



US Army Corps
of Engineers.
Seattle District

Public Notice

CENWS OD-TS-NS

June 19, 2002

Reference: CENWS-OD-TS-NS-19

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FISCAL YEAR 2002 – 2008, BIENNIAL
QUILLAYUTE RIVER NAVIGATION PROJECT MAINTENANCE DREDGING, LA PUSH,
WASHINGTON

PURPOSE AND PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this Public Notice is to solicit comments from interested persons, groups and agencies on proposed Corps of Engineers, Seattle District maintenance dredging related to the Quillayute River navigation project. Construction is proposed to begin mid to late September and is expected to last through March of the following year for each dredging event. The construction period may be affected by seasonal storm activity. The schedule will be coordinated with the Quileute Tribal Fisheries and resource agencies. Enclosed are three sheets of drawings showing the location of the work proposed at the Quillayute River.

The project provides a harbor of refuge and has the only Coast Guard search and rescue station along 100 miles of coastline between Grays Harbor and Neah Bay. The harbor and marina at Quileute Reservation offers a livelihood for approximately 325 Tribal members and 50 non-Tribal members including Coast Guard personnel. The primary commercial activity is fishing and fish processing that generates approximately \$4,000,000 in annual income.

The project was historically dredged for maintenance every two years until the spit breached in January 1996. From September 1996 to February 2000, maintenance dredging occurred more often to account for the additional sediment from the breached spit and subsequent erosion. The proposed maintenance schedule reverts to dredging the Quillayute River once every two years.

This Public Notice is being issued in accordance with rules and regulations published as 33 CFR 335 "Operation and Maintenance of Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects Involving the Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material into Waters of the U.S. or Ocean Waters"; 33 CFR 336 "factors to be Considered in Evaluation of Army Corps of Engineers Dredging Projects Involving the Discharge of Dredged Materials into Waters of the U.S. and Ocean Waters"; 33 CFR 337 "Practice and Procedure"; and 33 CFR 338 "Other Corps Activities Involving the Discharge of Dredged Material or Fill into Waters of the U.S."

AUTHORITY

The Quillayute River Project was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 3 July 1930 and modified by the River and Harbors Act of 2 March 1945 and 3 September 1954. The authority

provides for an entrance channel 10 feet deep, varying from 100 to 250 feet wide extending upstream from deep water and a 10 feet deep and 75 feet wide channel extending about three-quarters mile upstream to Smith Slough; a boat basin with a timber-planked training wall with a +16-foot top elevation including a rock toe; a jetty approximately 1,200 feet long at a +15-foot elevation on the left bank and a low dike 1,050 feet long on the right bank protecting the entrance channel. There is also responsibility to maintain revetments on the ocean spit, which separates the basin and channel from the ocean. Maintenance of the upstream 1700 feet of channel is not performed, as navigation access is no longer required to Smith's Slough.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed work consists of routine maintenance dredging once every two years of approximately 75,000 to 100,000 cubic yards (cy) from the entrance channel and the boat basin. Material will be deposited primarily on the ocean side of the spit to nourish the spit and to nourish Rialto Beach via the littoral drift.

Disposal of material from the outer entrance channel is proposed mainly at disposal Site 1. For the construction period of September 2002 through March 2003 event, disposal of an approximate 10,000 CY of sand, gravel and cobbles from this outer portion of the entrance channel is proposed to be deposited upland at Site A to provide construction material for Quileute Tribal projects. The Tribe will coordinate with the regulatory agencies on any other prospective deposits of material at Site A.

Assurances will be received from the Quileute Tribal Council that any of the material placed at Site A will not be used to fill wetlands or flood plains. Previously, 4,000 CY deposited at Site A in 1998 were a benefit in the construction of the Quileute Tribe's school gymnasium. Currently, the proposed plan involves using an estimated 8,000 cy for the grading of the existing Shoreline Resort site during the renovation of the cabin units. The remaining estimated 2,000 cy will be used for improvements at the Recreational Vehicle park. Any alternative use of the Site A material from the proposed plan, for other perspective Tribal project needs, shall comply with all applicable environmental regulations.

Disposal of material from the inner entrance channel and the boat basin is proposed at disposal Site 2A.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The proposed maintenance activities will be reviewed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347); the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 668a-668cc-6, 87 Stat. 884); Section 313 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1323, 86 Stat. 816); Section 404 of the same Act (33 U.S.C. 1344); Section 307(c)(1) and (2) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended (16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(1) and (2), 86 Stat. 1280), and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470, 80 Stat. 915).

The decision to proceed with this work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity 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 those are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic values, 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.

