



PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

BUILDING STRONG®

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT
San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Mitigation Reef
Wheeler North Reef Expansion-Phase 3

Public Notice/Application No.: SPL-2018-00501-RRS

Project: SONGS Mitigation Reef Wheeler North Reef (WNR) Expansion-Phase 3

Comment Period: December 7, 2018 through January 8, 2019

Project Manager: Robert Smith; (760) 602-4831; Robert.R.Smith@usace.army.mil

Applicant

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Location

The Wheeler North Reef Phase 3 project (WNR) area is located adjacent to the existing Phase 1 and 2 reef sites about 0.6 miles offshore of the City of San Clemente (City), between the San Clemente City Pier to the north and San Mateo Point to the south, between 10.5 m to 15 m water depth (34 feet (ft.) to 49 ft.) in the Pacific Ocean. The project area is within a submerged land parcel in the Pacific Ocean in the near shore vicinity of the City, and San Mateo Point, Orange County, California, more particularly described as follows. A four (4) sided parcel of submerged land in the Pacific Ocean having the following North American Datum 1983 geographic coordinates: Latitude 33° 25' 01.7" North, Longitude 117° 37' 45.0" West; Latitude 33° 23' 15.2" North, Longitude 117° 36' 20.0" West; Latitude 33° 24' 47.3" North, Longitude 117° 38' 14.9" West.

Activity

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) proposes to expand Wheeler North Reef (WNR) by approximately 210 acres (Phase 3) to satisfy California Coastal Commission (CCC) Permit No. 6-81-330-A per the attached figures. Work includes the mining and hauling and transport of rock from an upland source yet undetermined by derrick barge to the WNR Phase 3 reef site offshore of San Clemente for near shore disposal. This action is being processed under an existing agreement under WRDA Section 214 with SCE and the Corps. In August 1999, the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) issued a General Lease (PRC 8097) to SCE for the construction of the Phase 1 (SCE's test modules) and the Phase 2 portion of the reef

which were constructed. The original lease was for 862 acres and included a large enough area for SCE to develop the Phase 3 mitigation reef portion. The lease is for a parcel of submerged land in the Pacific Ocean (see attached drawings). SCE has requested an assignment of an existing lease (No. PRC 8097.1) for Phase 3. For more information see Additional Project Information section below.

Interested parties are hereby notified an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein and shown on the attached drawing(s). We invite you to review today's public notice and provide views on the proposed work. By providing substantive, site-specific comments to the Corps Regulatory Division, you provide information that supports the Corps' decision-making process. All comments received during the comment period become part of the record and will be considered in the decision. This permit will be issued, issued with special conditions, or denied under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act. Comments should be mailed to:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
REGULATORY DIVISION
ATTN: Robert Smith
Carlsbad Field Office
5900 La Place Ct., Suite 100
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: Robert.R.Smith@usace.army.mil

The mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program is to protect the Nation's aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions. The Corps evaluates permit applications for essentially all construction activities that occur in the Nation's waters, including wetlands. The Regulatory Program in the Los Angeles District is executed to protect aquatic resources by developing and implementing short- and long-term initiatives to improve regulatory products, processes, program transparency, and customer feedback considering current staffing levels and historical funding trends.

Corps permits are necessary for any work, including construction and dredging, in the Nation's navigable water and their tributary waters. The Corps balances the reasonably foreseeable benefits and detriments of proposed projects, and makes permit decisions that recognize the essential values of the Nation's aquatic ecosystems to the general public, as well as the property rights of private citizens who want to use their land. The Corps strives to make its permit decisions in a timely manner that minimizes impacts to the regulated public.

During the permit process, the Corps considers the views of other Federal, state and local agencies, interest groups, and the general public. The results of this careful public interest review are fair and equitable decisions that allow reasonable use of private property, infrastructure development, and growth of the economy, while offsetting the authorized

impacts to the waters of the United States. The permit review process serves to first avoid and then minimize adverse effects of projects on aquatic resources to the maximum practicable extent. Any remaining unavoidable adverse impacts to the aquatic environment are offset by compensatory mitigation requirements, which may include restoration, enhancement, establishment, and/or preservation of aquatic ecosystem system functions and services.

Evaluation Factors

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 benefit, 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. Factors that will be considered include conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, if the proposal would discharge dredged or fill material, the evaluation of the activity will include application of the EPA Guidelines (40 CFR Part 230) as required by Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

The Corps of Engineers 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 of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. 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 proposed activity.

Preliminary Review of Selected Factors

EIS Determination- A preliminary determination has been made an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work.

Water Quality- The applicant is required to obtain water quality certification, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board – San Diego Region. Section 401 requires any applicant for an individual Section 404 permit provide proof of water quality certification to the Corps of Engineers prior to permit issuance. The Regional Board is currently processing a Section 401 water quality certification application for the WNR Phase 3 project.

Coastal Zone Management (CZMA) - The original CZMA compliance process requires SCE to implement the WNR Phase 3 expansion to supplement the existing WNR (Phases 1 & 2) in order to comply with California Coastal Commission (CCC) Permit No. 6-81-370-A. The applicant has certified the proposed activity would comply with and would be conducted in a manner consistent with the approved State Coastal Zone Management Program and is working with the California Public Utilities Corporation and the CCC to secure compliance with CZMA in regular meetings since 2017. For those projects in or affecting the coastal zone, the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act requires that prior to issuing the Corps authorization for the project, the applicant must obtain concurrence from the California Coastal Commission that the project is consistent with the State's Coastal Zone Management Plan and CCC Permit No. 6-81-370-A. The District Engineer hereby requests the California Coastal Commission's concurrence or non-concurrence.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) - Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), as defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, occurs within the project area and EFH is affected by the proposed project. Therefore, formal consultation under Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) is required at this time. Pursuant to Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the Los Angeles District will be requesting initiation of expanded EFH consultation for the proposed project. This notice initiates the preliminary EFH consultation requirements of the Act with the expanded EFH consultation. In order to comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), pursuant to 50 CFR 600.920(e)(3), I am providing, enclosing, or otherwise identifying the following information:

1. Description of the proposed action: See project description on page 5 and 6 of this public notice.
2. Onsite inspection information: See baseline information on page 5 of this public notice.
3. Analysis of the potential adverse effects on EFH: The project has the potential to result in direct mortality to four Fishery Management Plans include species of fishes occurring in the project area in the near shore ocean environment off San Clemente: Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) and Pacific Coast Ground fish (PCG), Pacific Coast Salmon (PCS), and Highly Migratory Species (HMS). However monitoring done for Phase I and II work, which is summarized below, did not indicate any substantial impacts to EFH species and has shown substantial beneficial effects to EFH. Also the project has and will provide long term beneficial marine ecological restoration effects to the above EFH species with the construction of the new Phase 3 portion of the reef which will supplement the existing reefs already constructed in Phase 2 and 3.
4. Proposed minimization, conservation, or mitigation measures: The Wheeler North Reef (WNR) Phase 3 project will have the following measures to avoid and minimize impacts:

