
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO RELY ON NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) DOCUMENT

Project Applicant: United States Department of the Navy

Project Title: Pier 6 Replacement Project at Naval Base San Diego

Project Location: Naval Base San Diego, San Diego Bay, San Diego, California

Project Description. The United States Department of the Navy (U.S. Navy or Applicant) proposes to demolish the aging and inadequate Pier 6 at Naval Base San Diego (NBSD) and replace it with a new general purpose pier having the infrastructure necessary to support modern Navy ships. The purpose of the proposed project described in further detail below is to address deteriorating pier infrastructure at NBSD. The proposed project is needed to provide adequate ship berthing infrastructure to support modern Navy ships.

The U.S. Navy has concluded that the structure and condition of the existing Pier 6 does not meet current load capacity or safety standards needed for modern naval vessels. Pier 6 is functionally obsolete and operationally constrained given its inadequate utilities, capacity, load restrictions, and deck size to support current and projected ship berthing operations. Pier 6 is structurally deteriorated (concrete spalling, cracked/broken concrete curbs, and exposed sections of corroded steel), and unless replaced, Pier 6 will continue to deteriorate and pose unsafe working conditions. Furthermore, due to Pier 6's width utility deficiencies, and other infrastructure support limitations, only dock landing ships, guided-missile frigates, and older amphibious transfer dock ships can currently berth at Pier 6. The U.S. Navy proposes to demolish the existing Pier 6 and replace it with a new general-purpose pier having the infrastructure necessary to support modern Navy ships. The proposed project will (1) demolish the existing Pier 6 (approximately 60 ft wide by 1,377 ft long; 82,620 sf; 1.9 ac; 1,998 piles and (2) replace with a new Pier 6 approximately 120 ft wide by 1,500 ft long (180,000 sf; 4.1 ac; 966 piles) at the same location. The pier deck will be removed by concrete saw and a barge-mounted excavator. The piles will be removed or cut at the mudline depending on the geotechnical requirements and location of existing and new piles within the new pier project footprint. The piles will be dry-pulled or vibrated out of place if possible or jetted as a last resort. The new pier will consist of a concrete deck supported by 513, twenty-four inch diameter concrete octagonal structural piles, 204, twenty-four inch square primary fender piles, 200, sixteen inch diameter fiberglass secondary fender piles, 26, sixteen inch diameter fiberglass corner fender piles, and 4, twenty inch square precast concrete piles; totaling approximately 966 piles. Project construction time is estimated to be 18 months.

Regulatory Requirements. The discharge of dredged or fill material to aquatic or marine environments is regulated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, as amended (Clean Water Act) (33 U.S.C. section 1251 et seq.). The project applicant is required

HENRY ABARBANEL, PH.D., CHAIR | DAVID GIBSON, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

to complete the proposed project in compliance with Clean Water Act (CWA) sections 401 and 404. CWA section 401 requires the project applicant to obtain a state certification (401 Certification) that the resulting discharge from the proposed project will comply with state water quality standards. CWA section 404 requires the project applicant to obtain a federal permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) for dredged material and/or fill discharges to federal waters pursuant to protective guidelines developed jointly by USACOE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). CWA section 401 allows the state to condition or prevent a USACOE CWA section 404 permit for any project.

The U.S. Navy as the project applicant for the Pier 6 replacement project applied for a 401 Certification from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board). The San Diego Water Board's issuance of the 401 Certification is subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The U.S. Navy, as Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and circulated the document for a 30-day public comment period. Based on the draft EA and comments received, the U.S. Navy will issue a Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Pursuant to the FONSI, the proposed project will not have a significant impact upon the existing environment or the quality of the human environment.

The Final EA and FONSI will be prepared before a CEQA document would otherwise be completed for the project. The San Diego Water Board, as Lead Agency under CEQA, believes that the Final EA and FONSI for this project will meet the requirements of CEQA. The San Diego Water Board intends to rely on the Final EA and FONSI instead of preparing a separate CEQA document. This public notice is being circulated pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15225.

Document Availability. Information on this matter, including the draft EA, is currently available and may be reviewed by contacting Eric Becker of the San Diego Water Board at the address below. This notice is also available on the San Diego Water Board webpage at: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/>.

Any person with questions or requests for additional information regarding this notice should contact Eric Becker at (619) 521-3364 or Eric.Becker@waterboards.ca.gov. Please bring this information to the attention of any person known to you who would be interested in this matter.

Dated: January 19, 2021

Signed: David Barker Digitally signed by David Barker
Date: 2021.01.20 17:26:36 -08'00'

David T. Barker P.E.
Supervising WRC Engineer
San Diego Regional Water Quality
Control Board