

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Omaha District

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Application No:** 200480126  
**Project:** Washington Street Widening  
**Applicant:** City of Thornton  
**Waterway:** Big Dry Creek and Adjacent Wetlands  
**Issue Date:** April 12, 2004  
**Expiration Date:** May 12, 2004

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**REPLY TO:**

Denver Regulatory Office  
9307 South Wadsworth Blvd  
Littleton, CO 80123-6901  
FAX (303) 979-0602

**30 DAY NOTICE**

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### **PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SECTION 404 PERMIT APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

The District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Omaha, Nebraska is evaluating a Department of the Army permit application from the **City of Thornton, 9500 Civic Center Drive, Thornton, Colorado, 80229**. Permits are issued under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404), which regulates the placement of dredged, or fill material in the nation's waters.

#### **Summary**

The applicant is requesting authorization to excavate and place fill material into wetlands associated with Big Dry Creek to widen a portion of Washington Street between E. 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue and E. 152<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

#### **Location**

The project is located between E. 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue and E. 152<sup>nd</sup> Avenue along Washington Street in the City of Thornton, in Sections 22 and 23, Township 1 South, Range 68 West, in Adams County, Colorado.

#### **Existing Conditions**

Washington Street north of 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue is currently a two-lane asphalt roadway with little or no shoulder area. Washington Street south of 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been previously widened to a four-lane road with a raised center median and auxiliary turn lanes at intersections.

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For both safety and capacity reasons, the City of Thornton has decided to widen Washington Street to five lanes from 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 152<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Existing Washington Street is centered in the City's right-of-way (ROW), therefore the proposed widening has been designed to widen equally to both the east and west sides in order to minimize ROW acquisition requirements and impacts to existing wetlands.

### **Description of Work**

The City of Thornton proposes to expand Washington Street from two lanes to four or five lanes along its current north-south alignment between 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue and approximately 152<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The road will be widened with 4:1 slopes down to the existing terrain. No impacts are expected to the existing bridge or Big Dry Creek.

### **Jurisdiction**

Big Dry Creek and the associated wetlands are jurisdictional waters of the US because Big Dry Creek flows to the South Platte River.

### **Purpose**

For purposes of definition under Section 404, the basic project purpose is to widen Washington Street from 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 152<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The overall project purpose is to enhance a roadway that is projected to receive more traffic in the future with much growth projected along and north of this project area as well as address traffic safety issues associated with this increased use.

### **Impacts and Mitigation**

The project is expected to permanently impact approximately 1.83 acres of wetlands, and temporarily impact approximately 0.46 acres of wetlands. The City of Thornton proposes to mitigate project impacts to waters of the US by purchasing 1.83 acres of wetland mitigation credits at the Middle South Platte Mitigation Bank in Weld County.

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The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, WQCD-GWPS-B2, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, Colorado 80222-1530, will review the proposed project for state certification in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the State's opinion that the operations undertaken by the applicant will not result in a violation of applicable water quality standards. For further information, please contact the Colorado Water Quality Control Division at (303) 692-3500.

In compliance with the Endangered Species Act, a preliminary determination has been made that the described work will not affect species designated as threatened or endangered or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation of this activity, comments are solicited from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

The Omaha District will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. We will evaluate input by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice, and we may conduct or require a reconnaissance survey of the permit area or check for unknown historic properties, if warranted.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts 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 benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against the 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, wetlands, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the work on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 C.F.R. Part 230).

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting written comments from the public; Federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian 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 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 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.

Comments, both favorable and unfavorable, will be accepted, made a part of the record and will receive full consideration in subsequent actions on this application. Any agency or individual having an objection to the work should identify it as an objection with clear and specific reasons. All replies to the public notice should be sent to the **U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Denver Regulatory Office, 9307 South Wadsworth Blvd, Littleton, Colorado 80123-6901**. For additional information please contact **Mr. Scott Franklin at (303) 979-4120 or visit the Denver Regulatory Office web site at:**

