



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Seattle District

Notice of Preparation / Clean Water Act Public Notice

Environmental Resources Branch
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755
ATTN: Amanda Ogden (PM-PL-ER)

Public Notice Date: August 12, 2010
Expiration Date: September 1, 2010
Reference: PL-10-11
Project Name: Lincoln Park Shoreline Erosion
Control

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) proposes placement of 1,900 cubic yards (cy) of select gravel and sand substrate onto 1.2 acres of Puget Sound beach, including upper intertidal areas, at southern Lincoln Park in Seattle, Washington. This proposed project seeks to remedy the continued erosion at Lincoln Park Beach. The City of Seattle is the non-Federal sponsor for the Corps project. The proposed project is described below and shown on the enclosed drawings. The purpose of this Public Notice is to solicit comments from interested persons, groups, and agencies.

AUTHORITY

The proposed project is authorized under Section 103 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1962, as amended, and the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662). The authority includes maintenance of the Lincoln Park shoreline through periodic beach re-nourishment, subject to local sponsor cost sharing, and periodic rock revetment rehabilitation by the local sponsor.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In the 1930's, the Works Progress Administration constructed a cobblestone and concrete seawall along the Lincoln Park shoreline. In subsequent years, erosion and scour lowered the beach profile along the southwestern beach and damaged the seawall. In the early 1980's, the beach had almost completely eroded down to a hardpan layer of clay, and portions of the seawall had collapsed. Complete loss of the seawall would have likely led to loss of important infrastructure, including a 30-inch diameter sewer force main, and a variety of park amenities behind the seawall. As a long-term solution to address the shoreline erosion, the Corps and the City of Seattle (the City) initiated the Lincoln Park Beach Re-Nourishment Project.

The first phase of the project was constructed in 1988, with placement of a 5-foot-thick layer of armor rock placed upon a 2-foot-thick quarry spall filter blanket along 250 feet of beach; and beach nourishment consisting of 18,000 cubic yards (cy) of sand and gravel along 2,300 feet of beach and 1,000 cy along the 250 feet of rock revetment. The substrate placement created a gravel beach along the Lincoln Park shoreline where erosion had previously scoured all substrate down to a hard clay layer at the toe of the seawall.

The authorizing document for original construction programmed periodic beach nourishment for project year 5 (the fifth year following project construction), or as necessary, and approximately every 5 years thereafter, with major rehabilitation of the revetment at project year 25 of the 50-

year project life. The initial construction was designed to re-create a beach at the site and with the realization that periodic substrate re-nourishment would be needed. The first re-nourishment event occurred in October-November of 1994 and consisted of placement of 3,321 cy of coarse beach fill (gravel larger than $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch diameter) and 1,923 cy of fine beach fill (pit run sand and gravel) placed along the seaward side of the existing seawall for a distance of 1,800 feet north from the southern park boundary. The second re-nourishment event occurred in October 2002 and consisted of placement of 250 cy of fine beach fill on the level bench at the upper part of the beach seaward of the seawall and 1,500 cy of coarse beach fill placed waterward of the break in beach slope along a total length of 500 feet. Due to the success of the first phase of beach re-construction, most of the 1988 material is still intact, which has extended the frequency needed for re-nourishment.

PURPOSE AND PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Periodic beach re-nourishment is necessary to maintain the shoreline processes re-established by the initial beach nourishment and to prevent storm damage and loss of public property at Lincoln Park that would result from scour and erosion. The proposed project will replace substrate lost since the last re-nourishment event in 2002, thereby protecting public property from damage and loss.

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action consists of placing approximately 200 cy of fine beach fill and 1700 cy of coarse beach fill material along 700 feet of the Lincoln Park shoreline, which extends beyond the 2002 north and south project boundaries. The substrate would be placed on the beach between 250 and 950 feet from the park's southern boundary (see attached design drawing).

