The applicant proposes to fill approximately 13.9 acres of waters of the U.S., including wetlands, to construct 906 houses, roadways, and other infrastructure. The permittee proposes to preserve 42 acres of wetlands on-site. According to the Biological Opinion issued for the project, approximately 12 acres of wetland habitat would be created and 22.5 acres of wetland habitat preservation would occur off-site. Mitigation is expected to occur within Gill Ranch Open Space Preserve, a 10,400-acre preserve in eastern Sacramento County. The applicant for this project is Pappas Investments.

The Draft EIS includes an evaluation of a reasonable range of alternatives. The Draft EIS considers several on-site and off-site alternatives. Three alternatives were carried through for detailed analysis: (1) The no action alternative, (2) the proposed action (the applicants’ preferred projects), and (3) a reduced footprint alternative. The no action alternative is limited to development in uplands, avoiding all waters of the United States. The reduced development footprint alternative involves less development with fewer impacts to waters of the United States.

Comment on the Draft EIS must be submitted to the Corps by August 15, 2010. The public and affected Federal, State, and local agencies, Native American Tribes, and other organizations and parties are invited to comment. Electronic copies of the Draft EIS may be found on the Corps’ Web site at http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/organizations/cespk-co/regulatory/EISs/EIS-index.html. A hard copy of the Draft EIS will be available for review at the Corps office during normal business hours. To view the hard copy, please contact Michael Jewell to schedule a time to visit the Corps office.

The Corps will also hold two public meetings for the Draft EIS. The meetings will be held on July 27, 2010, with the first from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. and the second from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The location of the meetings is at the Rancho Cordova City Hall, 2729 Prospect Park Drive, American River Room—South, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Interested parties can provide oral and written comments at these meetings.

In addition to notices in the Federal Register, the Corps will issue public notices advising interested parties of the availability of the Draft EIS and Final EIS. Interested parties may register for the Corps’ public notices at: http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/organizations/cespk-co/regulatory/pnlist.html.