- Transported rock will not be placed on existing hard substrate from the derrick barge and would install hard substrate which supports Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act goals to restore Essential Fish Habitat.
- Transported large clean quarry rocks from Catalina Island will be used to construct the WNR Phase 3 Reef.
- The Phase 3 polygon areas are designated to accommodate new sand areas having only scattered hard substrate impacts.
- The Phase 3 reef will be constructed in areas with no kelp or reef habitats.
- Quarry rock will not be deposited within 50 m of areas of designated fishing sites.
- Anchor sites will not be located in a way that would impact areas with reef, eelgrass, or kelp.
- Anchors will not be placed in areas that would impact hard substrate.
- Anchor systems will be designed to minimize any possible impacts on existing kelp beds.
- Quarry rock will not be deposited within 7 m of the existing reef modules and polygons.
- Adequate navigation channels will be avoided and protected during construction or be in close proximity to an existing kelp bed.

5. Conclusions regarding effects of the proposed project on EFH: Based on the project description and EFH assessment provided by the applicant, the proposed project would result in disturbance of approximately 210 acres of marine substrate with the construction of the 210 acre reef project, with temporary adverse effects associated with construction. The long term benefits of the Phase 3 reef to EFH resources include major EFH functional gains with new reef EFH habitat. Furthermore, the affected substrate would likely consist of soft-bottom sediments, with little or no hard rock substrate affected.

Therefore, it is the Corps' initial determination the proposed activity may adversely affect but would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in California waters. My final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NOAA Fisheries.

Cultural Resources- The latest version of the National Register of Historic Places has been consulted for Phases 1-3 with a literature search from the South Central Coast Information Center as a part of the previous Program EIR and Corps permit process and no cultural resource sites or shipwrecks were found that are listed at the site or in the vicinity.

Also the Corps has received a revised cultural resource report (report) prepared by Dudek and entitled “ *Underwater Cultural Resources Investigation Report for the Wheeler North Reef Expansion Project, City of San Clemente, California*” and dated November 1, 2018. This letter report documents the underwater cultural resources study conducted by Dudek for the proposed Wheeler North Reef (WNR) Phase 3 Expansion Project (proposed project). The California State Lands Commission (Commission) oversees management of State tidelands, and is the lead agency responsible for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A previous cultural resources inventory was completed by Petra Resource Management for the proposed project. The latest study included a review of a previously conducted records search at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), review of a previously conducted Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File search, and a reconnaissance survey of selected areas of the Area of Potential Effect (APE).

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), the Commission notified all 29 NAHC-listed Native American representatives of the proposed project through distribution of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) in January 2018. Representatives of the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians, Acjachemen Nation, notably Mr. Steven Villa, having responded with a request for government-to-government consultation regarding the project, expressed concerns that the project site had potential to contain tribal cultural resources (TCRs) and/or archaeological resources of Native American origin that were inundated through sea-level rise since prehistoric habitation of this area. TCRs (as defined in Public Resources Code § 21074) have tangible, geographically defined properties, and are most commonly comprised of archaeological resources that are presently listed or eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), or as otherwise determined by the lead agency based on substantial evidence.

The geology of the project site has been well documented within the Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the Construction and Management of an Artificial Reef in the Pacific Ocean near San Clemente, California (CSLC 1999) and is reprinted in the two paragraphs below. The underlying geology of the project area consists of the San Onofre Shelf portion of the California Continental Borderland. The San Onofre Shelf between Dana Point and Oceanside, California, is about 3 to 5 miles wide and extends seaward to a depth of about 295 feet. Most of the bedrock underlying the Project area and exposed along the seafloor in the Project vicinity is thought to be Capistrano Formation. The Capistrano Formation is Late Miocene and Early Pliocene in age and consists of dark gray and light gray siltstone and clayey siltstone with scattered and interbedded layers of sandstone tuff and diatomite. Concretions can be found within the clayey siltstone. Stratigraphic deformation of the Capistrano beds varies from tightly folded and sheared in the San Onofre bluff area to gently undulating with a westerly dip near San Mateo Point.

Approximately 25 percent of the bottom in the area offshore of San Clemente that encompasses the Commission lease site (of which the current project area is within) consists of exposed bedrock (CSLC 1999). About five percent of this area is exposed cobble and the remaining 70 percent is covered by a thin veneer of fine sand and silt. An unconsolidated hard cobble surface underlies the sand veneer. The patches of fine sand are generally less than two feet thick. The proposed lease site consists of about 96 percent sand cover, generally less than one foot in thickness (SCE 1997, as cited in CSLC 1999).

As part of AB 52 consultation, representatives of Acjachemen Nation of Juaneño Band of Mission Indians raised concerns that their oral history references village sites possibly within the project site, which had been inundated millennia ago through post-glacial sea level rise. To investigate the possibility of potential TCRs and cultural resources within the project area, the Acjachemen Nation requested an archaeological reconnaissance survey of portions of the project area. Using side scan sonar images, Steven Villa of NDNA Monitoring and Consulting, LLC, and Dudek marine archaeologist William Burns, MSC, RPA, identified ten project area polygons, which appeared to have geology of interest that could hold bedrock milling sites, rock shelters, or other possible archaeological resources.

The Acjachemen Nation and Commission agreed to perform archaeological survey on portions of these ten polygons. The intent of Dudek's and NDNA's efforts was to identify and document any observed cultural resources and to appropriately assess the potential for the APE to support the presence of unanticipated cultural resources. As TCRs are identified through the process of consultation with the lead agency based on a tribe's traditional knowledge, Mr. Villa and Acjachemen Nation representative Gabriel Lopez provided additional expertise in this resource type.

The Dudek report offers Summary and Management Recommendations and the observation of the present conditions within the proposed project area indicates that all areas have been subject to a substantial degree of past disturbances related to wave processes from post glacial sea level rise. The thin layer of sand overlying siltstone bedrock would likely not be able to contain intact archaeological deposits due to the scouring of the rock from sea level rise and the current dynamic seafloor environment. Geology observed during the survey consisted of extremely weak siltstone which would be poor for use as bedrock milling sites.

