



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant:
Heather Carroll
Port of San Diego (Port)

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Expires: Feb. 19, 2026

Environmental Services and Land Use
Management Department

**Los Angeles District
Permit Application No. SPL-2024-00605-RRS**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Los Angeles District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. §403) and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (33 U.S.C §1401). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

APPLICANT: Heather Carroll
Environmental Services and Land Use Management Department
Port of San Diego (POSD)
3165 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

AGENT: Heather Carroll
Environmental Services and Land Use Management Department
Port of San Diego
3165 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The project would affect waters of the United States and/or navigable waters of the United States, specifically the San Diego Bay. The project/review area is located at B Street Pier in San Diego Bay on the eastern shore near downtown San Diego, in the city of San Diego, CA (Latitude 32.717602 N; Longitude -117.17398 W), in San Diego County, California.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The existing POSD B St. berthing areas are deepwater berthing areas adjacent to downtown San Diego and used by various vessels including cruise ships with a cruise ship terminal. The Terminal was originally built in 1926 and since then dredging and disposal occurred in 1960, 1976, 1985, and more recently in 2001 per ACOE permit – 200000851-MAT. The authorized design depth for the Terminal is -37 feet (ft.) Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW). Over the years, cruise ship movements have resulted in the development of scour pits and corresponding high spots, reducing the berth depth in some areas to -28 ft. MLLW. The project proposes

knockdown and side-cast dredging to -33 ft. MLLW (plus a 2-ft. over-dredge) and consists of moving sediment from existing high spots into adjacent scour pits to a depth of -33 ft. MLLW. No material will be removed from the Bay and no new material will be added during this maintenance dredging effort. No eelgrass or wetlands are to be impacted by the project

PROJECT PURPOSE: The stated purpose of the project is navigation and to provide safe navigational access to berthing vessels via maintenance dredging.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant requests Corps authorization to perform maintenance dredging of an estimated total 34,250 cubic yards (cy) with adjacent disposal of the dredged materials near B Street Pier per the Port of San Diego plans entitled Maintenance Dredging of B St. Cruise Ship Terminal plans and dated August 2025 as prepared by Triton Engineers (plans). Sediment will be dredged from high spots and re-discharged to adjacent scour pits near B St. Pier in San Diego Bay. The current authorized depth at B Street Pier is -37 ft. mean lower low water (MLLW) and the proposed project will bring the berth depths to -33 ft. MLLW both the North Berth (13,250 cy) and the South Berth (20,000 cy) over a 10.4-acre area. Temporary staging and on-bottom stockpiling of material may be required to effectively move dredged material to the fill sites. The areas to be dredged include two areas north and south of B St. pier where materials will be removed (dredged) and four receiving areas where the dredged material will be deposited.

The project area encompasses approximately 10.4 acres of deepwater navigable waters of the U.S. in which sediment will be moved from high spots into adjacent scour pits. The proposed side-cast dredging will occur at the following four locations as indicated in Attachment A - Construction Drawings and Aerials and the plans:

- North Berth (an irregularly shaped area within a 275 ft. by 700 ft. rectangle to an authorized depth of -33 ft. MLLW; approximately 13,250 cubic yards [cy] [including 2-ft. overdredge]).
- South Berth (an irregularly shaped area within a 325 ft by 625 ft rectangle to an authorized depth of -33 ft. MLLW; approximately 20,000 cy [including 2-ft overdredge]).
- A small area offshore of the wharf to the northwest (an irregularly shaped area within a 50 ft. by 125 ft. rectangle to an authorized depth of -33 ft. MLLW; approximately 750 cy [including 2-ft. overdredge]); and
- A small area offshore the wharf to the southwest (an irregularly shaped area within a 50 ft. by 125 ft. rectangle to an authorized depth of -33 ft. MLLW); approximately 250 cy [including 2-ft overdredge]).

Sheet 3 of the provided plans identifies the project area limits, including approximately 235 linear ft. of substrate on the North berth and 311 linear ft. of substrate on the South berth, for a cumulative total of approximately 546 linear ft. of substrate.

