
FINAL INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIS/EIR)

APPENDIX N: CULTURAL RESOURCES COORDINATION

PORT OF LONG BEACH DEEP DRAFT NAVIGATION STUDY Los Angeles County, California

October 2021



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Attachments

- 1 SHPO Coordination
- 2 Tribal Coordination

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Attachment 1

SHPO Coordination

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT
915 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 930
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-3489

November 12, 2020

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, California 95816-7100

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District (Corps), and the Port of Long Beach (POLB) are proposing a navigation project to increase transportation efficiencies for container and liquid bulk vessels operating in the POLB to accommodate deep draft vessels to call at the POLB fully loaded. To meet obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 36 CFR 800, as amended, the Corps is hereby consulting with you regarding any cultural resource concerns your tribe may have regarding the undertaking.

The project, undertaken jointly by the Corps and the Port of Long Beach (POLB), would deepen the entrance to the Main Channel (the Approach Channel through Queens Gate) to a depth of -80 feet mean lower low water (MLLW), widen portions of the Main Channel to ease the bend to a depth of -76' MLLW, construct an approach channel and turning basin to Pier J South to a depth of -55' MLLW, and deepen portions of the West Basin and West Basin Approach to a depth of -55' MLLW. Project areas behind the breakwater (Main Channel and West basin) will be deepened using an electric clamshell dredge. The Approach Channel through Queens Gate and the approach Channel and turning basin to Pier J South will be deepened using a hopper dredge.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE), depicted on the enclosed Figure 1, is defined as areas previously dredged and proposed for deepening, and includes the area near Pier J not previously dredged.

To take into account the potential for shipwrecks that could be affected by proposed deepening and expansion, the Corps reviewed comprehensive survey data. In 2000, at the request of the Port of Los Angeles, the Port of Long Beach, and the pilots who maneuver increasingly large oil tankers and cargo ships through the area's crowded shipping lanes, NOAA deployed the *Fairweather* to investigate potential hazards and anomalies in San Pedro Bay. NOAA used remote sensing survey to update nautical charts 18749 and 18751, which provide depth measurements and aids to navigation that mariners rely on for safe transit. The project encompassed 114 square nautical miles. The survey areas included San Pedro Bay and its approaches, stretching south to the waters off Huntington Beach and Newport Beach. Altogether, remote sensing bathymetric surveys conducted from 1970 to 2015 and side-scan surveys conducted in the 2000s show no submerged vessels or objects in the APE (Figure 2). The nearest wreck (Wreck #2) is located 0.5 miles from the Pier J approach channel, just inside the breakwater and is well outside the APE (Figures 3 and 4).

These surveys recorded anomalies within a 2-meter horizontal resolution and were sufficient to have detected any large submerged objects. Bathymetry data near Pier J obtained for the years, 1970, 1989, 2004, and 2015 confirm this area of seafloor stable and not subject to high sedimentation rates. There has in fact, been little need to perform maintenance dredging in these areas, nor has there been significant sedimentation to bury wrecks beyond the range of remote sensing. We are therefore confident to state no historic vessels or remnants would be encountered during the deepening actions.

The Corps also considered the potential for Paleolandscapes to exist within the APE. A 1994 investigation by Statistical Research Inc. of the Queens Gate Channel prior to dredging provided relevant data for the current proposed project. Surveyed areas extended from the Queens Gate entrance southward across the San Pedro Bay portion of the outer continental shelf to a water depth of 78', encompassing all of the APE proposed for dredging. The report, *Technical Synthesis Report, Underwater Remote Sensing Survey of Proposed Dredging Area, Queensgate Channel, Long Beach Harbor, California, February 1994*, observed that, prior to warming of the ice sheets and rising sea levels 18,000 years ago, human habitation may have occurred on the exposed continental shelf. However, because the high energy wave environment of the San Pedro shelf likely washed away any intact deposits, submerged archaeological sites would likely only exist in protected areas of heavy alluvium or in highly unconsolidated sediments. Because proposed dredging areas are unprotected and have been found to have sparse deposition, there is little probability intact sites remain on the seafloor in the APE. In addition, the findings stated there have been no discoveries of isolated artifacts in the Port of Long Beach, due to high energy wave activity and low levels of alluvium.

