

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND
ADOPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**SPK-2022-00476 - Saratoga Springs North Marina Harbor, Utah County, UT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District**

**U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6**

Summary

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) prepared this document in compliance with Executive Order 14154, *Unleashing American Energy* (Jan. 20, 2025), and the Presidential Memorandum, *Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity* (Jan. 21, 2025). These directives require the Department to strictly adhere to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq. and its implementing regulations. Further, Executive Order 14154 and the January 2025 Memorandum expressly repeal Executive Orders 12898 (Feb. 11, 1994) and 14096 (Apr. 21, 2023); therefore, compliance with those repealed orders is legally impossible. The Service confirms that it has fully complied with NEPA requirements, including the Department's implementing regulations at 43 C.F.R. Part 46 and Part 516 of the Departmental Manual, consistent with the President's January 2025 directives as they apply to the Sport Fish Restoration Grants (SFR) Program.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) has submitted a grant application request for the Utah MBA Saratoga North Marina Improvements Project (F25AF02146; F-261-B-1) to the Service's Office of Conservation Investment (OCI) for review and approval to receive federal grant funds through the SFR Program. The Service's decision to approve the proposed grant application and fund construction and installation improvements at the Saratoga North Marina on Utah Lake constitutes a federal action subject to the requirement of the NEPA for preparation of an EA. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has analyzed the impacts of the actions that would be funded by the grant. A public notice was published by the USACE on February 20, 2024, with a comment period from February 20, 2024 through March 20, 2024. Specific agencies and individuals were contacted via email and certified mail on February 21, 2024. The USACE initiated coordination with the Confederated Tribes of Goshute Reservation, Ute Indian Tribe, and the Skull Valley Band of Goshute Tribe on February 16, 2024.

A permit application package and supporting documentation was submitted to the USACE for review. In response, the USACE prepared and published an Environmental Assessment (EA), along with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines Evaluation, Public Interest Review, and Statement of Findings for the subject application, titled "Department of the Army Environmental Assessment and Statement of Findings" (File No. SPK-2022-00476). This EA was developed in compliance with the NEPA to inform agency decision-making and determine whether preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was necessary. The Service decided to adopt the EA and implement its findings, concluding that it adequately analyzes the impact of the proposed action.

Proposed Action

To construct a jetty and install a dock at a new boater access site at the Saratoga North Marina, located at the north end of Utah Lake in Utah County. The purpose of the project is to improve and expand water-related access by enhancing boating access on the western shoreline of Utah Lake to meet growing recreational demand due to population increases. The work on the jetty and the installation of the floating dock and gangway will be completed through contracts.

- Construct a jetty for wave attenuation and ramp protection. The jetty construction is composed of an 800-ft jetty (40–55 ft wide, with a 12-ft rock trail and lighting);
- Concrete boat ramp (60 ft wide × 80 ft long);
- Install a 40-foot by 8-foot floating dock; and
- Install a 20-foot by 8-foot gangway to improve boat launching and retrieval.

Alternatives Considered and Analyzed

The alternatives analysis considered six options. Alternative 1 – No Build (No Action) would leave the marina unimproved, retain unauthorized dredging and wetland fill from 2023, and provide no compensatory mitigation, meaning the purpose of improving recreational access would not be met. Alternative 2 – Expand South Marina proposed doubling the size of the existing South Marina on Utah Lake’s western shoreline, would result in approximately eight acres of wetland loss, making it environmentally more damaging and therefore not practicable. Alternative 3 – North Marina Improvement Project, Full Build included all proposed facilities—jetty, boat ramp, beach, trails, and parking—and would cause 2.94 acres of aquatic resource impacts, which is greater than the preferred option. Alternative 4 – North Marina Harbor Improvement Project, Reduced Footprint (Preferred) was selected as the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative. This option reconfigured parking and trails to avoid northern wetlands, reducing total impacts to 2.30 acres (1.81 acres of lakebed and 0.49-acre of wetland) while still meeting project needs. Alternative 5 – Off-site 10-Acre Parcel considered relocating the marina to a 10.11-acre parcel west of the existing site, but was dismissed because the property is privately owned, not for sale, dominated by rare, forested wetlands, and would require two jetties, resulting in over eight acres of impacts. Alternative 6 – Southern Saratoga Springs Property evaluated an off-site option on a 37.6-acre parcel at the southern end of Saratoga Springs, but was rejected because it is not for sale, would still require two jetties, and would impact about three acres of aquatic resources, while the area is already served by the South Marina. After considering cost, logistics, and environmental consequences, the USACE determined that Alternative 4 best meets the project purpose and minimizes harm, making it the selected action under Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Other alternatives, such as expanding the South Marina or using other parcels, were rejected due to higher impacts or impracticality.

Effects of the Selected Action

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 4 – North Marina Harbor Improvement Project, Reduced Footprint. Alternative 4 effects will permanently impact 1.81 acres of lakebed and 0.49-acre of wetland. However, these losses will be offset through compensatory mitigation (re-establishment and rehabilitation of wetlands totaling 13.48 acres). Short-term turbidity and water quality effects during construction are expected, these impacts will be minimized through best management practices and offset by compensatory wetland mitigation and conservation measures, resulting in no significant impact under NEPA.

Endangered Species Act

The analysis determined that the project “may affect and is likely to adversely affect” the federally listed June sucker (*Chasmistes liorus*), an endemic species of Utah Lake. The project involves permanent loss of 1.81 acres of lakebed habitat, the USACE initiated informal consultation with the Service on February 28, 2024. The Service issued a Biological Opinion on May 1, 2024, which included reasonable and prudent measures and mandatory terms and conditions for incidental take authorization. To minimize impacts, the applicant must implement conservation measures such as sediment curtains and erosion control fencing during construction and pay \$114,750 to the June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program (JSRIP) to offset habitat loss. The USACE permit explicitly states that it does not authorize take of an endangered species; compliance with all terms and conditions of the Biological Opinion is required.

National Historic Preservation Act

The analysis concluded that the project would have “no effect” on historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The USACE determined that Site 42UT2118 (North Marina) is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and no other historic properties were identified within the permit area. To comply with the NHPA, the USACE initiated consultation with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) by sending a review and comment request on August 26, 2025, and SHPO concurred with the USACE’s determination of “no effect” on September 2, 2025. In addition, the USACE initiated coordination with Tribes on February 16, 2024, and no comments were received. Based on these findings, the USACE concluded that it has fulfilled its responsibilities under Section 106 of the NHPA.

Decision

The Service has reviewed the EA and Statement of Findings prepared by the USACE, Sacramento District, for the Saratoga Springs North Marina Improvement Project (File No. SPK-2022-00476), dated November 7, 2025, and has determined to adopt the EA and implement its findings. The action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment under the meaning of section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (as amended). As such, an EIS is not required. The Service finds that all reasonable alternatives were considered in the evaluation of the proposed project and that this project complies with the intent of the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988 "Floodplain Management" and Executive Order 11990 "Protection of Wetlands." Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.; the action is consistent with applicable laws and policies. The EA is on file at the Office of Conservation Investment, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado, 80225 and is available upon request.

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Date