Coarse material would be placed waterward of the break in beach slope and finer material placed on the bench at the upper part of the beach just seaward of the seawall. Material placement would require a barge with conveyor off-loading capability, a small hydraulic excavator to remove and replace drift logs, and a small bulldozer to grade the new substrate (see attached design drawing for the amount and sizes of materials to be used). A barge would deliver all equipment and materials to the work area and construction activity would be confined to the approximate 75- by 700-foot project footprint (52,500 square feet or 1.2 acres). By restricting site access and the size of the work area, disruptions to aquatic biota would be minimal. Fish habitat and eelgrass beds will be avoided within the construction area and are infrequent throughout the vicinity of the project area. Construction is anticipated for September 2010, to coincide with daytime high tides, lower park use and to avoid sensitive periods for fish and birds. Once started, construction is expected to take about 1 week. Due to the similar size of the proposed project, the barge, conveyer, and placement techniques would likely be similar than that used in 2002.

Other alternatives considered were "no action" and "placement of sandy material on 500 lineal feet of beach."

Under the "No Action Alternative," no additional substrate would be placed at Lincoln Park. Erosion of the southwest beach would continue and the beach conditions, over time, would begin to resemble the pre-nourishment shoreline in the mid-1980's. The seawall and the infrastructure it protects would be increasingly vulnerable to damage from discrete storm events as well as long-term beach erosion. The beach would gradually become steeper and the area and value of intertidal habitat would be reduced as a result. Sub-tidal habitat would increase complementarily to the loss of intertidal area. The "No Action Alternative" would not meet the need and purpose of the project.

Under the “Placement of Sandy Material on 500 Lineal Feet of Beach” Alternative, the substrate placed on the beach could consist of finer, sandier particles instead of the proposed gravel. The resulting sandy beach may provide short-term recreational benefits. However, the prevailing wave and current energy along the southwest beach would soon mobilize the sandy material, resulting in rapid erosion and the return of the beach to pre-project conditions. Placement of sandy material would meet the need and purpose of the project in the short term, but would entail future re-nourishment events every one or two years for the balance of the 50-year life of the project, vice the 5- to 10-year need observed thus far, and the associated impacts from the more frequent construction. Also, larger storms may erode large amounts of sand in a short period of time, necessitating emergency actions to protect the seawall and infrastructure and thus continue to meet the project purpose and need. Such emergency actions may occur at inopportune times of year from the standpoints of environment or recreation, and may not allow careful planning to avoid impacts to important resources. Accordingly, this alternative will not be considered further.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

The Corps preliminary analyses of the principal effects to the proposed beach re-nourishment alternative are as follows:

Some increased turbidity would likely occur for one or two high tides following placement, but the effects are expected to be minimal due to their localized and temporary nature. Implementation of BMPs would ensure such impacts are minimal and dissipate quickly. No long term effects to water quality are expected to occur.

There may be some temporary and minor disturbance to the macroalgae and eelgrass areas in and directly adjacent to the construction area. However, due to the small scope of the proposed re-nourishment and prudent management of the barge, substantial adverse impacts to the existing eelgrass and macroalgal communities are not anticipated. Some displacement of birds may occur temporarily during the period of construction. Salmonids may occur in the vicinity of the project when the work would occur but these fish would likely be larger and not heavily dependent upon the nearshore environment.

Conservation measures to limit the extent, timing, and duration of the proposed project have been incorporated to avoid and minimize the environmental impacts of the work. Impacts to physical characteristics of the beach, water quality, fish, wildlife, eelgrass, macroalgae, and recreation are expected to be minimal and very short duration.

After construction, use of land in the vicinity would be unaffected by the new beach substrate which will mirror that substrate already present. Land use in areas adjacent to the project area, including the Fauntleroy ferry terminal or nearby residential properties will be unaffected due to the localized construction impacts. Recreational use of the shoreline and park would be the same as before construction; no additional use restrictions will be made.

EVALUATION

The Corps has made a preliminary determination that the environmental impacts of the proposal can be adequately evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act through preparation of an environmental assessment (EA). Preparation of an EA addressing potential environmental impacts associated with the beach re-nourishment project is currently underway.

