

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District**

**National Environmental Policy Act
Public Scoping Notice**

**Channel Islands/Port Hueneme Harbors
Maintenance Dredging Project Modification
Increased Dredge Quantity**

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for modifications to the Channel Islands/Port Hueneme Harbor Maintenance Dredging project, to evaluate potential environmental impacts of increased dredge quantity. If the SEA identifies significant impacts that cannot be mitigated to a level that is less than significant, an Environmental Impact Statement would be prepared. If impacts are less than significant or can be mitigated to a level that is less than significant, then a Finding of No Significant Impact would be prepared.

The Corps proposes to increase the quantity of material dredged from the entrance channel and sand traps from the previously approved 2.2 million cubic yards (cy) to 2.5 million cy for the purpose of achieving the maximum authorized depths and increasing the amount of material placed on downcoast beaches. The previously authorized placement areas for beach nourishment are two downcoast beaches: Silver Strand Beach and Hueneme Beach in Ventura County, California. These same areas will be used for the increased quantity. The existing dredge template boundaries and authorized depths that have been used for the six-year biennial dredging program at Channel Islands Harbor will remain the same as shown in the figure below. This proposed modification will increase the project duration by approximately 15 days.

Preliminary environmental analysis indicates that environmental resources potentially affected by the proposed project modification include oceanography and water quality, marine resources, cultural resources, air quality, and land/water use. A Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) evaluation and a request for Section 401 Water Quality Certification were prepared and sent to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board on September 9, 2022. The federally endangered California Least Tern (CLT), the federally threatened Western Snowy Plover (WSP), and WSP critical habitat are present along the beach adjacent to one of the dredge areas. The proposed increased quantity of dredge material may affect WSP critical habitat. The Corps is consulting on CLT, WSP and WSP critical habitat with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. The Corps is proposing to restore up to 14 acres of sand dunes in the vicinity of the project area to offset effects to WSP critical habitat. Other marine resources in the dredging areas are expected to be minimally affected by the increased quantity of material being removed from the existing dredge template. An increased dredging

quantity will increase the duration of work and have a slightly greater effect to water quality, air quality, and land/water use although the difference would not be substantial. Although no cultural resources have been identified within the work limits, the Corps is consulting with local tribes and the State Historic Preservation Office on the proposed modification pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Comments on this public notice will be accepted from September 23, 2022 to October 7, 2022. Comments may be submitted electronically to:
gabrielle.z.dodson@usace.army.mil.