
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: Fuel Pier Inboard Pile Removal and 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 maintenance dredging of sediment on the inboard side of the Fuel Pier at Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL) and remove remnant pilings from the footprint of the former Fuel Pier 180. The purpose of the proposed project described in further detail below is to ensure adequate navigation, fueling, 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 new Fuel Pier does not meet vessel clearance requirements because of the shallow mooring depths and obstructions to vessel passage and berthing from the remnant pilings of the former Fuel Pier 180. The U.S. Navy proposes to conduct maintenance dredging and removing of 409 pier piles from the footprint of the former Fuel Pier 180 to support mooring and refueling operations at the new Fuel Pier. The proposed project will (1) conduct maintenance dredging on the inboard side of the new Fuel Pier (approximately 5,074 square feet; 1.05 acres; 10,097 cubic yards) and (2) cut, remove, and dispose of 409 concrete and polycarbonate pier piles from the former Fuel Pier 180 location. The site will be dredged to increase water depths from approximately -14 to -24 feet Mean Low Low Water (MLLW) to -22 feet MLLW and an additional 2-feet of over dredge allowance (to -24 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. The piles will be clipped or cut at the mudline then removed from the site and recycled or taken to an upland disposal site. Project construction time is estimated to be 4-6 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 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

CELESTE CANTÚ, CHAIR | DAVID GIBSON, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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 *Naval Base Point Loma Fuel Pier Replacement and Dredging (P-151/DESC1306) Environmental Assessment* and circulated the document for a 30-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 August 2013. On August 26, 2021, the U.S. Navy issued a Memorandum for the Record titled *Memorandum on Continuing Environmental Review of Fuel Pier Inboard Pile Removal and Dredging at Naval Base Point Loma; Evaluation of New Information Since the Issuance of Finding of No Significant Impact for Milcon P-151 Fuel Pier Replacement* (Memorandum). The Memorandum re-examined the potential for environmental impacts associated with removal of remnant pier piles left in place during the Fuel Pier Replacement Project and dredging at the inboard berth of the Fuel Pier followed by the disposal of the dredge material. Pursuant to the 2013 NEPA Documents and 2021 Memorandum, the proposed project will not have a significant impact upon the existing environment or the quality of the human environment.

The NEPA Documents and Memorandum 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 and Post FONSI Memorandum, 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: September 17, 2021

Signed: _____

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