Other possible cultural features within the geology would have likely been exfoliated down by millennia of wave action on the weak stone. No newly identified tribal cultural resources were recorded during the reconnaissance survey of the project area, pending confirmation from the Acjachemen Nation. Further, a SCCIC records search did not identify the presence of cultural resources within the proposed project area. The project, as currently designed, appears to have a low potential for impacting any undiscovered cultural resources. Based on these negative findings and the observed conditions of the present project area, no additional cultural resources efforts are recommended to be necessary beyond standard protection measures for unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources and human remains.

In the event that archaeological resources (sites, features, or artifacts) are exposed during construction activities for the proposed project, all construction work occurring within 100 feet of the find shall immediately stop until a qualified archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, can evaluate the significance of the find and determine whether or not additional study is warranted.

Endangered Species- Preliminary determinations indicate the proposed activity would not affect federally-listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat. Therefore, formal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act does not appear to be required at this time. No abalone were observed during surveys of the Phase 1 and 2 areas,

and abalone have not been found in recent surveys in the project areas. Specifically, the Corps made a no effects determination for the federally-listed as endangered white and black abalone for Phase 2 and any Federally-listed whales or listed sea turtles for Phase 1 and 2 and preliminary indications are that that determination may be still valid for Phase 3 and the project is outside of designated critical habitat for black abalone, but the Corps will welcomes new information.

The project would avoid reefs and large rock substrate that could be abrasive to any sessile organisms on rock surfaces or reefs. Although Federally-listed sea turtles and whales may transit through west of the project areas in deeper water areas during the project, they will not be affected given the existing ambient conditions of very little vessel traffic in the near shore areas and whales and sea turtles are mostly found in the deep ocean areas and best management practices done by the permittee such as monitoring should ensure no impacts to listed species. Also the applicant has submitted a Marine Wildlife Avoidance and Contingency Plan dated November 18, 2018 for the project that will avoid any impacts to marine mammals.

Installation work will be done slowly with work cessation as needed so as to avoid vessel strikes or entanglement with listed whales or sea turtles with monitoring at sea. Monitoring may be one of many measures implemented for avoidance and minimization. Project planning to time activities to avoid peak migration season is another example of proposed Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Public Hearing- 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 hearing shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Proposed Activity for Which a Permit is Required

Basic Project Purpose- The basic project purpose comprises the fundamental, essential, or irreducible purpose of the proposed project, and is used by the Corps to determine whether the applicant's project is water dependent (i.e., requires access or proximity to or siting within the special aquatic site to fulfill its basic purpose). Establishment of the basic project purpose is necessary only when the proposed activity would discharge dredged or fill material into a special aquatic site (e.g., wetlands, pool and riffle complex, mudflats, coral reefs). Because no fills are proposed within special aquatic sites, identification of the basic project purpose is not necessary. The original CZMA compliance process for the WNR Phase 3 expansion supplements the existing WNR (Phases 1 & 2) in order to comply with California Coastal Commission (CCC) Permit No. 6-81-370-A. The WNR project (Phases 1-3) is an ongoing compliance resolution issue for the CCC. Note that there was no Corps permit issued that related to the CCC Permit No. 6-81-370-A. The basic project purpose for the proposed project is to perform marine ecological enhancement. The project is water dependent.

Overall Project Purpose- The overall project purpose serves as the basis for the Corps' 404(b)(1) alternatives analysis and is determined by further defining the basic project purpose in a manner that more specifically describes the applicant's goals for the project, and which

allows a reasonable range of alternatives to be analyzed. The objectives of the project are to increase fish standing stock, implement a design based on seafloor characterization, not adversely impact recreational activities such as surfing, diving, or fishing and expand the acreage of the existing WNR by approximately 210 acres. The overall project purpose for the proposed project is to comply with previous CZMA compliance authorities and enhance the Wheeler Reef within southern Orange County and Camp Pendleton, CA.

Additional Project Information

Baseline information-

The CCC issued Coastal Development Permit (CDP) No. 6-81-370-A for the construction and operation of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), Units 2 & 3, in 1974. This permit required a Marine Review Committee (MRC) to monitor the impact of the operations of SONGS on the marine environment. After a 15-year study, the MRC concluded that the operation of SONGS had resulted in adverse impacts to the San Onofre Kelp (SOK) community through the discharge of turbid water. The CCC adopted permit conditions in 1991 that required mitigation to compensate for these losses, which included the construction of a 300-acre artificial reef for kelp growth. Subsequent studies determined that resource losses at SOK were fewer than originally estimated, and the CCC amended the permit conditions in 1997 to require an artificial reef that would sustain 150 acres of medium-to-high-density kelp and the associated biota, along with a Mari culture/fish hatchery program (CCC, 1997).

The State Lands Commission (SLC) currently has an Amendment Request filed (PRC 8097.1) and the proposed project design will be submitted to SLC in a revised Project Description for CEQA Analysis (Supplemental EIR "Preferred Project") for a FEIR in early 2019. Detailed biological studies have been done for Phase 1 and 2 as a part of the previous Program EIR released in 1999, and a supplemental Draft EIR was released November 13, 2018. The existing WNR was built in two phases in the near shore ocean areas off of the City of San Clemente with current rocky Phase 1 and 2 reef structures now present. The proposed project (phase 3) area was surveyed in 2017 (1,200 acres) and phases 1 and 2 project areas were surveyed in 2005 (1,620 acres) with multi-beam, side-scan sonar, sub-bottom profiling, jet probing, and diver based biological surveys produced a bathymetric map that allowed for substrate characterization and biological mapping. The existing Phase 1 and II reef structures total to 174.4 acres of sub tidal reef habitat, including 22.4 acres of experimental reef habitat already completed. The existing baseline of the project area is largely a gently sloping sandy substrate underlain by native rock formations and exposed bedrock with kelp forests and reefs nearby and sandy maintained beaches east of the project area.

The project area will allow for the discharge of large rocks to form the Phase 3 reef that will then be submerged in 38 to 52 ft. of ocean water about 1000 ft. offshore as shown in the attached figures. The Phase 1 Experimental Artificial Kelp Reef was completed on September 29, 1999. It consisted of 56 modules (40 m x 40 m), totaled 22.4 acres, and served as a scientific platform for experimental study to determine the optimal materials and design specifications for subsequent reef construction. Phase 2, the final build-out of the reef,

commenced on June 9, 2008 and concluded on September 11, 2008, a construction period that lasted 73 days. The Phase 2 WNR reef was constructed of 17 polygons, varying spatially from 1.35 to 38.88 acres. Phase 2 involved placement of 125 tons of quarry rocks to build 152 acres of low-relief reef. Polygon siting relied primarily on the historical locations of kelp beds (maps) and multi-beam and sub-bottom profiling sonar surveys. The acoustic surveys were verified by SCUBA diver surveys. Additionally, the dive surveys evaluated the biological diversity and habitat value of the Phase 2 project area. The design also considered the historical, physical, and biological data collected during previous studies in the area and the results of experimental reef monitoring between 1999 and 2004. To date no adverse impacts to recreational activities such as surfing, diving, or fishing has occurred within the coastal areas near the WNR Phase I or II areas.