**<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-tl/pn/tlpublicnotices.html>**

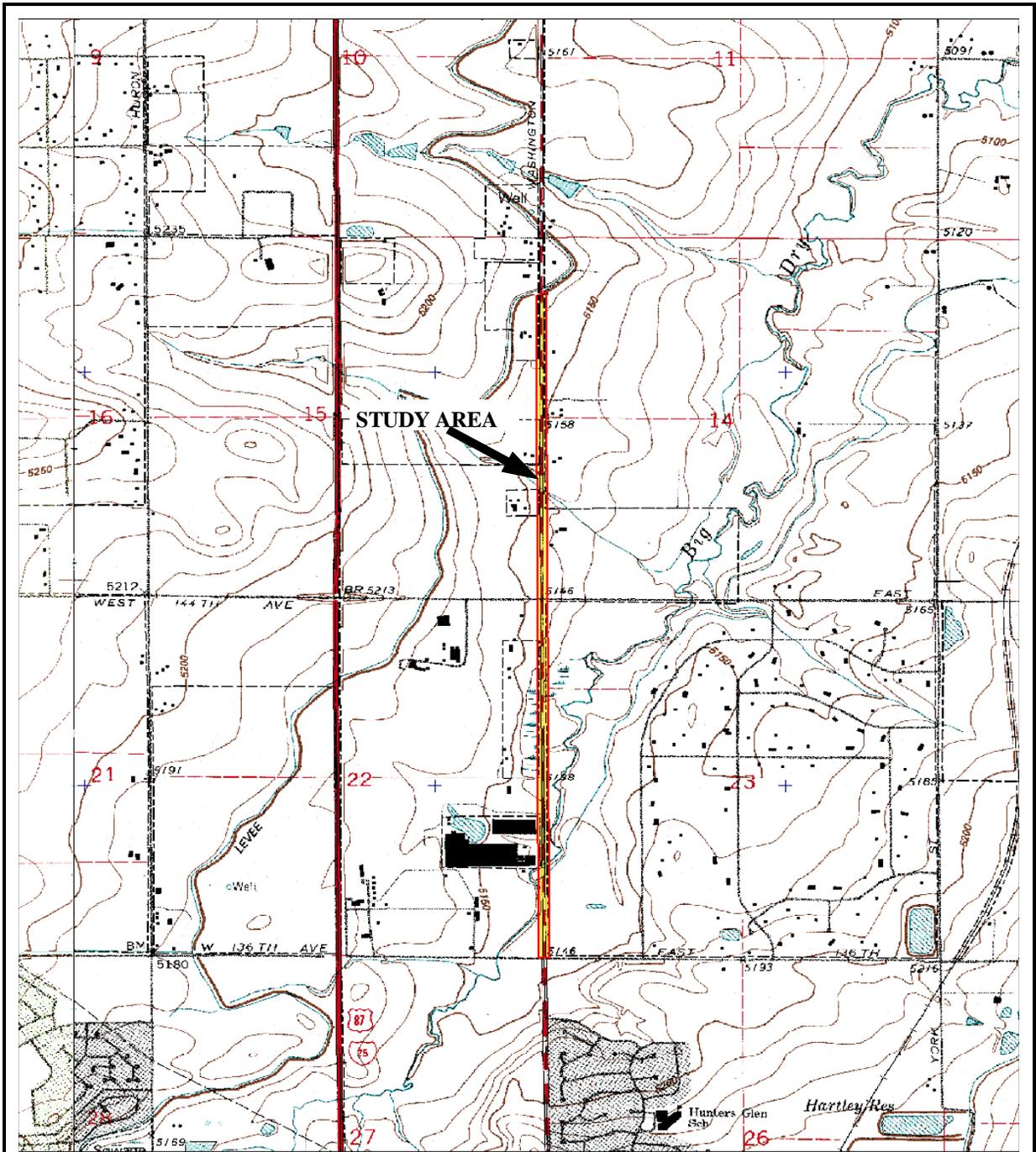
The District Engineer will consider requests for holding a public hearing, for the purpose of gathering additional information. Before the expiration date of this notice, anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held. Requests for a public hearing should state specifically the reasons for holding a public hearing, and what additional information would be obtained. Should the District Engineer decide that additional information is required and a public hearing should be

held, interested parties will be notified of the date, time and location.

**Comments received after the close of business on the expiration date of this public notice will not be considered.**

### Project Location Maps





**SMITH  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
INC.**

1001 West 120th Avenue, Suite 210  
Westminster, CO 80234  
720-887-4928  
720-887-4680 (fax)

## Washington Street Widening

Eastlake, CO  
Quadrangle

Scale: 1 inch = 2,200 ft  
(Approximate)



## Figure I - Project Area

Prepared for the  
City of Thornton

March 2003

Map © DeLorme TopoQuads 1999