

US Army Corps
of Engineers

PUBLIC NOTICE

NUMBER: 24221N (Supplemental) DATE: January 18, 2001
RESPONSE REQUIRED BY: February 2, 2001

Regulatory Branch
333 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-2197

PERMIT MANAGER: David A. Ammerman

PHONE: 707-443-0855 dammerman@spd.usace.army.mil

1. INTRODUCTION: This is a Supplemental Public Notice for the proposed maintenance dredging of Crescent City Harbor, at 101 Citizens Dock Road, in Crescent City, Del Norte County, California. The previous Public Notice for the above project was issued on November 9, 2000. The Crescent City Harbor District (herein referred to as the "Harbor District") applied for a Department of the Army permit to maintenance dredge, annually over a ten year period, approximately 100,000 cubic yards (CY) of harbor sediment from the Inner Boat Dock, Recreational Moorage, and Inner Channel (including the Federal portion of the Inner Channel). The work would be accomplished mostly by hydraulic dredge and, in part, by clamshell dredge.

The agent for the Harbor District, RWP Dredging Management (Contact: Mr. Richard W. Parsons at 805-644-9759), has informed the Corps of Engineers (Corps) of changes that should be made in the Public Notice project description and other portions of the Public Notice that need clarification. We have reviewed Mr. Parson's request and we have made the following changes (changes are underlined)(unless otherwise indicated, all other text from the previous Public Notice of November 9,2000, is retained and is still applicable):

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Harbor District proposes to dispose of dredge material at both the existing upland disposal basin and aquatic disposal at the Whaler Island beach site. The permit application for this project would therefore be processed under both the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and, because of the aquatic disposal at Whaler Island, Section 404 of the Clean

Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). The previous Corps permit for this project (Permit No. 17752N13, issued on May 5, 1989), authorized disposal of dredge material at both the upland disposal site and aquatic disposal at Whaler Island. Both the upland disposal basin and the Whaler Island aquatic disposal site are shown on Sheet 2 of 3 of this Notice. Sediments dredged from Areas 2 (south part of Inner Boat Docks), 4 (basin just south of Inner Boat Docks), and 5 (Recreational Moorage and Boat Ramp) would be disposed at the upland disposal basin located immediately north of the Inner Boat Docks. Sediments dredged from Area 3 would be disposed at the Whaler Island beach site (Sheet 2 of 3). The Corps has determined that the sediments in Area 3 are similar to and compatible with the beach substrate at Whaler Island beach area (See section under "Substrate" below).

The applicant's agent states the upland disposal site would be utilized on a year-round basis subject to its capacity limitations and dredging needs. The surfzone and nearshore waters of the Whaler Island disposal site would be utilized between August 1 and December 31 for the deposition of material from Area 3.

The work window for the dredging with upland disposal would be year-round. The work window for the dredging with aquatic disposal at Whaler Island would be between August 1 and December 31.

3. STATE APPROVALS: Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1341), an applicant for a Corps permit must obtain a State

water quality certification or waiver before a Corps permit may be issued. The applicant's agent has provided the Corps with evidence that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), North Coast Region has completed its review of the above project, as revised, and the RWQCB has issued new Waste Discharge Requirements through Order No. RI-2000-59 on August 25, 2000. The Waste Discharge Requirements referenced above are considered by RWQCB to be equivalent to Section 401 Water Quality Certification, and therefore, complies with Corps permit requirements.

Those parties concerned with any water quality issues that may be associated with this project should write to the Executive Officer, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403, by the close of the comment period of this supplemental notice.

The project is in the jurisdictional purview of the California Coastal Commission (CCC). The applicant will be required to obtain a permit from CCC after the RWQCB has made a determination of water quality certification for this project.

4. PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: The Corps of Engineers has assessed the environmental impacts of the action proposed in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190), and pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations, 40 CFR 1500-1508, and Corps of Engineers' Regulations, 33 CFR 230 and 325, Appendix B. Unless otherwise stated, the Preliminary Environmental Assessment describes only the impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) resulting from activities within the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers.

The Preliminary Environmental Assessment resulted in the following findings:

a. IMPACTS ON THE AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM

(1) PHYSICAL/CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND ANTICIPATED CHANGES

Substrate - Dredged material from Area 3 would be transported from the hydraulic dredge to the Whaler Island aquatic disposal site by pipeline. The exact disposal area is within the surf zone and nearshore areas adjacent to the groin of Whaler Island (See Sheet 2 of 3). This site and the procedure for disposal were used during the 1989 to 1999 dredging episodes. The quantity of material disposed at Whaler Island during the ten year period of 1989 to 1999 is unknown as the Harbor District does not have written record of the volume disposed during that time period.