The Phase 2 reef construction achieved the following: 1) all polygons were built in close proximity to the San Mateo Kelp Bed; 2) all polygons avoided hard substrate areas; 3) the integrity of the Phase 1 Experimental Reef modules was maintained; 4) navigation channels were provided; and 5) all constructed reef polygons avoided areas of historical kelp growth, as well as areas of special interest to local fisheries. The Phase 2 reef construction material consisted exclusively of quarry rock cast upon the appropriate benthic substrate in a single-layer deposition at a density of approximately 760 to 850 tons per acre. Figure 1-1 shows the general location of WNR at San Clemente with respect to SONGS, the San Mateo Kelp Bed, and Dana Point Harbor. Figure 1-2 shows the Experimental Reef modules (Phase 1) and Phase 2 polygons sequentially numbered from 1 to 17. Figures 1-3 shows the area surveyed for the proposed WNR expansion area in April 2017.

The project area is a naturally turbid near shore high wave energy zone and near five seasonal creeks and river mouths. There are two existing California State Parks with State beaches in the proposed vicinity and the City manages the beaches with grooming and lifeguard stations. The area is navigated by small craft and is just five miles south of Dana Point harbor and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and the Navy holds military training and exercises with a designated military exercise area nearby. Commercial lobster and fishing vessels currently operate in the project area. Existing marine areas contain commercial fish (squid, jack, mackerel, anchovy, and Pacific sardine), invertebrates, marine mammals, and lobsters that currently inhabit that are in the submerged reef area. The Corps and EPA staff also reviewed the sediment source documents for the initial preliminary rock quarry for compliance with the Ocean Testing Manual (OTM) in 2018 and determined that the rock to be used for the Phase 3 project construction was clean gravelly rock that would not require Tier 2 sediment testing under the OTM.

Project description- The project consists of two phases that include the quarry operation where rock will be mined and hauled by a derrick barge and tugboats to the project area and disposal of the rock at the Phase 3 WNR reef site off of San Clemente. Other mine sites may be reviewed during the FEIR phase and two commercial Catalina Island quarries, Pebbly Beach and Empire Quarry, and if needed, the Ensenada quarry. The rocks used for the project would range from approximately 0.25 to 0.5 tons and the rocks would be clean and free of contaminants. These two commercial quarries are located on Catalina Island with loading docks that have direct marine access for the loading of quarried rock. Cranes and front-end loaders would be used to load the quarry rock onto 2,000-ton-capacity, flat-deck

supply barges. Each trip would transport about 4,000 tons of quarry rock, and approximately 38 trips from Catalina Island to the project site would be required for 150,000 tons of rock.

The work will consist of variations in the equipment and the methodology for placing rock and SCE is using the methodology from Phase 2 to plan the construction methodology. Equipment includes a derrick barge, tug boats, flat-deck supply barges, GPS markers, anchoring points and anchors, rock placement lines, and a front-end track loader. A “push off” construction method using a front-end track loader would be used for placing the quarry rock within the project area. The front-end track loader would be lowered via crane from the derrick barge to the flat-deck supply barge so that boulders could be pushed over the side. The winch operator would maneuver the edge of the flat-deck supply barge to the required position (e.g., at the first line) by winching “in” or “out” on six anchor cables connected to their respective anchors. The derrick-barge winch operator would use a computer monitor displaying the triangulated data to assist in locating the edge of the supply barge at the exact line of deployment.

The minimum average amount of rock coverage on a per-acre basis for Phases 1 and 2 is approximately 790 tons. These low-density modules were found to have bottom coverage of approximately 42% based on methods used in the CCC surveys.

Proposed Mitigation– The proposed mitigation may change as a result of comments received in response to this public notice, the applicant's response to those comments, and/or the need for the project to comply with the 404(b)(1) Guidelines. In consideration of the above, the proposed mitigation sequence (avoidance/minimization/compensation), as applied to the proposed project is summarized below:

Avoidance: The reef design strives to achieve the following avoidance and design features: Locate new reef in proximity to persistent kelp bed, avoid existing hard substrate areas of greater than 30 percent, avoid areas of persistent historical kelp growth, place substrate on sand with a depth of less than 0.7 m to minimize subsidence of the new substrate, locate the reef in water depths suitable for kelp recruitment and growth, isolate the experimental reef modules from the new reef, provide a 7 (\pm 1) meter margin from existing hard substrate, allow several navigation lanes between inshore and offshore areas, avoid areas of special interest (e.g., local fisheries), and is designed to increase the perimeter of the reef.

Minimization: Minimization measures include limiting construction activities to occur between May 1, 2019 and September 30, 2019 to avoid the lobster-fishing season and to utilize better weather conditions that are typical of that time of year in southern California. Other measures including limiting the construction time period when controlled by weather conditions, limiting the time required to move from one site to another, and limiting the tonnage of rock placement per day. It is expected that about 1,750 tons of rock per day would be placed. Construction would be carried out during daylight hours six days a week (Monday through Saturday), except on holidays and during inclement weather and no construction would be performed if wave heights were larger than four feet. Onsite work would begin no earlier than 7:00 AM and be halted no later than 7:00 PM to minimize noise impacts to the City. Also please see Item Nos. 4 in the EFH section for additional measures.

Compensation: As the Phase 3 portion of the WNR project is compensatory mitigation for compliance with CCC's CDP No. 6-81-370-A, the Corps has preliminarily determined that additional compensatory mitigation for the Phase 3 portion of the project would not be required.