A final environmental impact statement was prepared for maintenance of the Quillayute River navigation project, titled *Quillayute River Navigation Project Long-Range Operations and Maintenance Final Environmental Impact Statement*, dated February 1986. Copies are available for inspection at the Seattle District Office, 4735 East Marginal Way South, Seattle, Washington 98134-2385. Additional studies are underway to supplement the EIS to focus on structures and events that have occurred in the area since the 1986 study.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) and 404(b)(1) evaluation will be prepared based on responses to the Public Notice. Once complete, the EA will be posted and available on the Seattle District web site at <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/ers/envirdocs.html>.

The proposed work will consider the *Rialto Beach Surf Smelt Habitat Monitoring Quillayute River Navigation Project*, December 2001 conducted from 1997 to 2000. The studies recommendations included: placing material on the beach between October and February only; studying near-shore sediment transport in partnership with the Park; and monitoring of the gravel size composition to ensure current gravel size on the beach is not altered if a regular schedule of dredging and material placement were to occur in the future.

A biological evaluation will be prepared and provided for review by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under Section 7 (a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act. A preliminary determination has been made that the proposed maintenance work may affect, but is "not likely to adversely affect" species protected under this Act.

A Section 401 water quality certification is requested from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The proposed work is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the State of Washington Coastal Zone Management Program.

COMMENT PROCEDURE

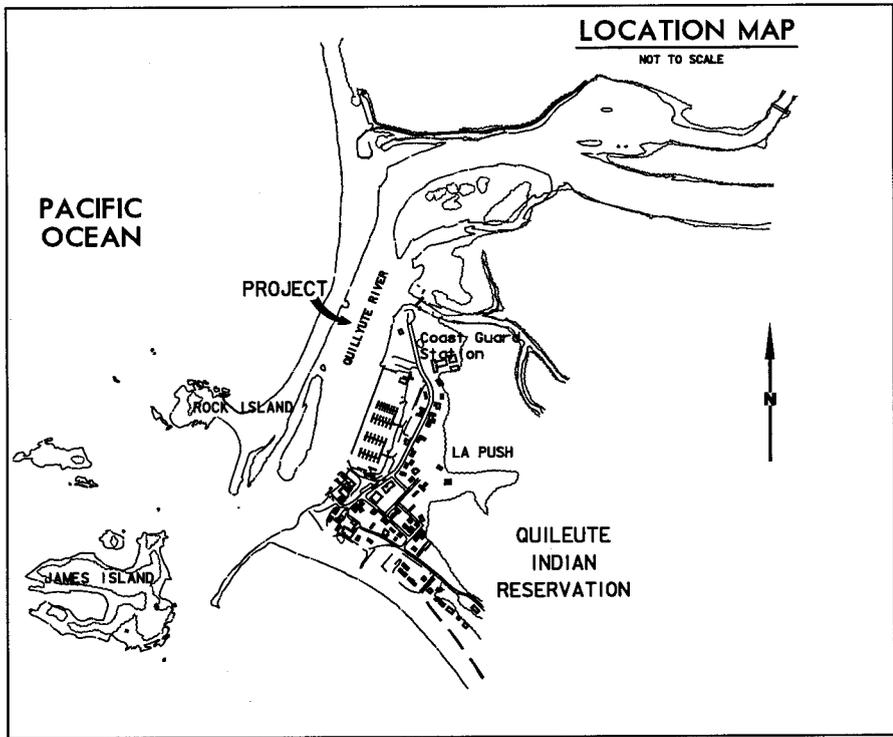
Replies to this Public Notice should be mailed to reach the District Engineer, ATTN: CENWS-OD-TS-NS, PO Box 3755, Seattle, Washington 98124-3755, not later than 19 July 2002, to assure consideration. Requests for additional information should be directed to Patricia Miller, Project Manager, (206) 764-6908.

Any person may request, in writing and within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reason for holding a public hearing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patricia Miller, P. E.
Project Manager
Navigation Section

