

## **Joint Public Notice**

# Application for a Department of the Army Permit, and an Environmental Protection Agency Water Quality Certification

US Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch 4735 E. Marginal Way S, Bldg 1202 Seattle, WA 98134-2388 Telephone: (206) 764-6182 ATTN: Samantha Standard,

**Project Manager** 

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 1200 Sixth Avenue, ECO-083 Seattle, WA 98101 Telephone (206) 553-6698 ATTN: Jeffrey Brittain Public Notice Date: April 25, 2025 Expiration Date: May 10, 2025

Reference: NWS-2022-303-DOT-a

Name: Washington State Department of Transportation (SR

105 Graveyard Spit Dynamic

Revetment)

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have received a modification request to the previously authorized work under the Corps permit NWS-2022-303-DOT. Location is shown on the enclosed drawings dated April 2025.

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. EPA will review the work pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA.

APPLICANT: Washington State Department of Transportation

Attention: Ms. Angie Haffie 11018 Northeast 51<sup>st</sup> Circle Vancouver, Washington 98682 Telephone: (360) 905-2176

<u>LOCATION</u>: In Willapa Bay and wetlands along State Route (SR) 105 between Mileposts (MP) 19.50 and 20.10 between North Cove and the Shoalwater Bay Tribal Reservation near Tokeland, Pacific County, Washington.

#### WORK:

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) was previously authorized to excavate, discharge fill, and install large woody material waterward of the High Tide Line (HTL) and Mean High Water (MHW) of Willapa Bay and wetlands to install a dynamic revetment and restore dunes along SR 105 between MP 19.50 to MP 20.10. The original plans dated March 2023 were to discharge fill, including rock, cobble, and native material excavated from on-site wetlands, into 1.8 acres of Willapa Bay to construct a dynamic revetment/berm and restore the dune system. Mitigation included the reestablishment of 0.4 acre of wetlands, restoration of 15.0 acres, and the placement of 106 pieces of large woody debris.

The modification proposes a discharge of fill into 13.0 acres of Willapa Bay, re-establish 0.4 acre of wetland, restoration of 27.2 acres, and placement of 188 pieces of large woody debris. The modification was requested because the MHW and HTL have shifted landward as a result of erosion from the 2024/2025 winter season. As a result, the impact quantities associated with the permit work have

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increased although all other elements of the proposed dynamic revetment project would remain the same as previously authorized.

<u>PURPOSE</u>: Protect a section of SR 105 from MP 19.50 to MP 20.10 from continued erosion and improve safety of the traveling public.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

If authorized, the Department of Army (DA) permit would be issued with the previously authorized expiration date of March 29, 2034.

The wetland boundaries and location of the ordinary high water mark, line of mean high water, and high tide line shown on the project drawings have not yet been verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). If the Corps determines the boundaries of the wetland/waters are substantially inaccurate a new public notice may be published.

<u>MITIGATION</u>: The application would mitigate for 13 acre of permanent impacts waterward of the HTL of Willapa Bay by re-establishing a total of 0.4 of an acre of on-site estuarine wetland and by restoring 27.2 acres of on-site dune habitat landward of the HTL. No buffer impacts are proposed.

<u>ENDANGERED SPECIES</u>: The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and 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. Army Corps of Engineers will evaluate the potential impacts to proposed and/or listed species and their designated critical habitat.

<u>ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT</u>: 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 proposed action would impact EFH in the project area.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has determined that the proposed action will adversely affect designated EFH for federally managed fisheries in Washington waters. EFH consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service has been completed.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: The Corps has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data and other sources of information. The Corps invites responses to this public notice from Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies; historical and archeological societies; and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns regarding historic properties and sites of religious and cultural significance at or near the project area. After receipt of comments from this public notice, the Corps will evaluate potential impacts and consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Native American Nations in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as appropriate.

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A historic properties investigation has been conducted within the permit area. No historic properties determined eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places were found to exist within the permit area.

<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 or a permit modification 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.

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>SOURCE OF FILL MATERIAL</u>: The applicant has not yet identified the source of the fill material. Should a permit be issued, the Corps will evaluate the fill material source prior to the start of construction.

<u>EVALUATION – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)</u>: The EPA 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. The EPA will be considering all comments to determine whether to certify or deny certification for the proposed project.

#### **ADDITIONAL EVALUATION:**

Pacific County has issued an exemption from the requirement of obtaining a Shorelines Substantial Development permit for this project.

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Per 33 CFR 325(b)(1)(i), this public notice serves as the Section 401(a)(2) neighboring jurisdiction notification to the Environmental Protection Agency if it is determined necessary.

<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.

<u>CORPS COMMENTS</u>: All e-mail comments should be sent to samantha.m.stanford@usace.army.mil. Conventional mail comments should be sent to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Attention: Ms. Samantha Stanford, 4735 E. Marginal Way S, Bldg 1202, Seattle, Washington, 98134-2388. 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.

<u>EPA COMMENTS</u>: Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to a request for water quality certification under Section 401 of the CWA, may do so by submitting written comments to the following address: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, ECO-083, Seattle, WA 98101, or e-mail to <u>R10-401-Certs@epa.gov</u>

To ensure proper consideration of all comments, responders must include the following name and reference number in the text of their comments: Washington State Department of Transportation, SR 105 Graveyard Spit Dynamic Revetment; NWS-2022-303-DOT-a.

Encl: (9)

