Proposed Special Conditions

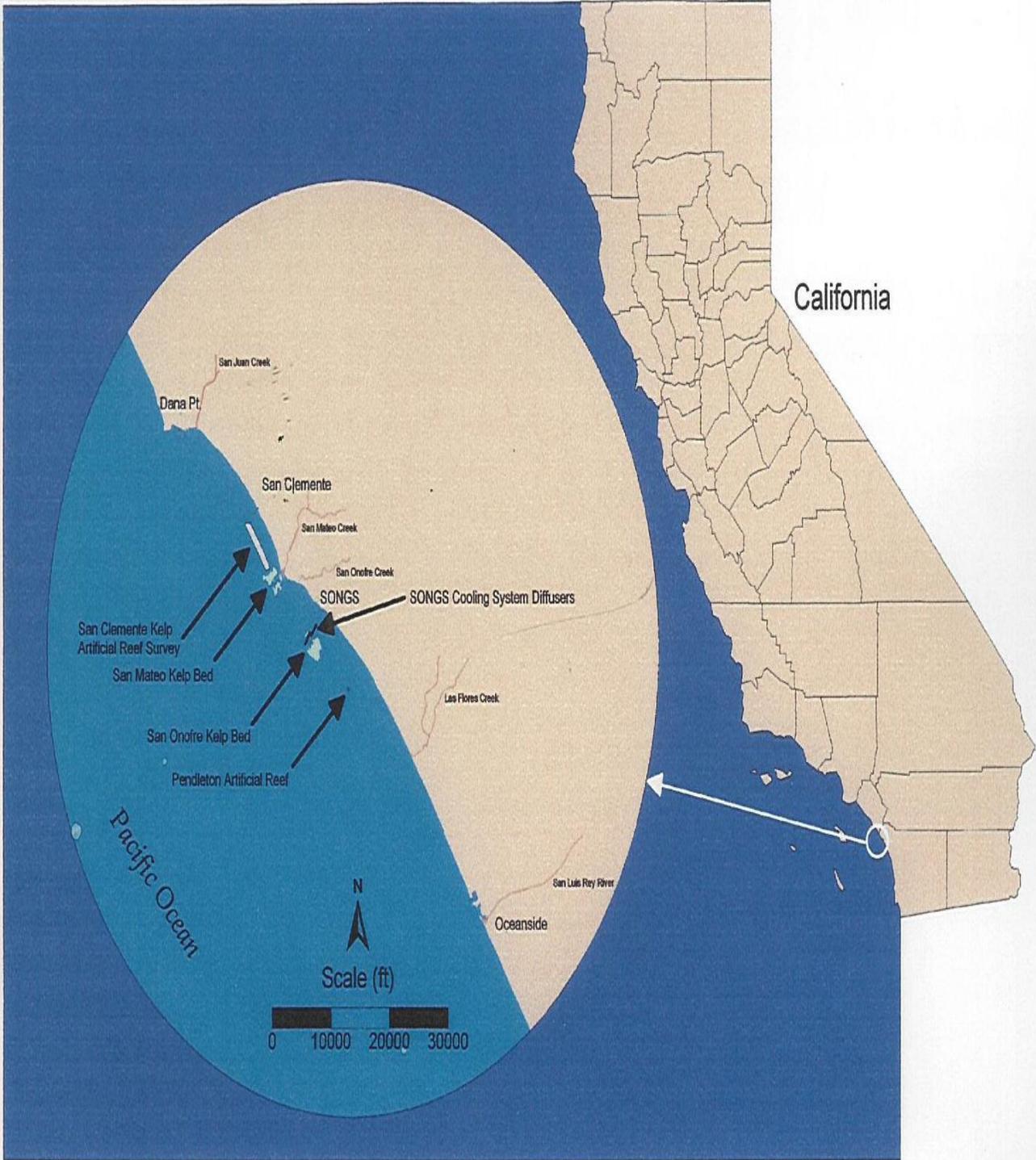
For additional information please call Robert Smith of my staff at (760) 602-4831 or via e-mail at Robert.R.Smith@usace.army.mil. This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Division.



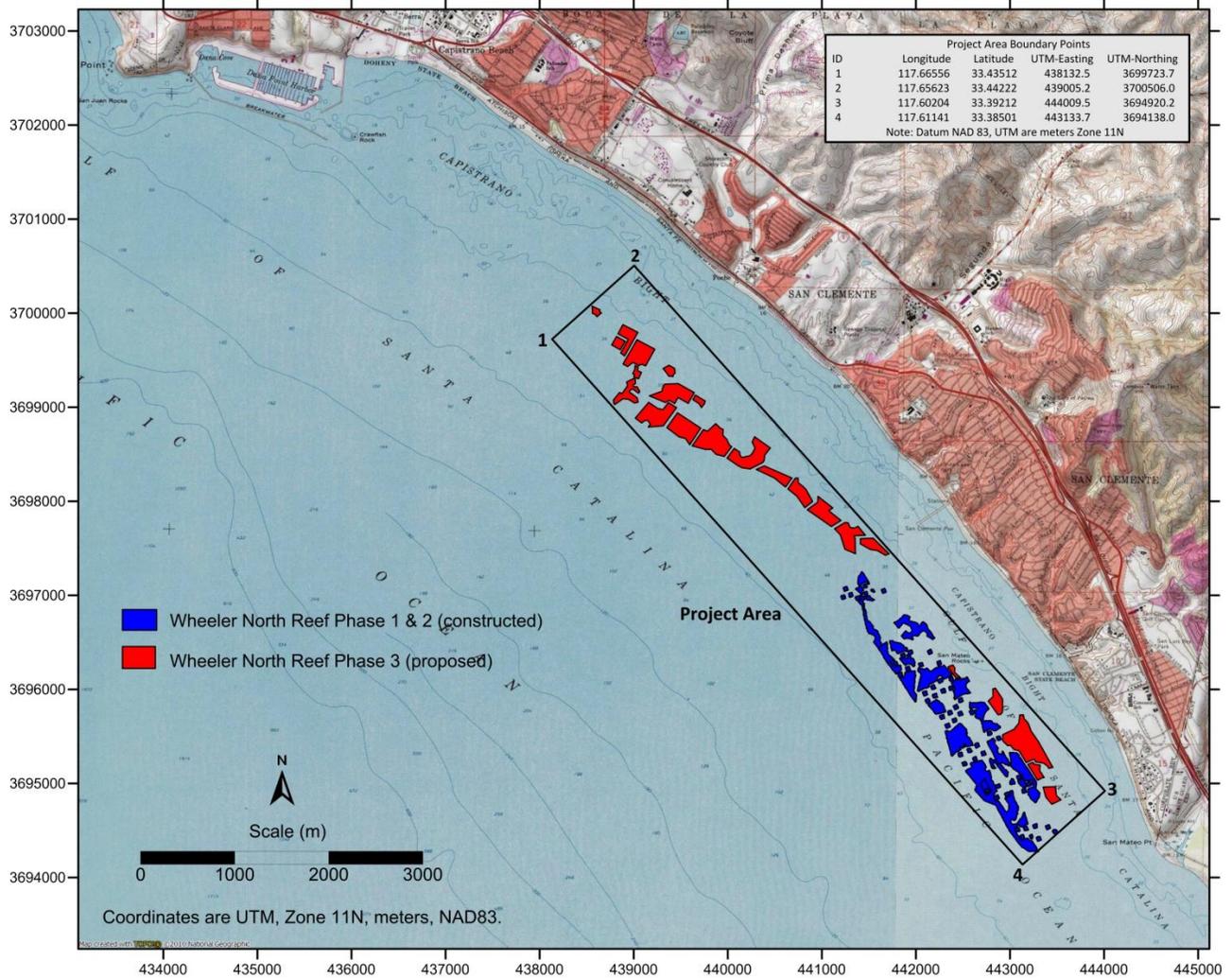
Regulatory Program Goals:

- To provide strong protection of the nation's aquatic environment, including wetlands.
- To ensure the Corps provides the regulated public with fair and reasonable decisions.
- To enhance the efficiency of the Corps' administration of its regulatory program.

