



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
San Francisco District

SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT

Regulatory Division
450 Golden Gate Ave., 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102-3406

PUBLIC NOTICE

NATIONWIDE PERMIT REISSUANCE REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: September 18, 2020

COMMENTS DUE DATE: November 3, 2020

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On September 15, 2020, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers published in the Federal Register its proposal to reissue the 52 existing nationwide permits (NWP) and issue five new NWP.

Nationwide permits are general permits issued on a nationwide basis to streamline the authorization of activities that result in no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects. Many of the proposed NWP require notification to the district engineer before commencing those activities, to ensure that the activities authorized by those NWP cause no more than minimal individual and cumulative adverse environmental effects.

National Issues Concerning the Proposed NWP: The Federal Register notice is the public's opportunity to comment on the proposed NWP, general conditions, and definitions. Comments on national issues relating to these NWP should be submitted to docket number COE-2020-0002 at www.regulations.gov, or by email to nationwidepermits2020@usace.army.mil or by mail to Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Directorate of Civil Works, ATTN: CECW-CO-R, 441 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20314-1000. Instructions for submitting comments are provided in the September 15, 2020 Federal Register notice. Comments on the proposed NWP are due by November 16, 2020.

Regional Issues Concerning the Proposed NWP, Including Regional Conditioning: Division engineers are authorized to add regional conditions specific to the needs and/or requirements of a particular region or state. Regional conditions are an important mechanism to help ensure that the adverse environmental effects of activities authorized by the NWP are no more than minimal, both individually and cumulatively. Division engineers may also suspend or revoke specific NWP in certain geographic areas (e.g., states or watersheds) or high-value aquatic systems where the adverse environmental effects caused by activities authorized by those NWP may be more than minimal. An enclosure for this public notice (Enclosure 1) lists the proposed regional conditions currently under consideration by the South Pacific Division for the San Francisco District, which includes all of Del Norte, Siskiyou, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties, and portions of Sonoma, Contra Costa, Alameda, and San Luis Obispo Counties in the State of California. The San Francisco District is seeking comments on the proposed regional conditions and seeking comments on the need for additional regional conditions to help ensure that the adverse environmental effects of activities authorized by the proposed NWP are no more than minimal, individually and cumulatively. Unless otherwise noted, all proposed regional conditions listed on this enclosure are applicable for activities in the San Francisco District boundaries. Comments on regional issues relating to the proposed NWP and proposed regional conditions should be sent to the San Francisco District, Regulatory Division, Attn: Naomi Schowalter, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San

Francisco, California 94102 (naomi.a.schowalter@usace.army.mil or 415-503-6763). Comments relating to regional conditions are due by November 3, 2020. Similar public notices proposing regional conditions in other regions or states are being published concurrently by other division or district offices. After the final NWP's are issued, the final regional conditions will be issued after they are approved by the Division Commander.

States, tribes, and other certifying authorities will make their Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification (WQC) decisions after reviewing the proposed NWP's. States will make their Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) consistency determination decisions after reviewing the proposed NWP's.

Draft decision documents for each of the proposed NWP's, which include environmental documentation prepared for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act, have been written by Corps Headquarters. The decision documents will address compliance of the NWP's with the requirements for issuance under the Corps' general permit authority. These draft decision documents, as well as the proposed NWP's, are available for viewing at www.regulations.gov, docket number COE-2020-0002. Final decision documents will be prepared for the NWP's that are issued.

Enclosed is an index of the proposed NWP's and conditions (Enclosure 2). Anyone wishing to provide comments may obtain a full text copy of the NWP's through the Corps Home Page at <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/Nationwide-Permits/>, at www.regulations.gov in docket number COE-2020-0002, or at the following Federal Register address: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/09/15/2020-17116/proposal-to-reissue-and-modify-nationwide-permits>.