Scour pits will be filled no higher than -33 ft. (MLLW). Pre- construction bathymetry survey results are shown in Attachment A – Construction Drawings and Aerials. A post-dredge survey including post-dredge volume calculations will be conducted upon project completion to ensure subsurface elevations have been achieved.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment:

During dredging and disposal work the following measures will be utilized, as appropriate, including the use of silt curtains, water quality monitoring, and biological monitoring for species of concern, throughout in-water construction. Additionally, a post-dredge sediment monitoring plan will be implemented. The proposed project will not introduce new material to the bay, nor will any material be removed from the Bay. The dredge material consists of the existing marine sediment which will be moved from high points to adjacent scour pits through side-casting or knock down dredging. A silt curtain will be implemented for the duration of dredging and disposal activities to minimize the extent of any suspended material from exiting the project area.

Also, the project was presented to various resource agencies on August 28, 2024, the proposed project was presented to the Southern California Dredge Material Management Team (DMMT). The DMMT consists of a consortium of Federal and State regulatory/resource agencies with regulatory jurisdiction of the project activities for compliance with the Inland Testing Manual (ITM). The DMMT reviewed the project and determined that side-casting was appropriate as like for like discharges per the ITM and that while the project was subject to permitting the availability of sufficient previous historical testing data allowed for the ability to exclude the need for sediment characterization.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant has provided the following explanation why compensatory mitigation should not be required: Since there are no eelgrass or wetlands impacts no mitigation is proposed.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: Should historic properties (i.e., properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places) be present within the Corps' permit area, the proposed activity requiring the DA permit (the undertaking) is a type of activity that has no potential to cause an effect to an historic property given the previous dredging that has occurred in 1960, 1976, 1985, and more recently in 2001. No historic properties (i.e., properties listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places) are present within the Corps' permit area

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required, and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Corps has performed an initial review of the application, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Section 7 Mapper, and the NMFS Critical Habitat Mapper to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, as well as the proposed and final designated critical habitat may occur in the vicinity of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project will not affect any listed species or critical habitat. The project area is within proposed designated critical habitat for the federally-endangered green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*; GST). No other species or critical habitat listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) would be affected by the proposed action.

Pursuant to Section 7 ESA, any required consultation with the Service(s) will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR part 402. The Army Corps of Engineers is the lead Federal agency for ESA consultation for the proposed action. Any required consultation will be completed by the Corps.

This notice serves as a request to the USFWS and the NMFS for any additional information on whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 1996, the Corps reviewed the project area, examined information provided by the applicant, and consulted available species information. The Corps intends to initiate Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation separately from this public notice. A separate EFH consultation package will be sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Corps will not make a permit decision until the consultation process is complete.

NAVIGATION: The proposed structure or activity is not located in the vicinity of a federal navigation channel. Based on the California State Plane coordinates provided by the applicant, the waterward edge of the proposed dredging and disposal areas are approximately 2100 ft. away from the near bottom edge of the Corps San Diego Harbor federal navigation channel.

SECTION 408: The Section 408 processing has been completed by the Corps as the Port has submitted an inquiry to the Corps Section 408 team and has received written permission from the Corps under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408) on January 6, 2026. The Corps 408 team determined that the proposed

project would not constitute or include an alteration or modification to a Federal Project and therefore, does not require a Section 408 permission.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Water Quality Certification (WQC) may be required from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board – San Diego Region (CRWQCB) unless the CRWQCB deems that the Section 401 WQC is waived in accordance with the Section 401 WQC regulations. Once a Section 401 WQC determination is made the Corps shall submit the Section 401 WQC determination to EPA for processing per the EPA 401a2 processing regulations.

NOTE: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the Corps jurisdiction has been verified by Corps personnel.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact 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 cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical 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. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

COMMENTS: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other Interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to 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 (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The Los Angeles District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until February 19, 2026. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs> or to Robert Smith at Robert.R.Smith@usace.army.mil. Note that the Corps can send requesters more detailed drawings by contacting the Corps project manager Robert R Smith Jr. at email robert.r.smith@usace.army.mil.

Please refer to the permit application number in your comments.