A more recent study, *Inventory and Analysis of Coastal and Submerged Archaeological Site Occurrence on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf* (U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Pacific OCS Region, November 2013) also investigated the possibility of such sites existing on the Pacific Ocean Continental Shelf (POCS). Research found that very few prehistoric sites are known to exist on the POCS. Consistent with the 1994 remote sensing survey, the 2013 study posits that submerged archaeological sites or isolates could only remain in low wave or protected areas or in unconsolidated sediments. Because the seafloor in the APE is highly stable and has shown very little secondary sedimentation, this portion of the POCS proposed for deepening is not likely to contain unconsolidated deposits and would therefore have little to no potential to contain submerged archaeological sites.

Deepening will produce 7.4 million cubic yards of dredge material, to be placed at the nearshore Surfside Borrow Site, used since 1964 for San Gabriel River to Newport Bay nourishment, as well as at two EPA-designated offshore disposal sites at the edge of the San Pedro Shelf. The latter, Newport Beach, CA (LA-3) and Los Angeles/Long Beach, CA (LA-2) locations, were designated in 1991 and 2005, respectively. All disposal sites are shown in Figure 5. No historic properties have been identified at these sites; therefore, the current disposal actions will also have no potential to affect historic properties.

To summarize, due to the high energy environment of San Pedro Bay and limited sedimentary deposition, remote sensing survey data showing no historic era wrecks or objects, and low potential for paleo-era sites to exist, the Corps finds no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking.

At this time, the Corps invites your comment on the proposed action. The Corps has also notified the following tribes about the project and will forward any comments or concerns received: Barbareno-Ventureno Band of Mission Indians; Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation; Northern Chumash Tribal Council; Salinan Tribe of Monterey; Santa Ynez Band of Chumash; Xolon-Salinan Tribe; and the Yak tityu tityu-Northern Chumash.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Lauren McCroskey, at (253) 279-3316 or via email at lauren.l.mccroskey@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

DEMESA.EDUARD

Eduardo T. De Mesa
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure(s)

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**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Armando Quintero, Director

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Telephone: (916) 445-7000

FAX: (916) 445-7053

calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov

www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

December 09, 2020

In reply refer to: COE_2020_1113_001

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Eduardo T. DeMesa
Chief
Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
915 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 930
Los Angeles, CA 90017-3489

RE: Section 106 consultation for the Port of Long Beach Deepening and Turning Bay Expansion, Los Angeles County

Dear Eduardo DeMesa:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) is initiating consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and its implementing regulation at 36 CFR Part 800. By letter received on November 12, 2020, the COE is seeking comments on their determination of eligibility and finding of effect for the above-referenced undertaking. The COE submitted the following document to support their finding of effect:

- *Port of Long Beach Channel Deepening and Turning Basin Expansion; Figures 1-5 (USACE 2020)*

The COE is issuing a permit supporting a navigation project to increase transportation efficiencies operating in the Port of Long Beach (POLB) located in San Pedro Bay in Los Angeles County. Project activities include deepening and widening portions of the Main Channel, the construction of an approach channel and turning basin to Pier J South, and deepening portions of the West Basin and West Basin Approach. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) is defined as areas proposed for dredging and deepening. Efforts to identify historic properties include a records search, review of underwater surveys, and Native American outreach.

The COE contacted Native American as groups having cultural ties to the project area. The COE received a response from the Barbareno-Ventureno Band of Mission Indians; Coastal

Band of the Chumash Nation; Northern Chumash Tribal Council; Salinan Tribe of Monterey; Santa Ynez Band of Chumash; Xolon-Salinan Tribe; and the Yaptituy-Northern Chumash. The COE received no responses.

