



US Army Corps  
of Engineers.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Regulatory Branch  
211 Main Street  
San Francisco, Ca. 94105-1905

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COMMENT BY: March 1, 1993

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## Proposed Change in Corps Policy on Alcatraz Dredged Material Disposal Site Management

1. The purpose of this Public Notice is to notify the general public, dredging community, and public agencies of a proposed change in policy regarding the management of the Alcatraz Dredged Material Disposal Site (DMDS, SF-11). The San Francisco District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) manages the use of the DMDS for disposal of dredged material in San Francisco Bay. The Alcatraz DMDS is a dispersive site defined as a circular area of radius 1000 feet with its center located at latitude 37°49'17"N; longitude 122°25'23"W. The Corps San Francisco District maintains the Congressionally authorized Federal navigation channels in San Francisco Bay. The Corps is also responsible for regulating the disposal of dredged and fill material into waters of the United States in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 USC 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344).

2. Existing maximum volume targets have been determined inadequate to maintain the site for continued dredged material disposal. Due to the disposal of high volumes of sediment within some 30-day periods, the water depth of the Alcatraz DMDS has decreased and the site retention capacity has been reduced quickly. Therefore, the Corps proposes the following criteria for dredged material disposal at Alcatraz DMDS:

A. 30-day targets for October-April shall be reduced from 1,000,000 cubic yards to 400,000 cubic yards. The existing limits for May-September of 300,000 cubic yards shall remain the same. ( All yardage is in-situ. )

B. No more than 150,000 cubic yards of the total amount discharged in any given 30 day period shall be material dredged with a clamshell dredge. (This limit does not apply if the material is slurried prior to discharge.)

C. From February-May, disposal priority is reserved for the dredging of federal channels maintained by the Corps. Permitted dredging will be allowed if the 30-day targets described above are not exceeded.

D. New permit requests for dredging utilizing Alcatraz DMDS will be evaluated on the above criteria in addition to the present permit requirements. The permit request shall also contain the anticipated month(s) that dredging is to take place and the anticipated dredging method. Any variance from that specific time period or from the method of dredging will require 90-day notification and written permission.

E. Existing permitted dredging operations which dispose of material at Alcatraz DMDS should also submit their anticipated dredging periods, the method of dredging, and quantity estimates by 1 March 1993, to allow the Corps to evaluate proposed disposal quantities and to notify permittees of any rescheduling of their operations.

3. Additionally, in order to ease the burden of dredged material disposal at Alcatraz DMDS, the Corps is considering allowing dredging projects with quantities less than 100,000 cubic yards to dispose at San Pablo Bay DMDS (SF-10) for dredging projects originating downstream of that disposal site, provided the dredged material is determined to be suitable for disposal at the site. However, no more than a total of 50,000 cubic yards shall be allowed per month at SF-10. Our present policy requiring dredging projects to dispose of dredged material at the downstream site has added a greater burden at the Alcatraz DMDS. Allowing greater use of SF-10 for small amounts of dredged material could decrease the cost of disposal for small projects and would reduce the disposal impacts at the Alcatraz DMDS. The Corps will continue to monitor SF-10 and may require these projects to dispose at Alcatraz DMDS if the analysis of SF-10 disposal site so indicates.

4. These guidelines will be effective for a period of one year. After that period they may be adjusted based on the results of an engineering analysis of the Alcatraz DMDS executed by the San Francisco District. In order to enforce this management practice, the San Francisco District Regulatory Branch will require 90-day advanced notification of Corps permitted dredging activity in order to schedule disposal episodes. If notification is not received 90 days in advance, dredging operations may not be authorized to commence until the Corps has determined the dredging activity fits within the allowances stated above. If conflicts arise concerning scheduling at the Alcatraz DMDS, the Corps will make a decision based on a first come, first serve basis. The earliest authorized projects will be given priority. Monthly schedules and quantity estimates will be available for review.

5. Interested parties may submit in writing any comments concerning this proposed change in Alcatraz DMDS management. Comments should include the respondent's name, the number, and the date of this notice and should be forwarded so as to reach this office within the comment period specified on page one of this notice. Comments should be sent to Lieutenant Colonel Leonard E. Cardoza, District Engineer, Attention: Regulatory Branch. Additional details may be obtained by contacting Wade Eakle (telephone 415-744-3325 Ext. 222) of our Regulatory Branch.