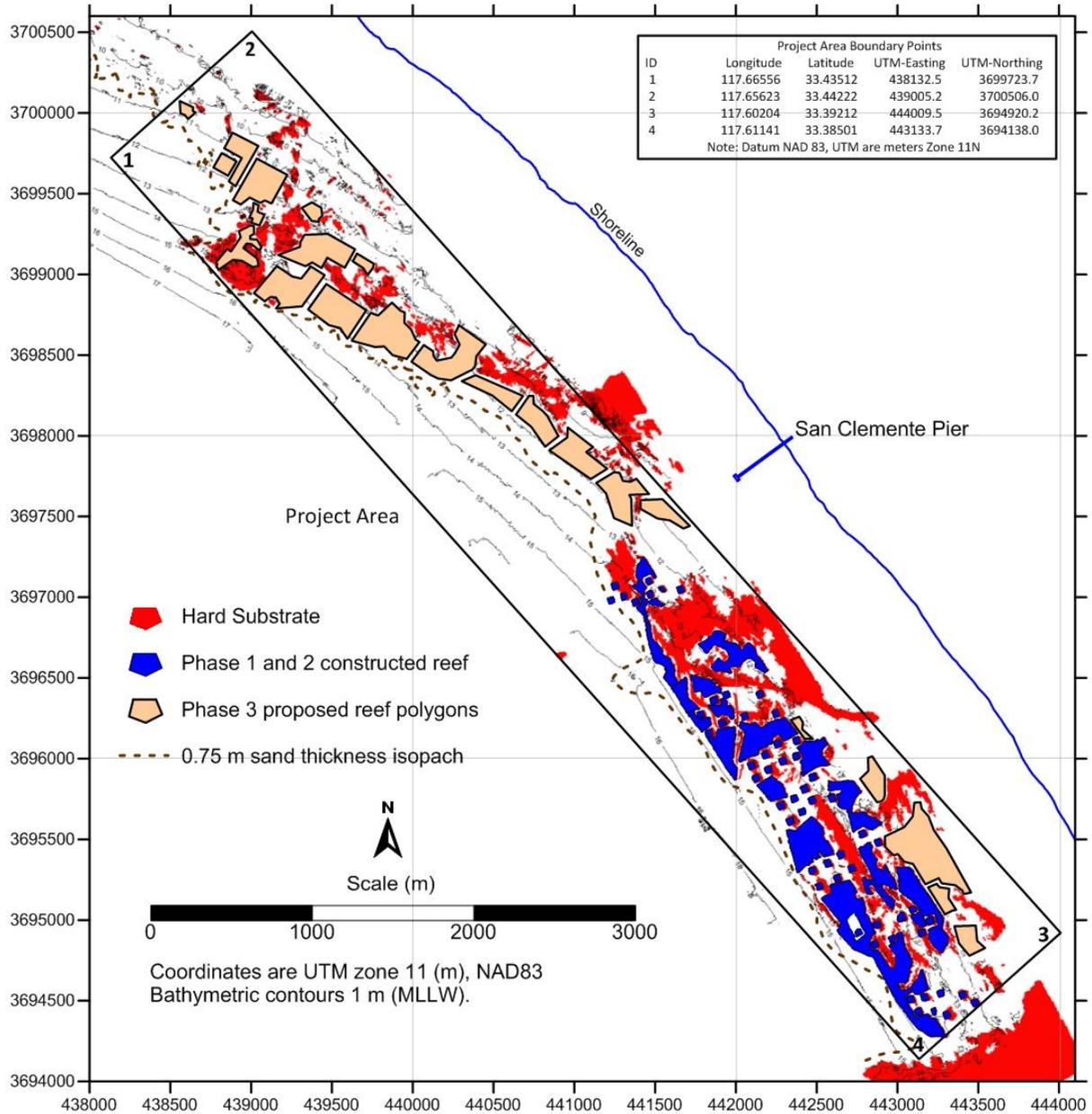
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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Carlsbad, CA 92008
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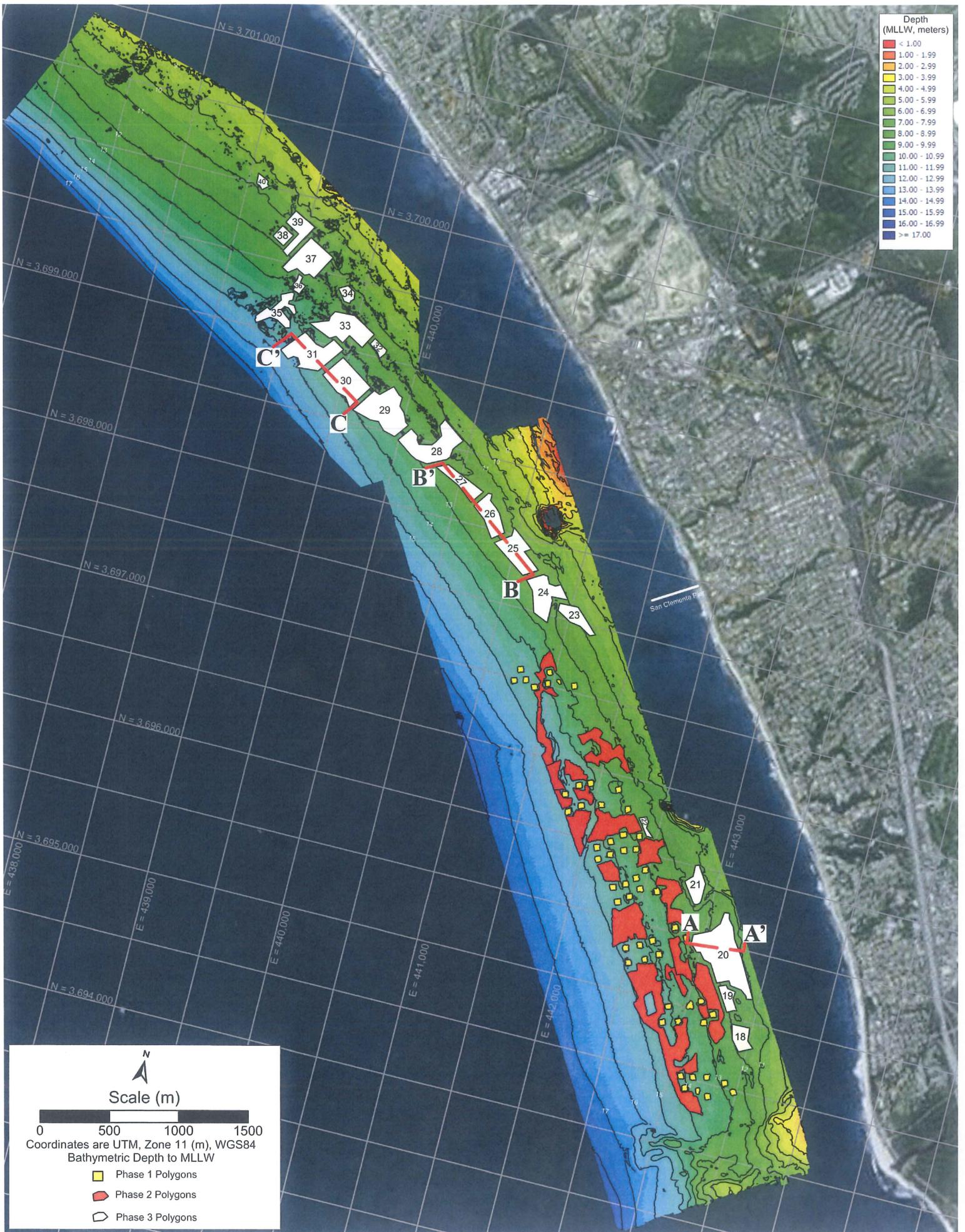


