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## San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

### PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO RELY ON NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) DOCUMENT

**Project Applicant: United States Navy**

**Project Title: Mole Pier Floating Dry Dock Project at Naval Base San Diego**

**Project Location: Naval Base San Diego, San Diego Bay, San Diego, California**

**Project Description.** The United States Navy (Applicant) proposes the construction and operation of a floating dry dock facility on Naval Base San Diego (NBSD) property. The Project will comprise of preparing the site as a floating dry dock mooring through the dredging of 110,960 cubic yards (cy) of material and replacement of the existing ramp pier. The dredge plan includes upland disposal of surface/maintenance materials (17,712 cy) and ocean disposal of underlying materials at the LA-5 Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) (93,248 cy). The Project construction time is estimated to be 15 months.

**Regulatory Requirements.** The discharge of dredged or fill material to aquatic or marine environments is regulated by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, as amended (Clean Water Act) (33 U.S.C. section 1251 et seq.). The project applicant is required to complete the proposed project in compliance with Clean Water Act (CWA) sections 401 and 404. CWA section 401 requires the project applicant to obtain a state certification (401 Certification) that the resulting discharge from the proposed project will comply with state water quality standards. CWA section 404 requires the project applicant to obtain a federal permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) for dredged material and/or fill discharges to federal waters pursuant to protective guidelines developed jointly by USACOE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). CWA section 401 allows the state to condition or prevent a USACOE CWA section 404 permit for any project.

The Applicant has applied for a 401 Certification from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board). The San Diego Water Board's issuance of the 401 Certification is subject to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Applicant, as Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) titled *Environmental Assessment for the Floating Dry Dock Project at Naval Base San Diego, San Diego, California* and circulated the document for a 30-day public comment period in October 2019. No public comments were received. Based on the EA, the Applicant issued a Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (collectively, NEPA Documents) on May 26, 2020. On August 4, 2023, the Applicant published a Supplemental draft EA (SEA) which analyzed updated design information. The SEA concluded that there are no significant impacts from the new Project information and the SEA was finalized on December 14, 2023.

The San Diego Water Board, as Lead Agency under CEQA, believes that the NEPA Documents meet CEQA requirements. This public notice is being circulated pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15225.

**Document Availability.** Information on this matter, including the EA will be available and may be reviewed by contacting Eric Becker of the San Diego Water Board at the address below. This notice is also available on the San Diego Water Board webpage at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/public\\_notices/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/public_notices/).

Any person with questions or requests for additional information regarding this notice should contact Eric Becker at (619) 521-3364 or [Eric.Becker@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Eric.Becker@waterboards.ca.gov). Please bring this information to the attention of any person known to you who would be interested in this matter.

**Dated: March 22, 2024**

**Signed:**

Eric Becker P.E.  
Senior Engineer  
San Diego Regional Water Quality  
Control Board