

## **Notice of Section 401 Application Reception**

**File Number:** 302025-09

**Project Name:** Regional General Permit 54

**Received:** 07/10/2025

**Date Posted:** 07/15/2025

**End of 21 Day Public Comment Period:** 08/05/2025

**Project Location:** 33.5602° N, -117.9056° W

**Project City:** Newport Beach

**Project County:** Orange

**Applicant Organization:** City of Newport Beach

**Applicant Name:** Chris Miller

**Waterboard Staff:** Hossein S

### **Brief Description of Project:**

Project Description: For approximately 40 years, the City of Newport Beach (City) has maintained a Regional General Permit (RGP) 54 that provides a relatively streamlined process for permitting small dredging and dock maintenance projects between the bulkhead and pierhead lines in Newport Harbor. The current RGP 54 covers minor maintenance dredging and discharge of material previously deemed suitable for unconfined placement at adjacent beach sites, nearshore ocean beaches, offshore disposal sites, or upland disposal sites approved for dredged material. The current annual limit for RGP 54 is 75,000 cubic yards (cy), and the individual project limit is 8,000 cy. The City is seeking to reauthorize the RGP 54 and proposed no additional changes to the existing permit at this time.

Project Activities: Major project elements of the proposed RGP 54 include the following:

- Maintenance dredging under and adjacent to private, public, and commercial docks, floats, and piers. Maintenance dredging would occur to a maximum depth of -10 feet mean lower low water (MLLW), plus 2 feet of overdepth allowance (1 foot paid and 1 foot unpaid), with an annual maximum dredge volume of 75,000 cy within the coverage areas and not to exceed 8,000 cy per individual project.
- Discharge of dredged material at adjacent beach sites (for beach nourishment), nearshore, at the LA-3 Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS), or an approved upland disposal site outside the coastal zone.
- In conformance with the Eelgrass Plan, the maximum amount of allowable temporary impacts to eelgrass within the RGP 54 Plan Area is limited to a fixed percentage of each zone per year. The City is not proposing any changes to the approved October 2015 Eelgrass Plan, including all conditions and commitments

stipulated in the Eelgrass Plan. The RGP 54 Plan Area within the harbor is defined as bulkhead to pierhead line plus 20 feet bayward, including only those exceptions for structures that extend beyond this boundary in conformance with harbor development regulations defined by Chapter 17.35 of the Newport Beach Municipal Code.