



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

### **Southwest Washington Littoral Drift Restoration at Benson Beach, Regional Sediment Management Demonstration**

**Pacific County, Washington**

**CENWP-PM-E-06-02**

Issue Date: June 5, 2006

Expiration Date: July 5, 2006

### **30 Day Notice**

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Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, proposes to place sand directly onto Benson Beach to offset beach erosion and to supply sand to the littoral drift system (ocean currents running along the shoreline) which moves sand along the Long Beach peninsula. The proposed placement is part of the Southwest Washington Littoral Drift Restoration (LDR) which is funded as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Regional Sediment Management Program. The purpose of the LDR is to develop a long-term strategy to place dredged material in the littoral drift zone on the SW Washington coast (Benson Beach), north of the mouth of the Columbia River. Additional congressional authority and funding will be required to conduct this demonstration.

Two possible options for disposal may be used in the demonstration project, a direct pump ashore method where disposal material is pumped out of a hopper dredge in the MCR through a pipeline over the north jetty onto Benson Beach. Another option is the excavation of a sump in the MCR south of the north jetty using a suction pipeline dredge. The material excavated from the sump would be pumped onto Benson Beach and the sump would subsequently be refilled by a hopper dredge using material dredged from the navigation channel.

Total disposal on Benson Beach could be as much as 500,000 to 1,000,000 cubic yards annually. Heavy earth-moving equipment would be used to achieve the constructed profile (relatively flat with a front slope on the order of 20:1) from approximately +14 to -10 ft mean lower low water (MLLW). The deposited material would then be carried by the littoral drift system to the beaches north of the disposal location.

**Environmental Documents:** A draft Environmental Assessment addressing the impacts associated with the activity is available for public review and comment. It can be found at the following web site:

<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/n/projects/mcr/docs/mcr/BBeachFinalDraftEA31May06.pdf>

Two studies have been conducted by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to obtain information on species composition, density, and relative abundance of biota in the vicinity of the sump, and to assess the potential risk of impacts to crab. "Impact to Dungeness Crab from the Southwest Washington Littoral Drift Restoration Project," (Williams et al., Nov 2005) is

available at the following web site:

<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/n/projects/mcr/docs/ImpactsDungenessCrabs1105.pdf>, and

“Benson Beach Demonstration Project: Composition and Abundance of Biota at Three Alternative Sump Sites” (Williams et al., Jan 2004) is available at the following web site:

<https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/Op/n/projects/mcr/docs/reports/bensonbeachcomp.pdf>

**State Water Quality Certification:** Water Quality Certification (401 Certification), pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is required from the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology). On May 19, 2006 the Corps submitted a request to Ecology for 401 Certification. Per Chapter 173-225 WAC, attached is Ecology’s notice of application for the 401 Certification. Public comments pertaining to the 401 Certification should be directed to the points of contacts identified in the attached state public notice.

**Clean Water Act (CWA) compliance:** The proposed project is being evaluated under the CWA. A Section 404(b) (1) Evaluation has been prepared to address the proposed discharge of dredged material into a water of the United States and is available for review at the web site:

<http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/op/n/projects/mcr/docs/mcr/404Evaluation31May06.pdf>

Application is being made with the State of Washington for Water Quality Certification.

Attached to this Public Notice is Washington State’s Notice of Application for Water Quality Certification.

