



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT

# PUBLIC NOTICE

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

NUMBER: 28045S Dredging – Richmond Yacht Harbor  
DATE: February 4, 2004  
RESPONSE REQUIRED BY: March 4, 2004

PERMIT MANAGER: Margaret Chang

PHONE: (415) 977-8465; E-mail: Margaret.chang@sfd02.usace.army.mil

**1. INTRODUCTION:** Richmond Yacht Harbor (through its agent Kers Clausen, Clausen Engineers, 1727 64<sup>th</sup> Street, Emeryville, CA 94608) has applied for a ten year Department of the Army permit to maintain dredge the Richmond Yacht Club in Richmond, Contra Costa County, California. The purpose of the proposed dredging is to return the marina basin to its originally permitted depth to allow safe navigational depths for recreational boats. 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 drawing “Richmond Yacht Club Dredging Plan”, the applicant plans to remove approximately 18,000 cubic yards (cy) of sediment from the approximately 9 acre harbor basin in an initial episode and a total of 28,000 cy over the life of the permit. Existing average depth in the harbor basin is -7.5 feet mean lower low water (MLLW). The design depth for the whole marina and the entrance channel is -10 feet MLLW plus an additional 1-foot overdredge allowance. The material would be removed using a clamshell or barge mounted backhoe and removed by barge to the Alcatraz Disposal Site (SF-11).

Prior to the dredging episode, the Dredge Material Management Office (DMMO) will evaluate the sediments to be dredged for disposal or reuse suitability. The DMMO includes representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), San Francisco Bay Regional

Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The DMMO is tasked with approving sampling and analysis plans in conformity with testing manuals, reviewing the test results and reaching consensus regarding a suitable disposition for the material.

**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 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 certification. A waiver shall be deemed to have occurred if the State fails or refuses to act on a valid request for certification within 60 days after receipt, 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.

The project is within the jurisdictional purview of the BCDC. The applicant will be required to obtain a permit from BCDC after the RWQCB has made a determination of water quality certification for this

project.

4. **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:** The Corps of Engineers will assess the environmental impacts of the proposed project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 et. seq.), and pursuant to Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations 40 CFR 1500-1508, and USACE Regulations 33 CFR 230 and 325, Appendix B. Unless otherwise stated, this Environmental Assessment describes only the impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) resulting from activities within the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers. The documents used in the preparation of this Environmental Assessment are on file in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, Regulatory Branch, 333 Market Street, San Francisco, California.

**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 by NMFS as potentially impacted by the proposed project include:

Sacramento River Winter-Run Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) is listed as endangered (January 4, 1994, 59 FR 440). The ESU includes populations of winter-run Chinook salmon in the Sacramento River and its tributaries in California. The disposal site is located within the designated critical habitat for Sacramento River Winter-Run ESU Chinook salmon (58 FR 33212). Adult Sacramento River Winter-Run Chinook salmon migrate through San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Suisun Bay, and Honker Bay, to spawning areas in the upper Sacramento River during the late fall and early winter. Juveniles travel downstream through San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean in the late fall.

Central Valley Spring-Run ESU Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) is listed as threatened (September 16, 1999, 64 FR 50394). The ESU

includes all naturally spawned populations of spring-run Chinook salmon in the Sacramento River and its tributaries in California. The disposal site is located within the designated critical habitat for Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook salmon (65 FR 7764). Adult Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook salmon migrate through San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Suisun Bay, and Honker Bay, to spawning areas in the upper reaches of the river system during the spring. Juveniles travel downstream through San Francisco Bay to the Pacific Ocean in the late fall.

Central California Coast ESU steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) is listed as threatened (August 18, 1997, 62 FR 43937). 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).

Central Valley California ESU steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) is listed as threatened (March 19, 1998, 63 FR 13347). The ESU includes all naturally spawned populations of steelhead (and their progeny) in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries. Excluded are steelhead from San Francisco and San Pablo Bays and their tributaries. The disposal site is located within the designated critical habitat for Central Valley California ESU steelhead (65 FR 7764). All Central Valley steelhead are currently considered winter steelhead. Juvenile steelheads live in freshwater between one and four years and then become smolts and migrate to the sea from November through May.

The Corps has concerns regarding potential impacts to Pacific herring during its annual spawning season. Therefore, the Corps will condition the permit (if issued) so that dredging will not be allowed during the peak of the spawning season. There is concern that salmonids (both salmon and

steelhead) migrating through the Bay might enter the disposal site. The movements of adult and juvenile salmonids through the Bay system are thought to be rapid during these migrations. Because impacts to the water column during disposal events would be short-term, localized and minor in magnitude, no potentially adverse effects to salmonids that may be near the disposal site are anticipated. If a permit is issued for this proposed project, it will contain a condition that no dredging is allowed from December 1 through May 31 without prior consultation (pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act) with and approval from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAAF) and the Corps of Engineers to protect the threatened and endangered salmonids

**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 9 acres and 72 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.

**5. EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES:** Evaluation of this activity's impact on the public interest will also include 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. 1344(b)). In particular, alternative disposal sites and beneficial reuses will be considered by the applicant to conform to the LTMS.

**6. PUBLIC INTEREST EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity and its

intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts that the proposed activity may have on the public interest requires a careful weighing of all those factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore 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.

**7. 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 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 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 of the proposed activity.

**8. 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 forwarded so as to reach this office within the comment period specified on page one of this Notice. Comments should be sent to: Ms. Margaret Chang, Regulatory Branch. It is 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 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 Ms. Margaret Chang of our office at telephone (415) 977-8465 or by e-mail at [Margaret.chang@usace.army.mil](mailto:Margaret.chang@usace.army.mil). Details on any changes of a minor nature that are made in the final permit action will be provided on request.