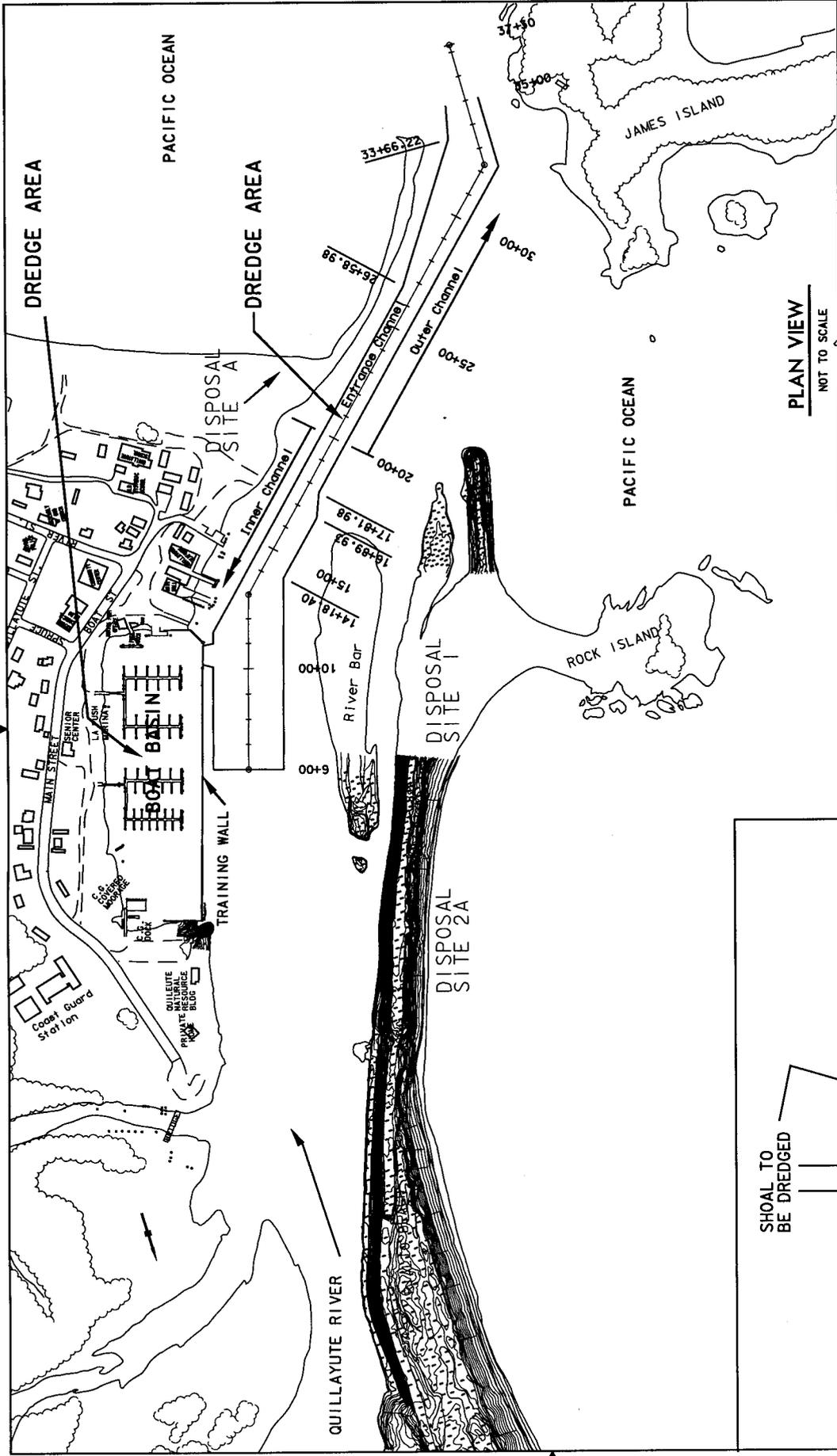
Enclosures (3)



U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SEATTLE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

QUILLAYUTE RIVER, WASHINGTON
Maintenance Dredging/Settling Basin

DATE	PUBLIC NOTICE	SHEET
19 JUN 02	CENPS-OD-TS-NS-19	1 OF 2



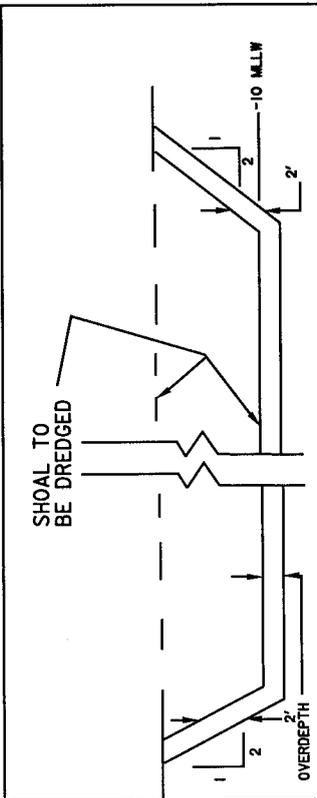
PLAN VIEW
NOT TO SCALE

U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SEATTLE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

QUILLAYUTE RIVER, WASHINGTON
Maintenance Dredging/Settling Basin

DATE	PUBLIC NOTICE	SHEET
19 JUN 02	CENPS-0D-TS-NS-19	2 OF 2

NOTE: ALL UNITS IN
US SURVEY FEET





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Reply To
Attn Of: ECO-083

UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Notice of Request for
Water Quality Certification

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to certify, pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act of 1977, PL 95-217, that there is reasonable assurance the the project described in Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. CENWS-0D-TS-NS-19 will not violate applicable water quality standards. Comments regarding possible water quality effects of the proposed project should be sent within 20 days to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, ECO-083, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elbert Moore".

Elbert Moore, Director
Office of Ecosystems and Communities