



Joint Public Notice

Application for a Department of the Army Permit and a Washington Department of Ecology Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Consistency Concurrence

US Army Corps of Engineers

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Project Manager

WA Department of Ecology

SEA Program
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Federal Permit Coordinator

Public Notice Date: April 8, 2021 Expiration Date: May 8, 2021

Reference No.: NWS-2021-246 Name: U.S. Coast Guard (Station Cape Disappointment Maintenance

Dredging)

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) have received an application to perform work in waters of the U.S. as described below and shown on the enclosed, revised drawings dated March 25, 2021.

The Corps will review the work in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Ecology will review the work pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA, with applicable provisions of State water pollution control laws and the Coastal Zone Management Act.

APPLICANT: U.S. Coast Guard

Attention: Mr. William Robinson

U.S. Coast Guard Civil Engineering Unit (CEU) Oakland

1301 Clay Street, Suite 700N

Oakland, CA 94612

Telephone: (510) 637-5563

AGENT: Wood Plc

Attention: Ms. Erin Hale

15862 Southwest 72nd Ave, #150

Portland, OR 97224

Telephone: (805) 403-4802

<u>LOCATION</u>: In Baker Bay in the Columbia River near Ilwaco, Pacific County, Washington.

<u>WORK</u>: The applicant proposes to dredge up to 20,000 cubic yards of accreted sediment from the U.S. Coast Guard Station Cape Disappointment mooring basin. Up to 4,000 cubic yards of sediment would be dredged initially, and up to an additional 16,000 cubic yards over a 10-year period. The proposed dredging would maintain operational depths of the mooring basin to a target depth of -10 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) with a 2-foot over dredge allowance to -12 feet MLLW. Dredging would occur via hydraulic suction dredge or clamshell dredge from a barge-mounted crane. Dredged material would be disposed in the flow lane of the Columbia River at the Baker Bay Flowlane Disposal or Flowlane Area D.

NWS-2021-246; U.S. Coast Guard (Station Cape Disappointment Maintenance Dredging)

PURPOSE: Dredge to maintain vessel access and moorage.

<u>Dredged Material Testing</u>: The proposed dredged material has been tested according to the procedures specified by DMMP, a multi-agency program for the evaluation of dredged material proposed for disposal at open-water sites in Washington State. The DMMP evaluations may include both chemical and biological testing of sediments. For this project, the DMMP agencies determined that all 20,000 cubic yards were suitable for unconfined disposal at the DMMP nondispersive (or dispersive) open-water disposal sites as described above. The sediment testing data are available at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Seattle District, Dredged Material Management Office.

<u>Disposal Site Use Conditions</u>: The following standard site-use conditions will be specified by the Corps and the Washington Department of Natural Resources as part of the Federal/State permitting processes: (1) disposal operations must not interfere with Indian treaty fishing at the disposal site, including gill nets and other fishing gear; (2) the permittee must coordinate any nighttime disposal with the Corps, Seattle District, Regulatory Branch Project Manager; and (3) approval must be received from the District Engineer prior to conducting nighttime disposal. Other appropriate special conditions may be added as a result of comments received during the public review period for this public notice.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The applicant has requested the material be dredged over a 10-year period.

<u>MITIGATION</u>: The proposed activity has potential to impact eelgrass. The applicant has prepared a mitigation plan that indicates the final layout and extent of compensatory eelgrass planting area would be determined by the results of pre- and post-dredging surveys.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA on all actions that may affect a species listed (or proposed for listing) under the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat. The U.S. Coast Guard, as the lead agency for ESA consultation, will consult with the NMFS and/or the USFWS as required under Section 7 of the ESA.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The U.S. Coast Guard, as the lead agency for EFH consultation, will consult with the NMFS as required.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: The U.S. Coast Guard, as the lead agency for determining compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Native American Tribes as appropriate.

<u>PUBLIC HEARING</u>: Any person may request, in writing, 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 reasons for holding a public hearing.

<u>EVALUATION</u> – <u>CORPS</u>: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, 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, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

NWS-2021-246; U.S. Coast Guard (Station Cape Disappointment Maintenance Dredging)

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for the work. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

The described discharge will be evaluated for compliance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA. These guidelines require an alternatives analysis for any proposed discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

<u>EVALUATION</u> – <u>ECOLOGY</u>: Ecology is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, Native American Nations or tribal governments, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Ecology will be considering all comments to determine whether to certify or deny certification for the proposed project.

<u>ADDITIONAL EVALUATION</u>: This proposal is the subject of Conditional Use Permit, being processed by Pacific County. As a Federal agency, the U.S. Coast Guard will contact the Washington Department of Ecology directly to ensure the work is consistent with the Coastal Zone Management Program.

<u>COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD</u>: Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether authorizing the work would not be contrary to the public interest. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from the author's e-mail account and must include on the subject line of the e-mail message the permit applicant's name and reference number as shown below. Either conventional mail or e-mail comments must include the permit applicant's name and reference number, as shown below, and the commenter's name, address, and phone number. All comments whether conventional mail or e-mail must reach this office, no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration.

CORPS COMMENTS: All e-mail comments should be sent to evan.g.carnes@usace.army.mil Conventional mail comments should be sent to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Attention: Evan G. Carnes, P.O. Box 3755, Seattle, Washington 98124-3755. All comments received will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act including any personally identifiable information such as names, phone numbers, and addresses.

ECOLOGY COMMENTS: Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to a request for water quality certification under Section 401 of the CWA and/or Coastal Zone Management consistency concurrence, may do so by submitting written comments to the following address: Washington State Department of Ecology, Attention: Federal Permit Coordinator, Post Office Box 47600, Olympia, Washington 98504-7600, or e-mail to ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov.

To ensure proper consideration of all comments, responders must include the following name and reference number in the text of their comments: NWS-2021-246; U.S. Coast Guard

Encl: Figures (5)