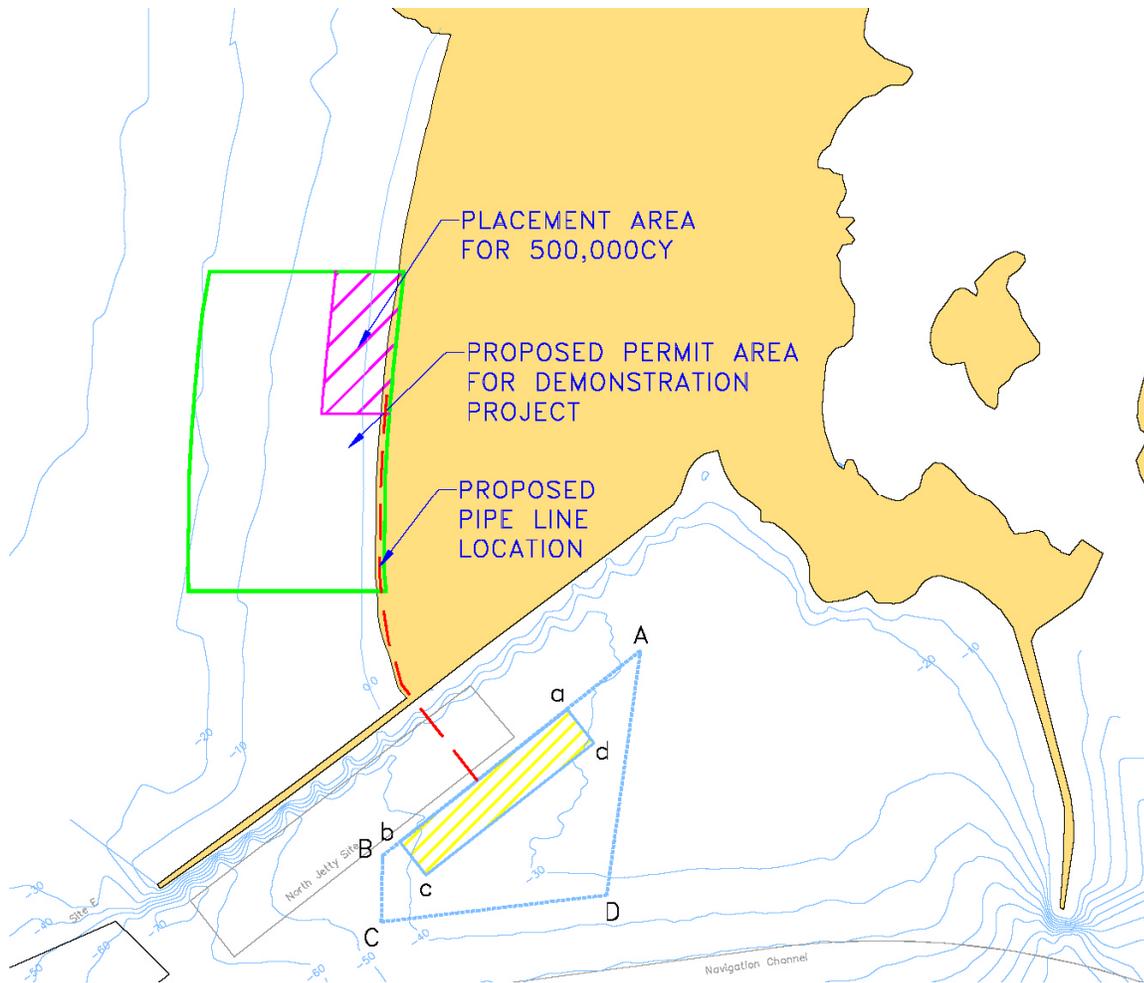
**Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972:** A consistency determination has been prepared and submitted to Ecology for concurrence. Ecology’s public notice for Coastal Zone Management Act consistency is attached. Public comments pertaining to Coastal Zone Consistency determination should be directed to the points of contacts identified in the attached state public notice.

**Additional Information and Comments:** To obtain paper copies of the Environmental Assessment, or to provide comments on the proposed project and the Corps’ Environmental Assessment please contact Carolyn Schneider, Environmental Resources Branch, telephone (503) 808-4770, via e-mail at [carolyn.b.schneider@usace.army.mil](mailto:carolyn.b.schneider@usace.army.mil), or at the address below. Written comments in response to this notice must be mailed by the above closing date.

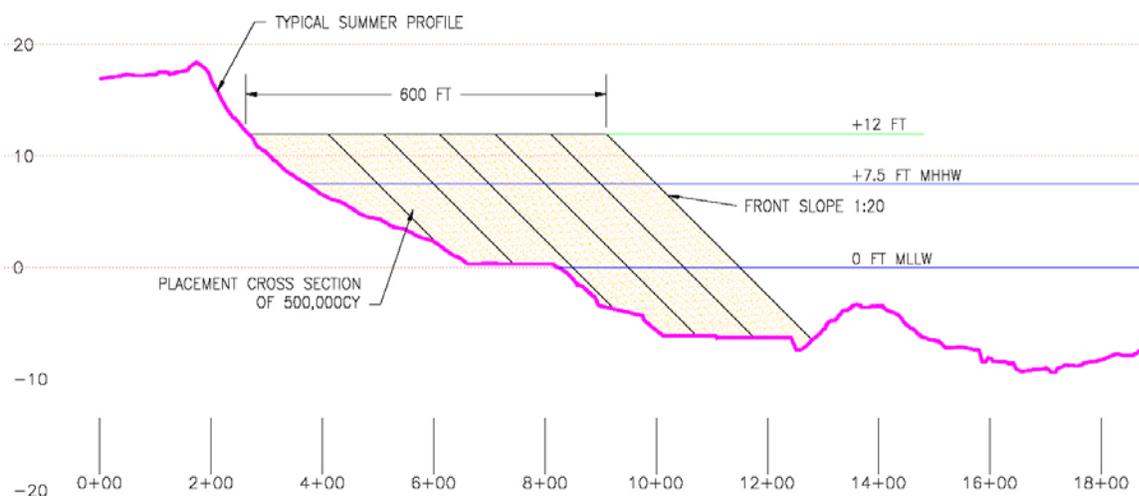
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District, Portland  
Attn: CENWP-PM-E/C. Schneider  
P.O. Box 2946  
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

In your response, please refer to the above public notice number, title and date. Should no response be received postmarked by the above closing date, a “no comment” response will be assumed.

*To request that your name or organization be removed from the mailing list, please contact Charlotte Goodman, 503-808-4761.*



**Plan view – Benson Beach placement area and sump location.**



**Typical section – Benson Beach placement area**