



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

NUMBER LOP 96-1 DATE: June 12, 2002
(FILE NUMBER 22152N)

LETTER OF PERMISSION PROCEDURE GRAVEL MINING ACTIVITIES WITHIN HUMBOLDT COUNTY

INTRODUCTION: On April 2, 2002, the San Francisco District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a public notice proposing a new Letter of Permission (LOP) Procedure (LOP 2002-1) for gravel mining activities in Humboldt County, California. LOP 2002-1 was intended to supercede LOP 96-1 which authorized many gravel extraction activities in Humboldt County between 1996 and 2001. The resolution of several issues connected with the LOP 2002-1 Procedure has delayed its implementation. In order to authorize gravel mining activities during the 2002 extraction season, the Corps is hereby extending Letter of Permission Procedure 96-1 (LOP 96-1) until December 31, 2002. The Corps informally coordinated with the other federal resource agencies prior to extending the expiration date of LOP 96-1. We anticipate that LOP 2002-1 will be implemented prior to the 2003 gravel extraction season.

BACKGROUND: On August 19, 1996, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District (Corps) adopted a Letter of Permission (LOP 96-1) procedure for the authorization of certain gravel extraction activities in Humboldt County. The LOP 96-1 procedure was described in a public notice dated August 19, 1996. The purpose of the LOP 96-1 procedure is to streamline Section 404 Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1344) authorizations for gravel extraction activities and related work not posing significant adverse individual or cumulative impacts. The LOP 96-1 procedure may also authorize activities pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403). The LOP 96-1 procedure was originally valid until August 19, 2001. On June 29, 2001, the

Corps extended the expiration date of LOP 96-1 to October 31, 2001 and now is extending the expiration date a second time to December 31, 2002.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Corps will request the National Marine Fisheries Service amend its biological opinion for LOP 96-1 to include the new expiration date of December 31, 2002. The Corps will also consult as appropriate with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service on endangered species issues.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: For copies of the LOP procedure, please contact Mr. Michael Shirley at 707-443-0855. Telephone inquiries may be directed to Mr. Kelley Reid at 707-443-0855 (email Kelley.Reid@spd02.usace.army.mil) or Ms. Jane Hicks at 415-977-8439 (email Jane.M.Hicks@spd02.usace.army.mil).