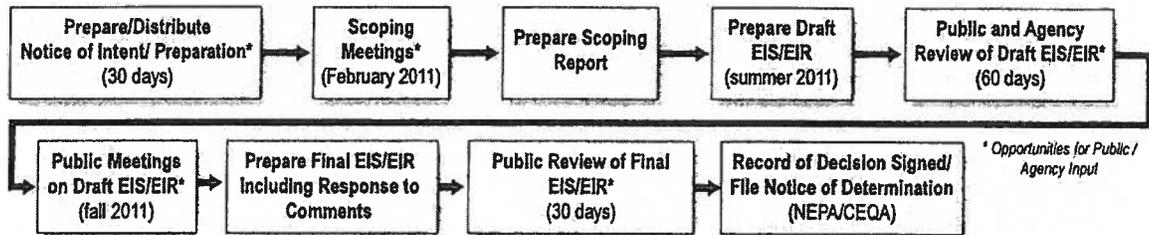


Figure 1: Alternative JOC Sites



Project Characteristics

DGS would be responsible for the design and construction of the new JOC, which needs to accommodate about 600 employees and be about 200,000 square feet. The design and footprint of the new JOC would be completed under contract to DGS. The preliminary design concepts being considered in the EIS/EIR are (1) one three-story building and two one-story buildings or (2) two one-story buildings and two two-story buildings. The new JOC would occupy approximately 16 acres of land, including access roads and parking lots.

Project Alternatives

Following a multiple-year process of identifying and ranking possible sites, three sites have been selected for further review and analysis. These sites—the Proposed site, a commercial site on Kilgore Road, and a commercial site at Mather Park—are shown on Figure 1.

The Proposed site

- 19-acre parcel
- Owned by Reclamation, would be leased to other agencies
- Two JOC configurations for analysis

The Alternative 1 site

- 18-acre parcel
- Privately owned
- Representative commercial site, would require future competitive procurement process
- One JOC configuration for analysis

The Alternative 2 site

- 14.4-acre parcel
- Privately owned
- Partially developed with 110,423 square feet of office space occupying approximately half site
- One JOC configuration for analysis

Environmental Review

The agencies are preparing an environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) that will describe the potentially significant and significant environmental impacts of the proposed project. The full range of environmental issues will be addressed. Mitigation measures will be recommended wherever feasible to reduce potentially significant impacts.

Public Meetings

Two public meetings are being held on September 22, 2011, at the Sacramento State Aquatic Center, Meeting Room 201-204, 1901 Hazel Avenue, to provide comments on the Draft EIS/EIR.

Public Comments

For more information or to provide your comments on the EIS/EIR (by November 7, 2011) please contact:

Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
Attention: Doug Kleinsmith
Fax: (916) 978-5055
E-mail: dkleinsmith@usbr.gov

The Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources will be reviewing all comments provided during this period.

Or visit the project site: www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/joc.html

Resolution No.
Adopted by the Sacramento City Council
**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO
OPPOSING THE LOCATION OF A FEDERAL AND STATE
JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER ON THE AMERICAN RIVER PARKWAY**

WHEREAS, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors first adopted the American River Parkway Plan concept in 1962, with subsequent plans adopted as policy documents that have resulted in a strong guiding document for important land use decisions affecting the Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the most recent version of the American River Parkway Plan was unanimously adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2008 with concurrence from the Sacramento City Council, the California State Legislature and the Governor of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the American River Parkway Plan include providing appropriate access to enhance and preserve the enjoyment of leisure activities while preserving the Parkway's natural resources and mitigating adverse effects of facilities adjacent to the Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the Plan's purpose is, in part, to ensure that uses adjacent to the Parkway are sensitive to the Parkway's naturalistic setting, to protect the Parkway from negative visual impacts, and to encourage a positive relationship with adjacent communities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Joint Operations Center under consideration by the State Department of Water Resources and the United States Bureau of Reclamation is adverse to these and other policies and purposes embodied in the American River Parkway Plan; and

WHEREAS, the residents adjacent to the proposed site in the communities of Gold River and Fair Oaks, along with friends of the American River Parkway, have expressed great concern about the impact the proposed Joint Operations Center would have on their enjoyment of their own property and the public's enjoyment of the American River Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Joint Operations Center would have an environmental impact that would damage the scenic vistas and natural habitat enjoyed in the Upper Sunrise portion of the American River Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sacramento supports keeping the Joint Operations Center and the jobs it provides within Sacramento.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Sacramento City Council:

1. Opposes the locating of the Joint Operations Center at the Nimbus location as being adverse to property owners of neighboring communities and incompatible with the American River Parkway Plan;
2. Supports locating this project and its needed jobs within the County of Sacramento and stands by to assist the California Department of Water Resources and the United States Bureau of Reclamation in working to site the Joint Operations Center at a more compatible location.

Approved and adopted the ____ day of October 2011. I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution Number 2011- ____ was duly adopted by the Sacramento City Council following a roll call vote:

Ayes: _____

Noes: _____

Absent: _____

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk