

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

455 MARKET ST, SUITE  
300 SAN FRANCISCO,  
CA 94105  
FAX (415) 904-5400  
TDD (415) 597-5885

**F7**

**Prepared December 5, 2022 (for the December 16, 2022 Hearing)**

**To:** Commissioners and Interested Parties  
**From:** Kate Huckelbridge, Deputy Director  
**Subject:** **Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division Deputy Director's Report for December 2022**

The following coastal development permit (CDP) waivers, immaterial CDP amendments, CDP extensions, emergency CDPs, and negative determinations for the Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division are being reported to the Commission on December 16, 2022. Pursuant to the Commission's procedures, each item has been appropriately noticed as required, and each item is also available for review at the Commission's office in San Francisco. Staff is asking for the Commission's concurrence on the items in the Energy, Ocean Resources and Federal Consistency Division Deputy Director's report, and will report any objections received and any other relevant information on these items to the Commission when it considers the report on December 16, 2022.

With respect to the December 16th hearing, interested persons may sign up to address the Commission on items contained in this report prior to the Commission's consideration of this report. The Commission can overturn staff's noticed determinations for some categories of items subject to certain criteria in each case (see individual notices for specific requirements).

**Items being reported on December 16, 2022 (see attached)**

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**Waivers**

- None

**Immaterial Amendments**

- None

**Immaterial Extensions**

- None

**Administrative Items for Federal Consistency Matters, No-Effects Determinations**

- None.

**Administrative Items for Federal Consistency Matters, Negative Determinations**

- **ND-0038-22**, Santa Barbara Harbor Six-Year Federal Maintenance Dredging Program. (Santa Barbara County)
- **ND-0040-22**, Ocean Mapping and Surveying Activities, undertaken by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Ocean Service. (Channel Islands)

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455 MARKET STREET, SUITE 300  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105  
FAX (415) 904-5400  
TDD (415) 597-5885



November 8, 2022

Ms. Maricris Lee  
Deputy Chief, Planning Division  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District  
ATTN: Mr. Kirk C. Brus  
915 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1109  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Negative Determination No. ND-0038-22: Santa Barbara Harbor Six-Year Federal Maintenance Dredging Program in Santa Barbara County

Dear Ms. Lee:

We have received your letter dated September 30, 2022, in which you have determined that the above-referenced proposal to perform maintenance dredging in the Santa Barbara Harbor Federal Navigation Channel to re-establish authorized channel depths from October 1, 2022, to August 31, 2028 would have no adverse effect on coastal resources for the reasons identified in Negative Determination No. ND-0033-22. The proposed six-year federal maintenance dredging includes annual removal of up to 600,000 cubic yards of littoral material from the Federal Navigation Channel. Dredging would occur twice a year; once in late fall or early winter and once in the spring. Dredged material placement would occur downcoast of the harbor on East Beach placement areas on the beach, surf zone, or nearshore.

The Coastal Commission staff agrees that the proposed project will not adversely affect coastal zone resources. We therefore **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to 15 CFR Section 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations.

Please contact Cassidy Teufel at [Cassidy.Teufel@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Cassidy.Teufel@coastal.ca.gov) if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cassidy Teufel".

CASSIDY TEUFEL  
Federal Consistency Coordinator  
(for)  
JOHN AINSWORTH  
Executive Director

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

NORTH CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT OFFICE  
455 MARKET STREET, SUITE 300  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105  
VOICE (415) 904-5260  
FAX (415) 904-5400



December 2, 2022

Jodi Clifford  
Deputy Chief, Planning Division  
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers  
915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1109  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Negative Determination No. ND-0042-22: Modification to Channel Islands Harbor Maintenance Dredging Project

Dear Ms. Clifford:

The California Coastal Commission (Commission) has reviewed the above-referenced negative determination (ND), dated November 22, 2022, for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) proposed modification to the Channel Islands Harbor (CIH) Maintenance Dredging Project to include an additional 300,000 cubic yards of sandy material for beneficial reuse placement on Hueneme Beach as well as 13.47 acres of dune restoration. USACE is proposing this additional volume of material to help address coastal erosion downcoast of the CIH entrance by increasing the amount of sand available to Hueneme Beach and other downcoast beaches.

The USACE has determined that the project is allowed to be submitted as a ND because the proposed modification "is the same as or similar to activities for which consistency determinations (CD) have been prepared in the past". The CD referenced by USACE in the ND submittal is CD-52-94 which allowed for 2.2 million cubic yards to be dredged from CIH biannually. The Executive Director previously concurred with six-year Channel Islands Harbor maintenance dredging programs in 2000 (ND-040-00), 2006 (ND-048-06), 2012 (ND-045-12), and 2018 (ND-0024-18) which were determined to be the same or similar as CD-52-94. As described by USACE in its current submittal, the modified dredging proposed in the subject ND would be the final dredging event of currently authorized six-year dredging program. Similar to all prior years, the material targeted for the proposed dredging event has been tested and determined to be suitable for placement on Hueneme Beach.

