



US Army Corps  
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# PUBLIC NOTICE

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Applicant:  
William Butler  
Lind Marine

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**San Francisco District  
Permit Application No. SPN-2025-00355**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:** The San Francisco District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344) **and/or** Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. §403). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

**APPLICANT:** William Butler  
Lind Marine  
1175 Nimitz Ave. Suite 120  
Vallejo, CA 94592

**AGENT:** Kara Dewhurst  
Anchor QEA, LLC  
33 New Montgomery Street, Suite 1210  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** The project would affect McDougal Cut, a tidal channel that is located adjacent to the Sacramento River near Suisun Bay. The channel is located in Collinsville, Solano County, California.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS:** The approximately 10.6-acre project site is a narrow, man-made waterway situated on the western shoreline of Collinsville along the Sacramento River, positioned east of Montezuma Slough and the Montezuma Wetland Restoration Project (MWRP). It was originally developed during late-19th to early-20th-century marsh reclamation efforts, the channel was engineered to facilitate agricultural drainage, sediment management, and small-craft navigation. Currently, the site supports Lind Marine's industrial maritime operations. Lind Marine maintains an oyster shell processing, bulk material staging, and sediment rehandling facility immediately adjacent to the proposed dredging area. There has been no known dredging at the McDougal Cut for the past 20 years; therefore, this would be considered new work dredging.

## **PROJECT PURPOSE:**

**Basic:** To establish safe navigational depths within the McDougal Cut channel.

**Overall:** The overall project purpose is the disposal of dredged material from maintenance dredge projects that support navigation in the San Francisco Bay Region consistent with the adopted LTMS (Long Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region) EIR/EIS and LTMS Management Plan of 2001.

**PROPOSED WORK:** As shown in the attached drawings, the applicant plans to remove a total of 215,000 cubic yards (cys) of sediment from the 10.6-acre (approximately) from the channel over the life of the permit. Existing depths range from -2.5 to -8.1 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) in the channel. The design depth for the channel is -12 feet MLLW plus an additional 2-foot overdredge allowance. The material would be removed using a clamshell and removed by barge to a designated dredged material placement site, permitted beneficial reuse site, the SF Deep Ocean Disposal Site (SF-DODS), or an upland site outside Corps jurisdiction.

Prior to each dredging episode, the Dredge Material Management Office (DMMO) will evaluate the sediments to be dredged for disposal or reuse suitability. The DMMO includes representatives from the Corps, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The DMMO is tasked with approving sampling and analysis plans in conformity with testing manuals, reviewing the test results and reaching consensus regarding a suitable disposition for the material.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment: The proposed maintenance dredging would not result in a permanent loss of waters of the United States. Temporary impacts to aquatic resources would be mitigated by proposed minimization and avoidance measures, including the use of silt curtains and conducting work only within the permitted environmental work windows. Therefore, no compensatory mitigation is proposed or required.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** The Corps is evaluating the undertaking for effects to historic properties as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This public notice serves to inform the public of the proposed undertaking and invites comments including those from local, State, and Federal government Agencies with respect to historic resources. Our final determination, relative to historic resource impacts, may be subject to additional coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized tribes and other interested parties. Because the channel was man-made, historic or archeological resources are not expected to occur in the project vicinity. If unrecorded archaeological resources are discovered during project implementation, those operations affecting such resources will be temporarily

suspended until the Corps concludes Section 106 consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer to take into account any project related impacts to those resources

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The Corps has performed an initial review of the application, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Section 7 Mapper, the NMFS ESA Critical Habitat Mapper, and the NMFS Essential Fish Habitat Mapper to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, as well as the proposed and final designated critical habitat may occur within the boundary of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project following federally-listed species and designated critical habitat are present at the project location or in its vicinity, and may be affected by project implementation.

**Table 1:** ESA-listed species and/or critical habitat potentially present in the action area.

<b>Species Common Name and/or Critical Habitat Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Federal Status</b>
Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Endangered (January 4, 1994, 59 Fed. Reg.442)
Central Valley Spring-Run ESU Chinook salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Threatened (September 16, 1999, 64 FR 50394)
The Central Valley California Distinct Population Segment (DPS) steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Threatened (March 19, 1998, 63 FR 13347), reconfirmed (January 5, 2006, 71 FR 834)
North American green sturgeon	<i>Acipenser medirostris</i>	Threatened (July 6, 2006, 71 Fed. Reg. 17757)
Longfin smelt	<i>Spirinchus thaleichthys</i>	Endangered (August 29, 2024, 89 FR 61029)
Delta smelt	<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	Threatened (March 5, 1993, 58 FR 12854)

Pursuant to Section 7 ESA, any required consultation with the Service(s) will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR part 402. If a permit is issued for this proposed project, it will contain a condition that dredging is allowed only within appropriate environmental work windows. Programmatic biological opinions (BOs) were issued by USFWS (March 12, 1999, February 7, 2025) and NMFS (July 9, 2015) for the LTMS. As a result of the BOs there are allowable time frames to dredge to protect the habitat for threatened (and endangered) species and the species themselves per Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. If the dredge work is conducted within those time frames, consultation may not be needed.

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:** Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 1996, the Corps reviewed the project area, examined information provided by the applicant, and consulted available species information. The Corps has made a preliminary determination that EFH is present at the project location or in its vicinity, and that the critical elements of EFH may be adversely affected by project implementation. The proposed project is located within an area managed under the Pacific Groundfish, the Coastal Pelagic and/or the Pacific Coast Salmon FMPs.

The Corps and NMFS completed a programmatic EFH consultation on June 9, 2011 for maintenance dredging. One of NMFS's key concerns with dredging is potential impacts to eelgrass beds. The "Baywide Eelgrass Inventory of San Francisco Bay," prepared by Merkel and Associates, dated 2004, 2009 and 2014, shows eelgrass beds within 250 or 45 meters of the dredge area. Therefore, the applicant would be required to deploy silt curtains in order to minimize adverse effects upon eelgrass from turbidity created from the disturbance of sediment during dredging operations. A silt curtain deployment plan would be required by the Corps prior to any dredging episode. Additionally, a pre-dredge and post-dredge survey would be completed to determine impacts to eelgrass within 45 meters of the project boundary.

Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

**NAVIGATION:** The proposed activity is located in the vicinity of a federal navigation channel.

**SECTION 408:** The applicant will not require permission under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 USC 408) because the activity, in whole or in part, would not alter, occupy, or use a Corps Civil Works project.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** Water Quality Certification may be required from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, 1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, California 94612.

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT:** The applicant must obtain a Consistency Certification that indicates the activity conforms with the state's coastal zone management program from the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600, San Francisco, California 94102.

**NOTE:** This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the Corps jurisdiction has been verified by Corps personnel.

**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the

public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

**COMMENTS:** The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other Interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The San Francisco District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until June 4, 2026. Comments should be submitted to Melissa France at [dll-spn-dmno@usace.army.mil](mailto:dll-spn-dmno@usace.army.mil). Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District, Attention: DMMO, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, 4th Floor, San Francisco, California 94102-3404. Please refer to the **permit application number** in your comments.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.