

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONON CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

Consistency Determination No. CD-83-96
 U.S. Navy - San Clemente Island
 Staff: MPD-SF
 Filed: 7/29/96
 45th Day: 9/12/96
 60th Day: 9/27/96
 Commission Meeting: 9/11/96

FEDERAL AGENCY: U.S. Navy

DEVELOPMENTLOCATION:

Dolphin Bay, San Clemente Island, Los Angeles County
 (Exhibits 1 & 2)

DEVELOPMENTDESCRIPTION:

Replacement of existing North Light Pier, with associated grading, infrastructure, and revetment improvements, (Exhibits 3-6)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Navy has submitted a consistency determination for the replacement of the existing North Light Pier, with associated grading, infrastructure and revetment improvements, at Dolphin Bay, in the northeast shoreline area of San Clemente Island. The pier supports a coastal dependent Navy boating mission and is thus an allowable use under Section 30233 of the Coastal Act. The project is the least damaging feasible alternative, would, including the minimization and mitigation measures included, avoid adverse effects on environmentally sensitive habitat and marine resources, and is, therefore, consistent with Sections 30230, 30233, and 30240 of the Coastal Act. The revetment replacement is required to serve a coastal dependent use and would not affect sand supply in the area, and is therefore consistent with the shoreline structures policy (Section 30235) of the Coastal Act. Finally, the project will pose no burdens on public access and is consistent with the public access and recreation policies (Sections 30210-30212) of the Coastal Act.

II. Staff Recommendation:

The staff recommends that the Commission adopt the following resolution:

Concurrence

The Commission hereby concurs with the consistency determination made by the Navy for the proposed project, finding that the project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the California Coastal Management Program.

III. Findings and Declarations:

The Commission finds and declares as follows:

A. Habitat and Marine Resources. Section 30230 of the Coastal Act provides:

Marine resources shall be maintained, enhanced, and where feasible, restored. Special protection shall be given to areas and species of special biological or economic significance. Uses of the marine environment shall be carried out in a manner that will sustain the biological productivity of coastal waters and that will maintain healthy populations of all species of marine organisms adequate for long-term commercial, recreational, scientific, and educational purposes.

Section 30233(a) provides:

(a) The diking, filling, or dredging of open coastal waters, wetlands, estuaries, and lakes shall be permitted in accordance with other applicable provisions of this division, where there is no feasible less environmentally damaging alternative, and where feasible mitigation measures have been provided to minimize adverse environmental effects, and shall be limited to the following:

(1) New or expanded port, energy, and coastal-dependent industrial facilities, including commercial fishing facilities.

...

(4) In open coastal waters, other than wetlands, including streams, estuaries, and lakes, new or expanded boating facilities and the placement of structural pilings for public recreational piers that provide public access and recreational opportunities.

...

Section 30240 provides:

(a) Environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on such resources shall be allowed within such areas.

organisms than the sandy bottom habitat but they do not contain enough structure to hold the typical reef diversity. The reef that is located 100m north of the site displayed the typical subtidal reef communities of the Channel Islands and the mainland. Reef vegetation includes red and brown algae along with surfgrass. Common invertebrate and fish species (red sea urchin, spiny lobster, limpets, gorgonian, kelp bass, sheephead, garibaldi, senorita and surfperch) were observed in the reef.

The reef will be avoided during construction and impacts to the rock outcroppings will be minimal. The piling community that is supported by the existing pier would recolonize the new pier structure so impacts to piling community species would be temporary until new recruits reattach or associate with the new structure.

A reef community located 100m north of the existing pier will be avoided during construction. This project will not degrade coastal wetlands or alter streams.

... [N]o sightings of western snowy plovers have been associated with the project site or nearshore waters. The beach areas located north and south of the pier do not provide large enough expanses of sand to support western snowy plover or other shorebird nesting.