Additional material would be dredged from the entrance channel, four sand trap areas, the entrance basin, and inner basin. The target depth is -20 feet Mean Low Water (MLLW) at the entrance channel and entrance basin and -35 feet MLLW within the sand traps, with a two-foot overdepth allowance. The area adjacent to the landward side of Sand Trap D consists of coastal foredune habitat. Dredging of the landward portion of this sand trap has the potential to result in slope failure, destabilization and sloughing of immediately adjacent areas which could extend into and adversely impact the coastal foredune habitat.

Commission and USACE staff evaluated a number of alternatives to additional dredging within Sand Trap D, including increased dredging within the entrance channel and the basins or increased dredging of the other sand traps (Sand Trap B and Sand Trap C). However, USACE determined that Sand Trap D contains the majority of material and there is not sufficient material within the design depths in these other areas to meet the dredge volume targeted to help address coastal erosion downcoast of the harbor entrance<sup>1</sup>. Also, increased dredging in these other areas has the potential to undermine and adversely impact the stability of the detached breakwater and jetties.

To help ensure slope failure and sloughing of the coastal foredune habitat near Sand Trap D does not occur, USACE is proposing to establish and adhere to a setback of between 150 and 160 feet from the coastal dunes. Dredging would not occur within this setback and its size is based on an anticipated 3:1 slope failure assumption with the proposed 35-foot dredge depth and +10 foot beach elevation. USACE has determined that with this setback distance for the dredging, the newly established stabilized shoreline location would continue to remain seaward of the coastal foredune habitat.

In addition to the proposed setback, USACE would also implement additional measures to help ensure the foredune habitat is protected from dredging activities. First, USACE would dredge beginning at the seaward end of Sand Trap D and only progress landward towards the setback as necessary until the target dredge material volume is reached in order to minimize approaching the area of the setback to the extent feasible. Second, if the dredging progresses within 200 feet of the coastal dunes (40 to 50 feet seaward of the setback line) USACE would begin monitoring dredging operations. One observer would be aboard the dredge vessel actively tracking the dredge head location both visually and with global positioning system (GPS) software to ensure it does not encroach into the setback area. A second observer would also be positioned on the beach at the nearest safe point along the boundary at the seaward side of the coastal foredune habitat. This observer would visually scan the perimeter of the sand pit formed as a result of dredging and monitoring for any indications of slope failure or sloughing within the setback area that may have the potential to extend into the dune habitat. The observer on the beach would monitor during daylight working hours while an observer on the dredge would be continuously monitoring during the 24-hour dredging operations. In the event that either monitor detects slope failure or sloughing affecting or approaching coastal foredune habitat, USACE would direct the dredging operator to cease dredging and would notify the Executive Director of the Commission to discuss if and how dredging operations should proceed. Finally, USACE has committed to cease dredging operations as soon as the target volume of dredge material is reached. This would help ensure that the setback area is only approached if necessary and that any unnecessary slope failure or sloughing and possible encroachment into the setback is avoided.

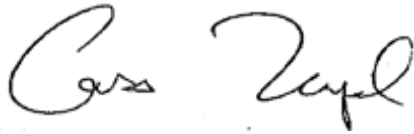
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<sup>1</sup> Sand supply moves from north to south in this area and the Channel Islands Harbor entrance, breakwaters and sand traps serve to block sand movement to downcoast beaches and areas. USACE maintenance dredging at Channel Islands Harbor therefore allows material to be collected and relocated downcoast of the harbor and its infrastructure.

In addition to the proposed 300,000 cubic yard increase in dredge volume, USACE also proposes develop and implement a plan to restore up to 13.47 acres of coastal foredune habitat within 10 miles of the project area. USACE staff have committed to working closely with Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff on the development of this restoration plan and the identification of appropriate restoration sites. The restoration plan would be provided as part of USACE's pending federal consistency submittal for the next six-year cycle of dredging (which would cover 2023 through 2028) and would be further reviewed at that time.

With USACE's commitments to further develop and provide a dune restoration plan for Commission review as part of a pending federal consistency submittal and to adhere to the proposed setback and also implement the additional measures to ensure dredging would not adversely impact the coastal foredune habitat, Coastal Commission staff agrees that the proposed project will not adversely affect coastal zone resources. We therefore **concur** with your negative determination made pursuant to 15 CFR Section 930.35 of the NOAA implementing regulations. Please contact Wesley Horn at [wesley.horn@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:wesley.horn@coastal.ca.gov) if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cassidy Teufel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cassidy Teufel  
Federal Consistency Coordinator  
(for)

John Ainsworth  
Executive Director