Disposal of dredged material at Whaler Island would have a minor, short-term impact on the surf zone and nearshore substrate due to the compatibility of the dredged material and disposal area substrate. Also the dynamics of tidal and wave action at this site would tend to keep the substrate elevations at Whaler Island relatively neutral, almost equal scouring and deposition.

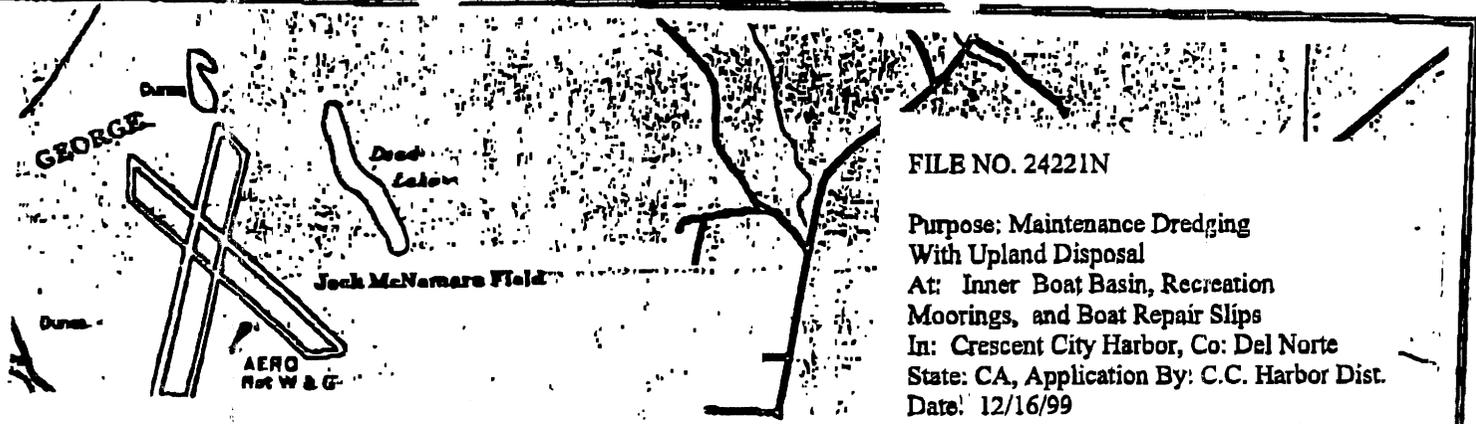
Erosion/Sedimentation Rate - There would be minor sedimentation during disposal of dredged material at Whaler Island. Turbidity and sedimentation would occur as the dredged material is forced out of the pipeline and onto the beach.

Water Quality - Dredged material from Area 3, intended for aquatic disposal at Whaler Island, was sampled by AET, Inc. (AET Inc. 1999). The sampling indicated the sediments from Area 3 are generally fine sand with little organic material and shell hash (fragments of molluscs or other marine shelled invertebrates mixed with sand or silt). The sediments at Whaler Island are similar in content. There were no significant levels of contaminants in the Area 3 sediments that would be adverse to water quality at Whaler Island. There would be minor, short-term, adverse impacts to water quality at Whaler Island due to the turbidity and sedimentation associated with the disposal activity by pipeline.