The Navy also states that the threatened Island night lizard is located in the project vicinity, as well as throughout San Clemente Island. The project site and nearby area do not contain particularly significant concentrations of this species, several million of which are on the island. The Navy has been coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on measures to protect this sensitive species. Prior to commencement of construction, the Navy has agreed to relocate any Island night lizards found at the construction footprint; this relocation will be performed by a "qualified" biologist, if the Service deems the relocation necessary, to avoid impacts to this species. The Navy has also agreed to coordination with the Commission staff in the event the the Service requests any alternative strategy for addressing this species. The Service has reviewed the project and has not expressed any concerns over the Navy's proposal, and the Commission finds the Navy's approach and agreements for continued coordination adequately addresses this habitat concern.

Regarding temporary effects within the marine environment, the Navy notes that temporary relocation of cables and other equipment will be necessary to avoid damage during construction. The Navy has committed that this relocation will be accomplished in a manner avoiding rock and vegetation outcrops.

In conclusion, the Commission finds that the project: (1) is an allowable use under Section 30233(a); (2) is the least environmentally damaging feasible alternative; and (3) provides for avoidance, monitoring, and mitigation measures to protect marine resources and environmentally sensitive habitat. The Commission therefore finds the project consistent with the marine resources and environmentally sensitive habitat policies (Sections 30230, 30233 and 30240) of the Coastal Act.

In reviewing past consistency determinations for Navy activities on San Clemente Island, the Commission has traditionally determined that military security needs, and a lack of public access burdens generated by such projects, means that no additional public access need be provided in these projects. The Commission finds in this case that continued preclusion of access at this site on San Clement Island is appropriate given military security needs, and that no access burdens on public access would be generated, and, therefore, that the project is consistent with the public access and recreation policies of the Coastal Act.

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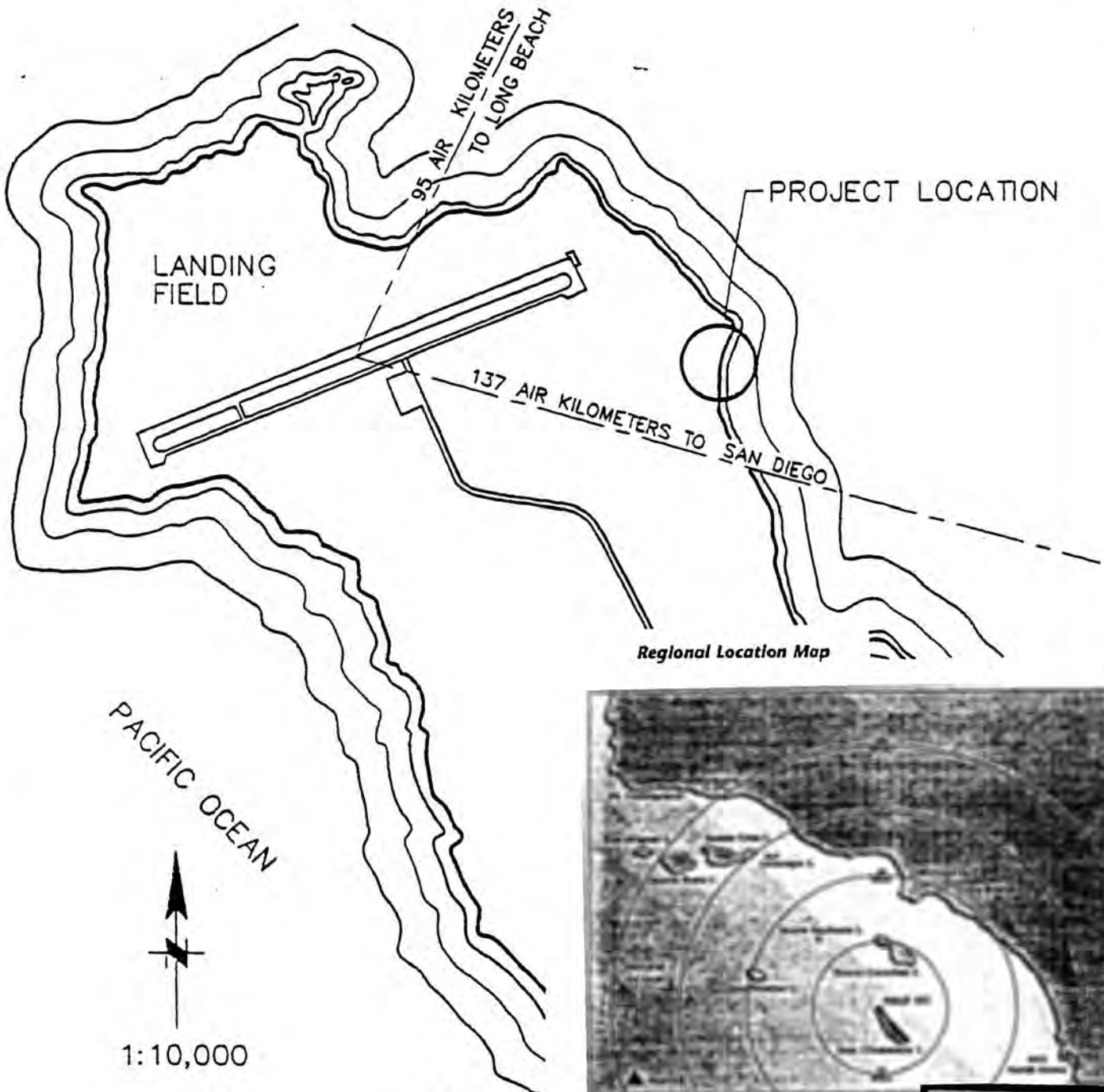
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT DATA

