



US Army Corps
of Engineers

SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT

PUBLIC NOTICE

NUMBER: 27707S Dredging – Port of Redwood City

DATE: December 22, 2003

RESPONSE REQUIRED BY: January 21, 2004

Regulatory Branch
333 Market Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-2197

PERMIT MANAGER: Clyde Davis

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1. INTRODUCTION: The Port of Redwood City (through its agent, M.H. Cheney, 6630 Heartwood Drive, Oakland, California, 94611, 510-339-0665) has applied for a ten-year Department of the Army permit to conduct routine berth maintenance dredging on an as needed basis. The purpose of the proposed dredging is to maintain safe, operational depths at the Port's berths. This application is being processed pursuant to the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: As shown in the attached drawings, the applicant plans to remove up to 150,000 cubic yards (cy) of sediment over the next ten years from the approximately 4.5-acre dredge site, with the first episode removing 13,250 cy from the four Berths of the port. Existing depths in the berth areas range from -25 feet MLLW (mean lower low water) near the wharf to -32 feet MLLW at the Corps maintained channel. The design depth for the area is -34 feet MLLW plus an additional 1-foot overdredge allowance. The material would be removed using a clamshell and barged to the Alcatraz Disposal Site (SF-11) or another acceptable site.

Prior to each dredging episode, the sediments-to-be-dredged will be sampled and tested for agency review and determination of suitability for aquatic disposal.

3. COMPLIANCE WITH VARIOUS FEDERAL LAWS:

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA): The Corps will assess the environmental impacts of the proposed action in accordance with the

requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4371 et. seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations, 40 CFR 1500-1508, and Corps' Regulations, 33 CFR 230 and 325, Appendix B. Unless otherwise stated, the Environmental Assessment will describe only the impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) resulting from activities within the Corps' jurisdiction. The documents used in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment will be on file with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, Regulatory Branch, 333 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105-2197.

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA): Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) if a Corps permitted project may adversely affect any Federally listed threatened or endangered species or its designated critical habitat. Species and critical habitat currently identified as potentially impacted by the proposed project include evolutionarily significant units (ESU) of Central California populations of steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) were federally listed as threatened in August 1997. The ESU includes all naturally spawned populations of steelhead (and their progeny) in California streams from the Russian River to Aptos Creek, and the drainages of San Francisco and San Pablo Bays eastward to the Napa River (inclusive), excluding the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Basin. The dredging project and disposal site are located within designated critical habitat for Central California Coast ESU steelhead (65 FR 7764). If a permit is issued for this proposed

project it will contain a condition that dredging is allowed only between June 1 and November 30 without prior consultation and with approval from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and the Corps of Engineers.

Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act: This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposal would impact approximately 4.5 acres and 45.9 acres at the disposal site of EFH utilized by various species of Pacific Groundfish, Coastal Pelagics, and Pacific Coast Salmon. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or Federally managed fisheries in California waters. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NOAA Fisheries.

Clean Water Act of 1972 (CWA):

a. Water Quality: Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1341), an applicant for a Corps permit must first obtain a State water quality certification before a Corps permit may be issued. The applicant has provided the Corps with evidence that he has submitted a valid request for State water quality certification to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. No Corps permit will be granted until the applicant obtains the required water quality certification. The Corps may assume a waiver of water quality certification if the State fails or refuses to act on a valid request for certification within 60 days after the receipt of a valid request, unless the District Engineer determines a shorter or longer period is reasonable for the State to act.

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, San Francisco Bay Region, 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, California 94612 by the close of the comment period of this Public Notice.

b. Alternatives: Evaluation of this proposed activity's impact includes application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1344(b)). The applicant has submitted an Analysis of Alternatives for the project and it will be reviewed for compliance with the guidelines. The applicant states that there are no practicable alternatives for his project. An evaluation has been made by this office under the guidelines and it was determined that the proposed project is water or wetland dependent.

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA): Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act requires the applicant to certify that the proposed project will comply with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program, if applicable. No Corps permit will be issued until the State has concurred with the applicant's certification. Coastal development issues should be directed to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), 50 California Street, Suite 2600, San Francisco, California 94111.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA): Based on a review of survey data on file with various City, State and Federal agencies, no historic or archeological resources are known to occur in the project vicinity. If unrecorded resources are discovered during construction of the project, operations will be suspended until the Corps completes consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

4. PUBLIC INTEREST EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impact, 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 that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposed activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including its cumulative effects. Among those factors are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

5. CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS: The Corps of Engineers is soliciting 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 to determine whether to issue, 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 the 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 in the proposed activity.

6. SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS: Interested parties may submit, in writing, any comments concerning this activity. Comments should include the applicant's name and the number and the date of this Public Notice, and should be forwarded so as to reach this office within the comment period specified on Page 1. Comments should be sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, Regulatory Branch, 333 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105-2197. It is the Corps' policy to forward any such comments that include objections to the applicant for resolution or rebuttal. Any person may also request, in writing, within the comment period of this Public 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 name and address are indicated in the first paragraph of this Public Notice or by contacting Clyde Davis of our office at telephone 415-977-8449 or E-mail: cdavis@spd.usace.army.mil. Details on any changes of a minor nature which are made in the final permit action will be provided upon request.