



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
San Francisco District

SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT

Regulatory Division  
1455 Market Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103-1398

# PUBLIC NOTICE

PROJECT: Procedure for issuing Letters of Permission for Gravel Extraction in Humboldt County (LOP 2015-1)

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PERMIT MANAGER: Jim Mazza

TELEPHONE: 415-503-6775

E-MAIL: James.C.Mazza@usace.army.mil

1. **INTRODUCTION:** The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has issued a Department of Army Letter of Permission procedure (LOP 2015-1) for the authorization of gravel mining activities in streams and rivers of Humboldt County, pursuant to the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended (33 U.S.C. § 1344 *et seq.*), and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended (33 U.S.C. § 403 *et seq.*). The LOP 2015-1 procedure will expire December 31, 2024.

The purpose of the LOP 2015-1 procedure is to streamline authorizations for excavation and related work associated with gravel mining. The LOP would only be used for extraction proposals that do not pose significant adverse individual or cumulative impacts to the environment. The LOP procedure also provides a consistent review of projects' descriptions, drawings, and analyses, which facilitates a better evaluation of cumulative effects.

2. **PROJECT SUMMARY:** Approved gravel extraction methods include: excavation of alcoves, trenches and "wetland pits," or by skimming the surface of the gravel bar. This proposal is for the extraction seasons during the years 2015-2024. A full description of authorized activities may be found on the San Francisco District website at: <http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/missions/regulatory.aspx>. The direct link to the document is: [http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Portals/68/docs/regulatory/LOP\\_2015-1.pdf](http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Portals/68/docs/regulatory/LOP_2015-1.pdf). (2Mb)

3. **BACKGROUND:** A procedure, LOP 96-1, was first authorized in August of 1996 and extraction operations were authorized in that month. The procedure would have expired on August 19, 2001, but was extended three times

for one year each. A revised version, LOP 2004-1, was issued on September 17, 2004, for the period from 2004-2008. Another revised version was issued on September 17, 2009, for the period 2009-2014. The current version, LOP 2015-1, is the product of extensive coordination during the past year with the resource agencies and the regulated industry. It was determined that a 10 year authorization period for LOP 2015-1 would improve permitting efficiency.

4. **ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Gravel extraction in Humboldt County adversely affects western snowy plovers as well as coho, Chinook, and steelhead, which are all Federally-listed threatened species. The Corps requested the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) provide Biological Opinions (BO) and Incidental Take Statements (ITS) for this LOP. Excerpts of USFWS' ITS are attached in Appendix E. Excerpts of the ITS (including Reasonable and Prudent Measures) from the NMFS are attached as Appendix M.

5. **FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Additional details may be obtained by contacting Mr. Jim Mazza, of the San Francisco District, by telephone 415-503-6775, or mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, Regulatory Division, 1455 Market Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Francisco, California 94103-1398, or e-mail: [James.C.Mazza@usace.army.mil](mailto:James.C.Mazza@usace.army.mil).