2. DATE
31 JULY 96

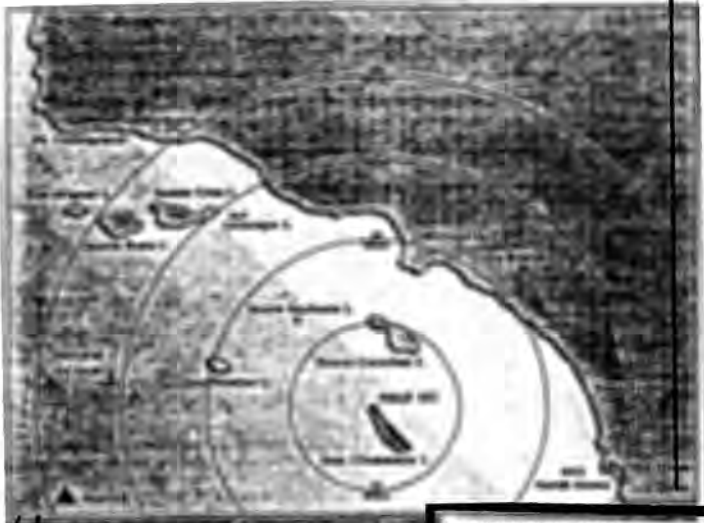
3. INSTAURATOR AND LOCATION
NAVAL COMMAND CONTROL AND OCEAN SURVEILLANCE CENTER, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