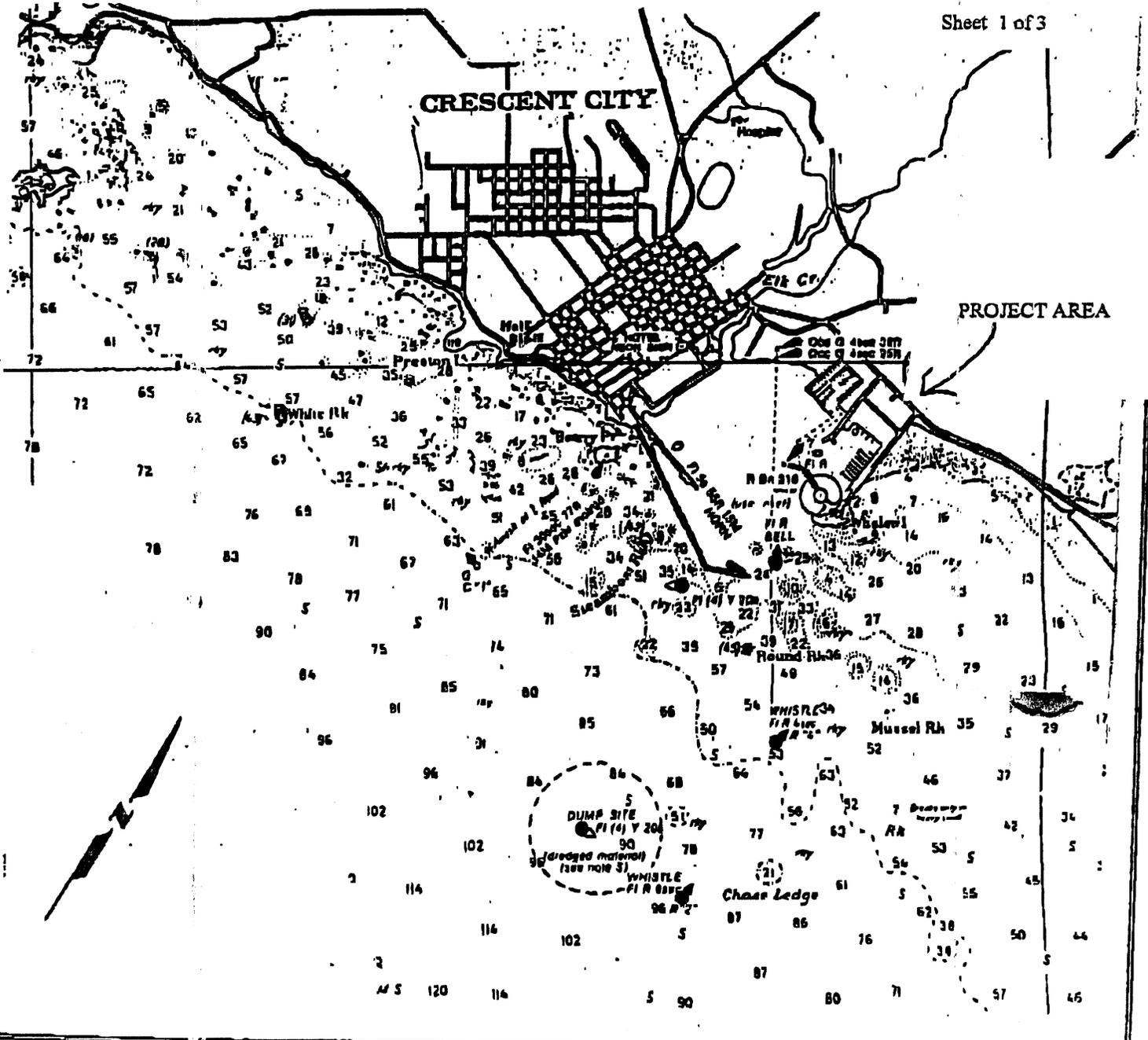
(2) BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND ANTICIPATED CHANGES

Habitat for Fish, Other Aquatic Organisms, and Wildlife - Although dredging with upland disposal would be a year-round activity and dredging with aquatic disposal at Whaler Island would occur between August 1 and December 31, there would be minor, short-term, adverse impacts to a variety of fish that enter the harbor including Pacific herring, rockfish, lingcod and others. Due to the mobility of these species and that most fish species forage and swim in areas away from the developed portions of the harbor, the impact of dredging and aquatic disposal would be minor.

5. SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS: Interested parties may submit in writing any comments concerning this activity. Comments should include the applicant's name, the number, and the date of this notice and should be sent forwarded so as to reach the Eureka Office within the comment period specified on page one of this notice. Comments should be sent to the Eureka Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 4863, Eureka, California 95502. It is Corps policy to forward any such comments which include objections to the applicant for resolution or rebuttal. Any person may also request, in writing, within the comment period of this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Additional details may be obtained by contacting the applicant whose address is indicated in the first paragraph of this notice, or by contacting David Ammerman of our Eureka Office at telephone 707-443-0855 or by e-mail at dammerman@spd.usace.army.mil. Details on any changes of a minor nature which are made in the final permit action will be provided on request.



Sheet 1 of 3



**VICINITY MAP OF PROPOSED DREDGING AREA
Crescent City, California**

**PLATE
1**

PROJECT NUMBER 0839-01

05-20-99

PLATE 1



FILE NO. 24221N

Purpose: Maintenance Dredging
 With Upland Disposal
 At: Inner Boal Basin, Recreation
 Moorings, and Boat Repair Slips
 In: Crescent City Harbor, Co: Del Norte
 State: CA, Application By: C.C. Harbor Dist.
 Date: 12/16/99