Wheeler North Reef Expansion – Phase 3
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permit Application
Applicant: Southern California Edison
Attachment 1: Vicinity Map

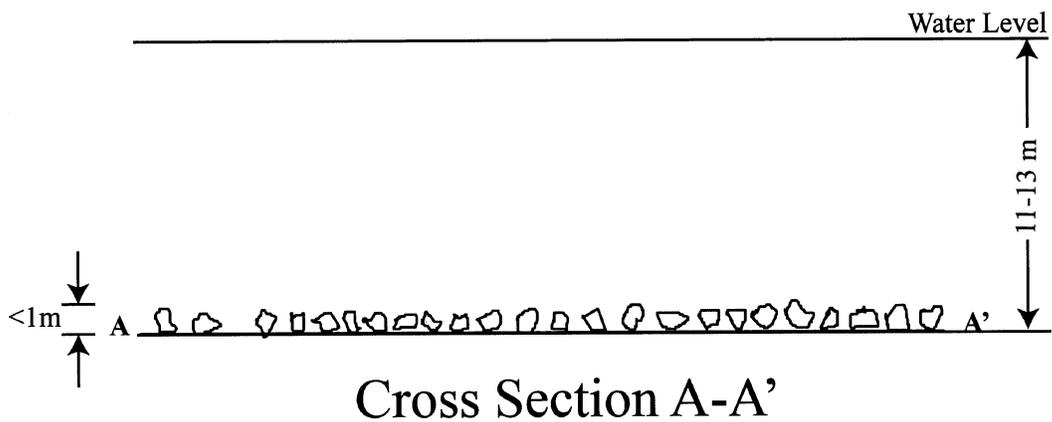
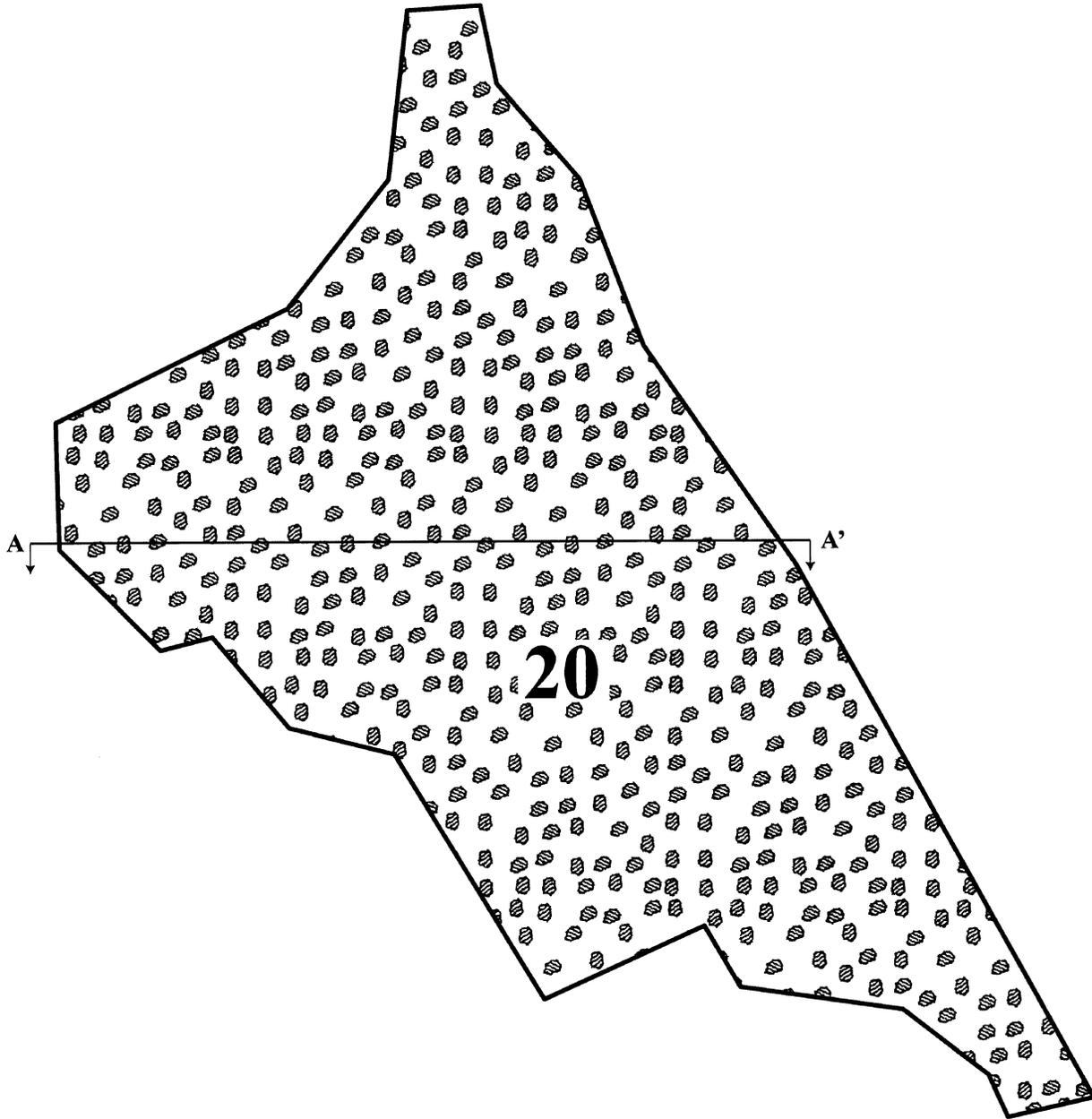