4. PROJECT TITLE
REPLACE NORTH LIGHT PIER (SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND)

5. PROJECT NUMBER
P-125



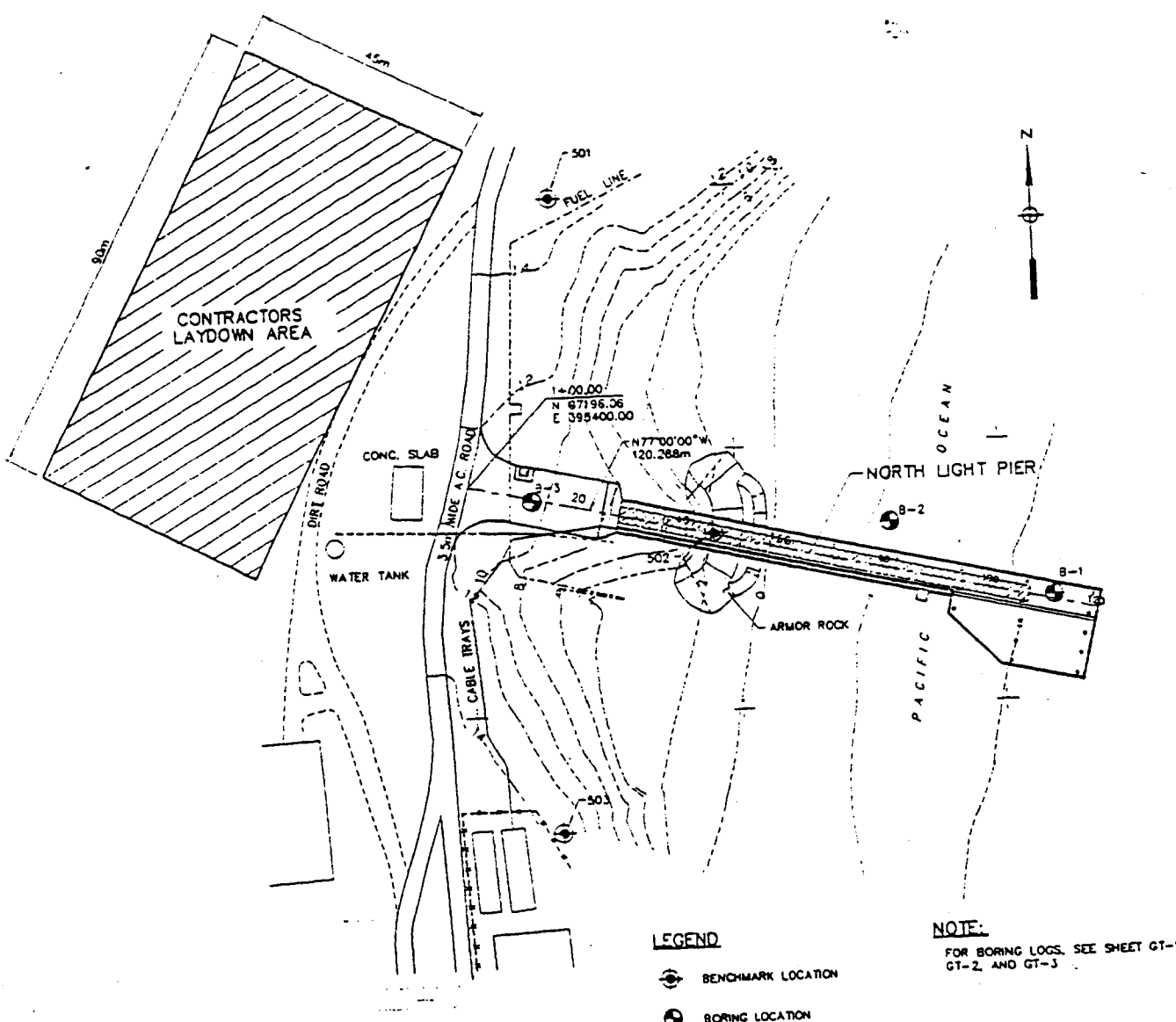
Regional Location Map





VICINITY MAP

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EXHIBIT NO. 1
APPLICATION NO.
CD-83-96