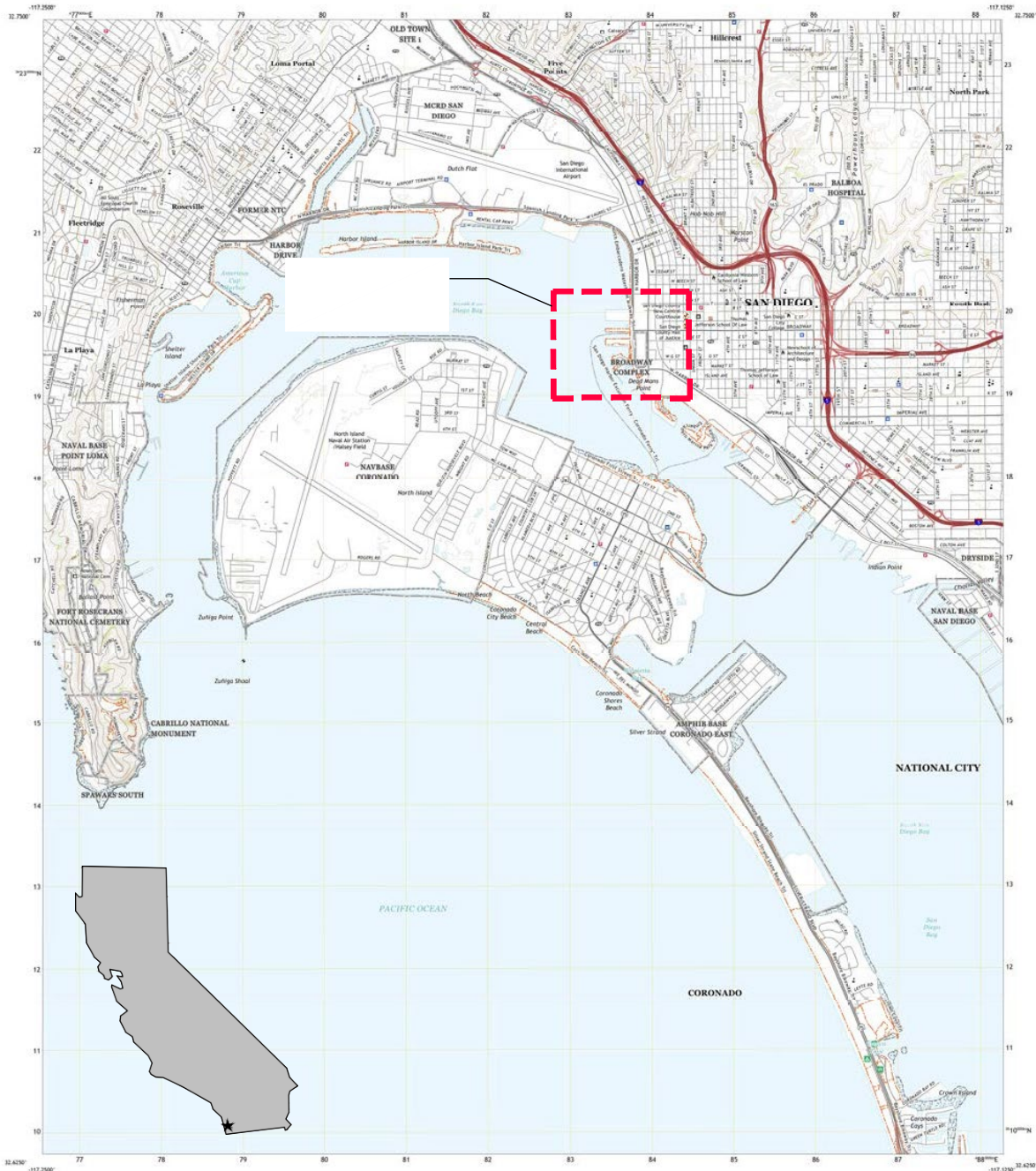
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.



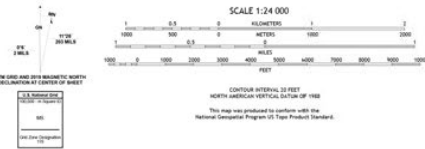
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



POINT LOMA QUADRANGLE
CALIFORNIA - SAN DIEGO COUNTY
7.5-MINUTE SERIES



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
Vertical Datum: Mean Sea Level (MSL)
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Port of San Diego B Street Dredging and Disposal Project in San Diego Bay