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## 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 5000 South Side Inner Berth Expansion Dredging Project at Naval Base Point Loma**

**Project Location: Naval Base Point Loma, San Diego Bay, San Diego, California**

**Project Description.** The United States Department of the Navy (U.S. Navy or Applicant) proposes to perform expansion maintenance dredging of sediment at Pier 5000 at Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL). The purpose of the proposed project described in further detail below is to ensure adequate navigation, berthing capability and mooring depths to service existing and future classes of naval vessels at NBPL.

The U.S. Navy has concluded that the inboard side of the Pier 5000 can be expanded to meet deep water berthing vessel clearance which will increase the U.S. Navy's ability to train and equip combat capable naval forces. The proposed project will dredge the inboard side of the Pier 5000 (approximately 0.44 acres; 6,365 cubic yards). The site will be dredged to increase water depths from approximately -28 to -34 feet Mean Low Low Water (MLLW) to -36.6 feet MLLW and an additional 2-feet of over dredge allowance (to -38.6 feet MLLW). Dredging will likely use a barge mounted clamshell dredge, dump scow, and tugboat with subsequent transport of the dredged material for disposal at the LA-5 ocean dredged material disposal site. Project construction time is estimated to be 10 days.

**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 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 applied for a 401 Certification from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board). The 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) titled *Final Environmental Assessment Pier 5000 South*

CELESTE CANTÚ, CHAIR | DAVID GIBSON, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

*Side Inner Berth Expansion Dredging* and circulated the document for a 15-day public comment period. Based on the EA and comments received, the U.S. Navy issued a Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (collectively, NEPA Documents) in September 1, 2021. Pursuant to the 2021 NEPA Documents, the proposed project will not have a significant impact upon the existing environment or the quality of the human environment.

The NEPA Documents have been 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 NEPA Documents for this project will meet the requirements of CEQA. The San Diego Water Board intends to use the NEPA Documents 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 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/public\\_notices/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/public_notices/).

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](mailto: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: February 7, 2022**

**Signed:**

Eric Becker P.E.  
Senior Engineer  
San Diego Regional Water Quality  
Control Board