LEGEND

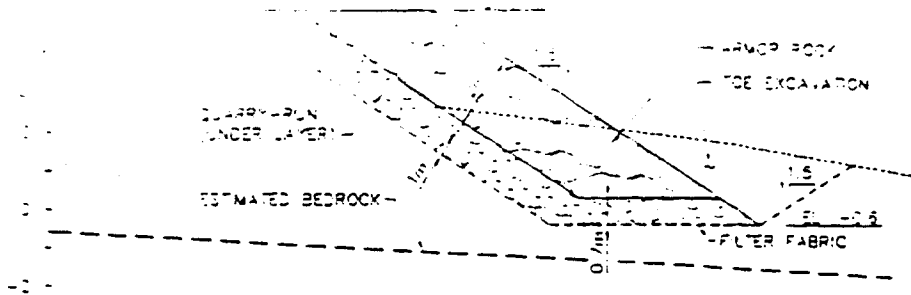
-  BENCHMARK LOCATION
-  BORING LOCATION

NOTE:

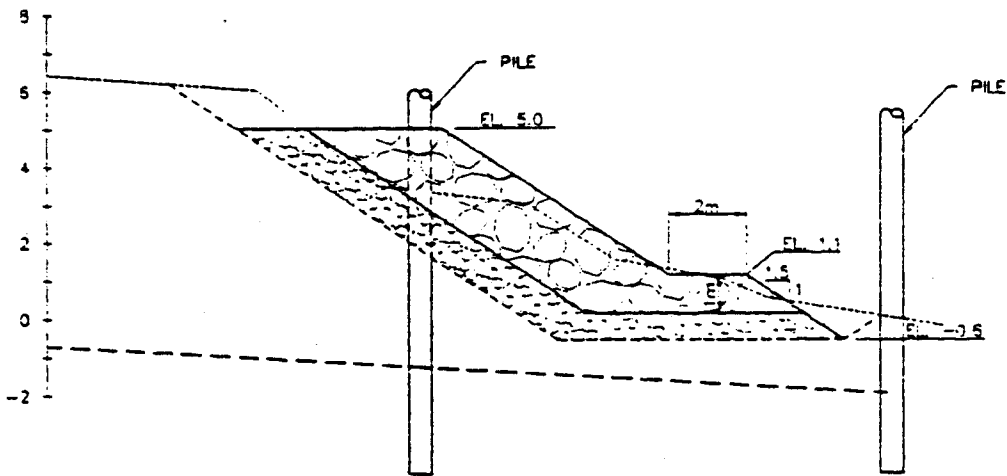
FOR BORING LOGS, SEE SHEET GT-1
GT-2, AND GT-3

SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1m = 400m

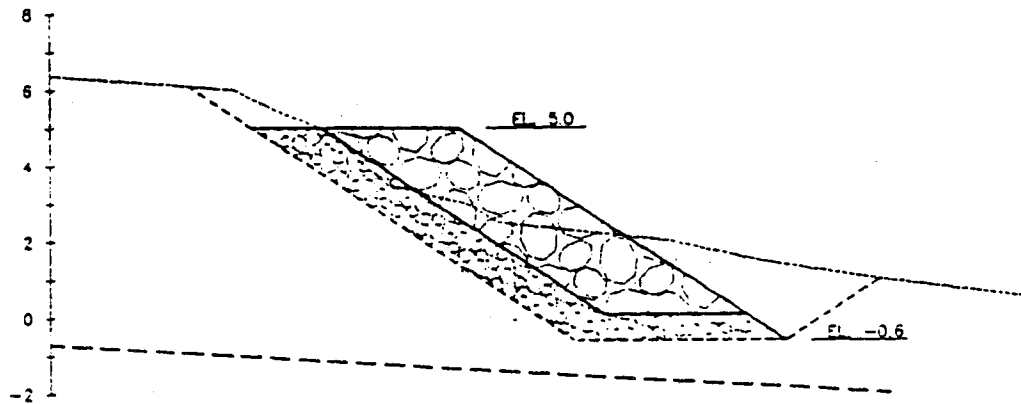
EXHIBIT NO. 3
APPLICATION NO.
CD-83-96



SECTION A
SCALE: 1m = 100m



SECTION B
SCALE: 1m = 100m



SECTION C
SCALE: 1m = 100m

EXHIBIT NO. 5
APPLICATION NO.
CD-83-96