The project will involve a discharge of fill material into waters of the United States that will be evaluated for substantive compliance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

The Corps has requested a certification that the project provides reasonable assurance of compliance with the Water Quality Standards of Washington State. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is reviewing this work for compliance with the applicable Federal water quality standards pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

As a Federal agency, the Corps will ensure the work is consistent with the Coastal Zone Management Program to the maximum extent practicable. A detailed Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination has been prepared, and the Department of Ecology will review the work for concurrence with the finding of consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

In accordance with Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act, the Corps has drafted a Biological Evaluation/Assessment and has sought informal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and/or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, regarding the impact of the project on listed species and/or designated critical habitat. Concurrence letters were received from NMFS and USFWS on 30 April 2010 and 12 May 2010, respectively (NMFS reference #2010/01427; USFWS reference #13410-2010-I-2123).

The Corps has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), lists of properties deemed eligible, and other sources of information. The following is the current state of knowledge regarding the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon the properties:

These efforts have indicated that there are no recorded historic properties within the permit area. The permit area has been so extensively modified by modern development that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon an undisturbed historic property.

In preparation of the environmental documentation for this project, coordination has been conducted or is ongoing with the following public agencies: National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ecology.

Any person who has an interest that may be affected by this disposal of fill material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the comment period of this notice, and must clearly set forth the following: the interest that may be affected, the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity, and the particular reason for holding a public hearing regarding this activity.

The decision whether to conduct the project will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps invites submission of factual comment on the environmental impact of the proposal. Comments will also be considered in determining whether it would be in the best public interest to proceed with the proposed project. The Corps will consider all submissions received before the expiration date of this notice. The nature or scope of the proposal may be changed upon consideration of the comments received. The Corps will initiate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and afford all the appropriate public participation opportunities attendant to an EIS, if significant effects on the quality of the human environment are identified and cannot be mitigated.

Submit comments to this office, Attn: Environmental Resources Section, no later than *September 1, 2010* to ensure consideration. In addition to sending comments via mail, comments may be e-mailed to amanda.ogden@usace.army.mil. Requests for additional information should be directed to Amanda Ogden at 206-764-3628 or the above e-mail address.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

*PO Box 47600•Olympia, WA 98504-7600•360-407-6000
TTY 711 or 877-833-6341 (for the speech or hearing impaired)*

Notice of Application for
Water Quality Certification
and for
Certification of Consistency with the
Washington Coastal Zone Management Program

Date: August 12, 2010

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217), to certify that the project described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice PL-10-11 will comply with the Sections 301, 302, 202, 206, and 307 of the Act, and with applicable provisions of State and Federal water pollution control laws.

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 307(c) of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451), to certify that the above referenced project will comply with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to the project on either or both (1) compliance with water pollution control laws or (2) the project's compliance or consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program may do so by providing written comments within 21 days of the above publication date to:

Federal Permit Coordinator
Department of Ecology
SEA Program
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

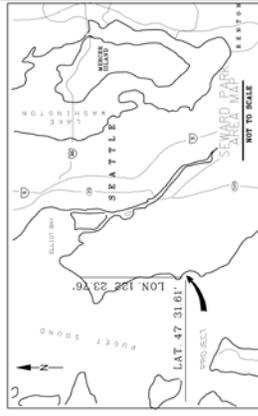


US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

LINCOLN PARK SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL RENOUWISHMENT - FY10

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

DRAWING INDEX		TITLE
ORIGINAL FILE NO.	PLATE NO.	REF. NO.
E-90-1-XX	C-1	COVER SHEET
E-90-1-XX	C-2	BEACH FILL PLAN AND CROSS SECTION



REVISION	DATE	BY

REDUCED TO SIZE OF FULL SIZE

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT - SEATTLE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LINCOLN PARK SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL
RENOUWISHMENT - FY10

COVER SHEET

SEATTLE WASHINGTON

DATE: E-90-1-XX 10 FEB 10 C-1

DESIGNER: [Signature]

DATE AND TIME PLOTTED IS FEB 09 09:04 DESIGN FILE: J:\ed\h\seash\lpp\sh11.dgn