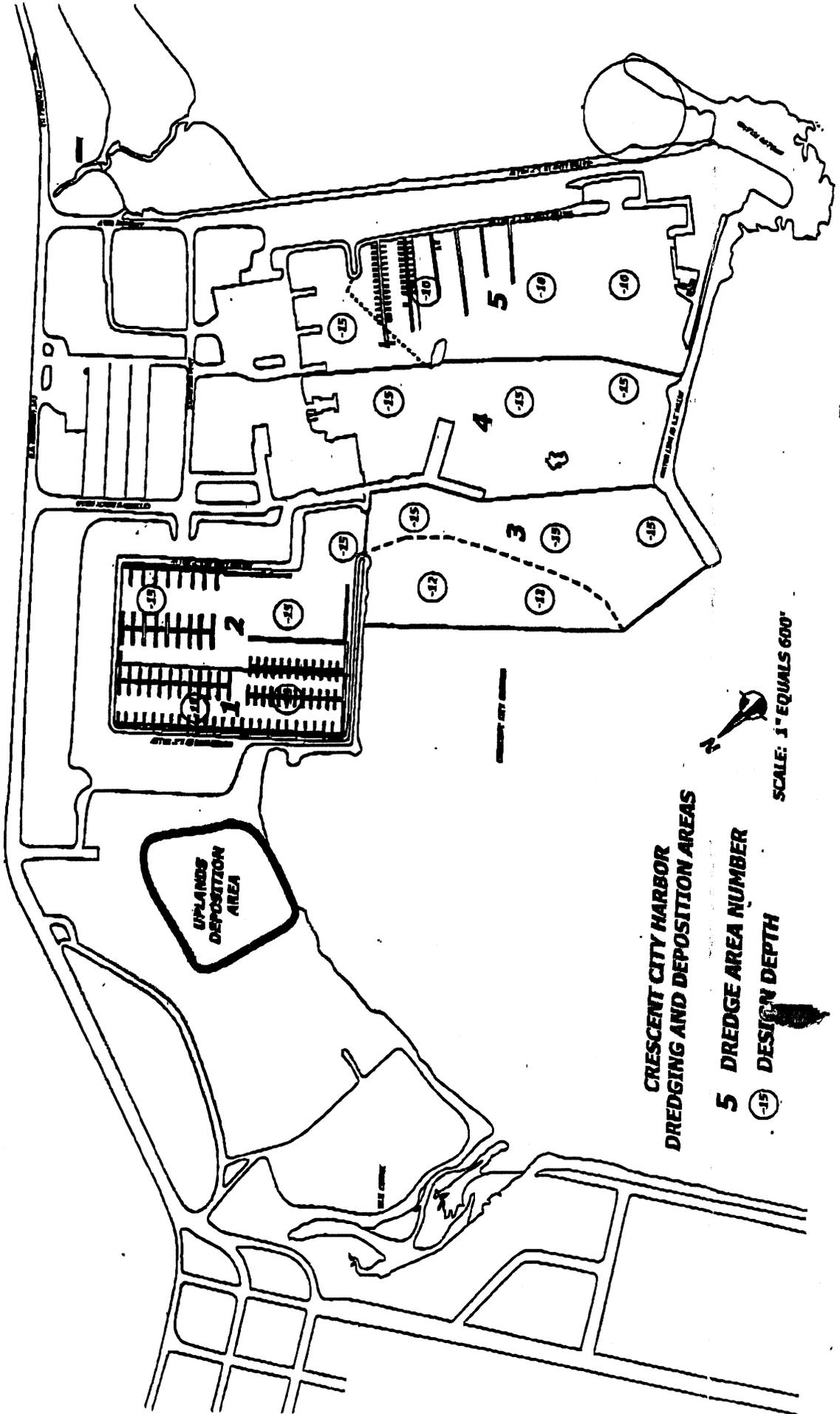


Table 2.
Sediment Grain Sizes
Crescent City Harbor Investigation
August 1999

Grain Size	Harbor									
	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Beach/Nearshore	Area 8	Area 9	
Wood	17.32%	1.77%	6.46%	1.89%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Gravel	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Sand	52.41%	88.88%	51.71%	56.61%	98.57%	98.74%	97.37%	97.37%	99.19%	99.19%
Silt	20.81%	6.44%	28.27%	30.77%	0.64%	0.52%	1.44%	1.44%	0.66%	0.66%
Clay	9.47%	2.92%	13.57%	10.74%	0.74%	0.69%	0.70%	0.70%	0.66%	0.15%
Percent Retained on 200 Sieve	69.73	90.64	58.16	58.50	98.57	98.79	97.86	97.86	99.19	99.19

FILE NO. 24221N

Purpose: Maintenance Dredging
 With Upland Disposal
 At: Inner Boat Basin, Recreation
 Moorings, and Boat Repair Slips
 In: Crescent City Harbor, Co: Del Norte
 State: CA, Application By: C.C. Harbor Dist.
 Date: 12/16/99

Sheet 3 of 3