Efforts to identify historic properties resulted in no possible historic properties in the APE.

The COE has concluded that issuing a permit would have no effect on historic properties and has requested my review and comment on their finding of effect for the proposed undertaking. After reviewing your letter and supporting documentation, **I do not object** to a finding of *no historic properties affected* for this undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1).

Be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, the COE may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800. If you require further information, contact Elizabeth Hodges of my staff at (916) 445-7017 or Elizabeth.Hodges@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Polanco', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

Attachment 2

Tribal Coordination

(No tribal response letters received.)

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT
915 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 930
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-3489**

November 12, 2020

Ms. Julie Tumamait-Stenslie
Chair
Barbareno/Ventura Band of Mission Indians
365 North Poli Avenue
Ojai, California 93023
jtumamait@hotmail.com

Dear Ms. Tumamait-Stenslie:

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Sincerely,

DEMESA.EDUARD

Eduardo T. De Mesa
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure(s)

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT
915 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 930
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-3489**

November 12, 2020

Mr. Fred Collins
Tribal Spokesperson
Northern Chumash Tribal Council
P.O. Box 6533
Los Osos, California 93412
fcollins@northernchumash.org

Dear Mr. Collins:

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Sincerely,

DEMESA.EDUARD

Eduardo T. De Mesa
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure(s)

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT
915 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 930
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-3489**

November 12, 2020

Ms. Mariza Sullivan
Chair
Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation
P.O. Box 4464
Santa Barbara, California 93140
cbctribalchair@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT
915 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 930
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-3489**

November 12, 2020

Ms. Mona Olivas Tucker
Chairwoman
yak tityu tityu yak tithini - Northern Chumash Tribe
660 Camino Del Rey
Orroyo Grande, California 93420
olivas.mona@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Tucker:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District (Corps), and the Port of Long Beach (POLB) are proposing a navigation project to increase transportation efficiencies for container and liquid bulk vessels operating in the POLB to accommodate deep draft vessels to call at the POLB fully loaded. To meet obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 36 CFR 800, as amended, the Corps is hereby consulting with you regarding any cultural resource concerns your tribe may have regarding the undertaking.

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Sincerely,

DEMESA.EDUARD

Eduardo T. De Mesa
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure(s)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT
915 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 930
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-3489

November 12, 2020

Mr. Kenneth Kahn
Chairman
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash
P.O. Box 517
Santa Ynez, California 93460
kkahn@santaynezchumash.org

Dear Mr. Kahn:

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Sincerely,

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Eduardo T. De Mesa
Chief, Planning Division

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT
915 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 930
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-3489

November 12, 2020

Mr. Freddie Romero
Santa Ynez Band of Chumash
Cultural Resources Coordinator
Santa Ynez Tribal Elders Council
fromero@santaynezchumash.org

Dear Mr. Romero:

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Eduardo T. De Mesa
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Enclosure(s)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT
915 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 930
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-3489

November 12, 2020

Mr. Gary Pierce
Contemporary Council Lead and Public Law Lead
Salinan Tribe of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties
7070 Morro Road, Suite A
Atascadero, California 93422
Morrrock40@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Pierce:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District (Corps), and the Port of Long Beach (POLB) are proposing a navigation project to increase transportation efficiencies for container and liquid bulk vessels operating in the POLB to accommodate deep draft vessels to call at the POLB fully loaded. To meet obligations under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 36 CFR 800, as amended, the Corps is hereby consulting with you regarding any cultural resource concerns your tribe may have regarding the undertaking.

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Sincerely,

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Eduardo T. De Mesa
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure(s)

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT
915 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 930
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017-3489**

November 12, 2020

Ms. Donna Haro
Tribal Headwoman
Xolon-Salinan Tribe
P.O. Box 7045
Spreckels, California 93962
dhxolonaakletse@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Haro:

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