Wheeler North Reef Expansion – Phase 3
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permit Application
Applicant: Southern California Edison
Attachment 2: Project Plan View

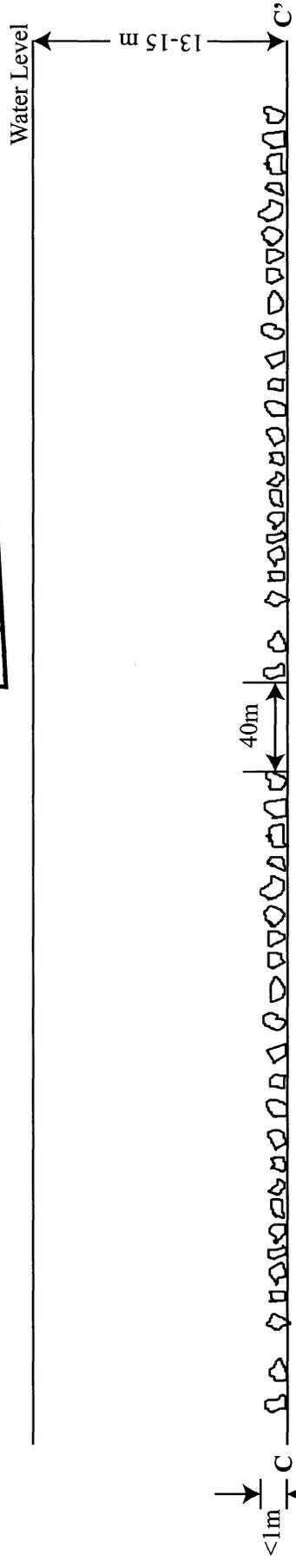
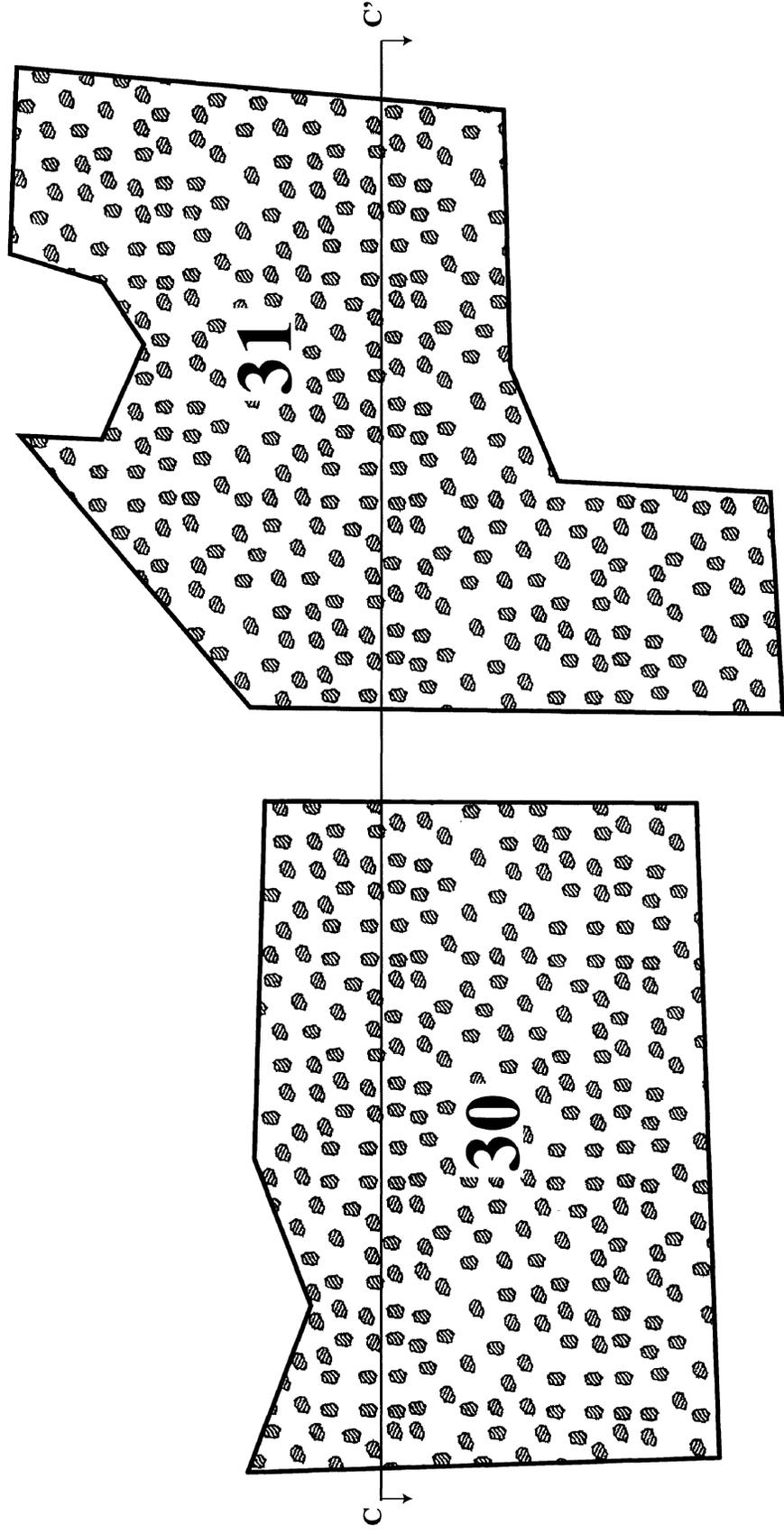




Plan View of Rock Coverage - Polygon 20



Plan View of Rock Coverage - Polygon 30 and 31



Cross Section C-C'