



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Seattle District

Public Notice

Navigation Section
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755
ATTN: Hiram Arden (OD-TS-NS)

Public Notice Date: June 27, 2003
Expiration Date: July 28, 2003
Reference: CENWS-OD-TS-NS-21

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, PLACEMENT OF TRANSITION GRAVEL AND COBBLE, WESTPORT, WASHINGTON

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) proposes the placement of up to 40,000 tons (27,000 cubic yards) of gravel and cobble material along a rapidly eroding sandy shoreline adjacent to the Grays Harbor south jetty. The erosion threatens the south jetty breach fill placed in 1994 and re-nourished in 2002. The proposed gravel / cobble placement is considered an interim measure intended to stabilize the Half Moon Bay shoreline and reduce the risk of another breach occurring until a long-term management solution can be formulated and implemented. The proposed project is described below and shown on the enclosed drawings. The proposed work will occur in September - October 2003, before winter storms. The purpose of this Public Notice is to solicit comments from interested persons, groups, and agencies.

LOCATION

The project area is located along the shoreline of Half Moon Bay in southwestern Grays Harbor, adjacent to Westhaven State Park in Westport, Grays Harbor County, Washington (T16N, R12W, Section 1).

PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

After winter storms breached the sand spit adjacent to the Grays Harbor south jetty in 1993, there were great concerns about the stability of the south jetty structure and potential damages to the navigation channel. In response, the Corps placed about 600,000 cubic yards of sand to close the breach and constructed a wave diffraction mound to reduce wave-caused erosion in the western portion of Half Moon Bay adjacent to the jetty. Placement of gravel and cobble material on the adjacent beach was part of the diffraction mound design; its purpose was to provide a gradual "transition" area between the angular armor rock and sandy beach to the east.

State and Federal resource agencies and local interests had concerns about gravel/cobble being placed on a sandy beach, so the original transition beach proposal was scaled back when material was first placed in 1999-2000. Since that time, monitoring has shown that the transition material was not functioning as expected due

to the reduced footprint and quantity of material placed. Performance of the transition materials was compromised by the placement of less material than the original design called for. The shoreline has been relatively stable in the area where material was placed to the full design section, but erosion has continued off the end of the previous placements. This erosion is threatening the breach fill.

An interim action is necessary to avoid emergency repairs during the fall and winter of 2003-2004. The proposed action is consistent with the scope of the original 1999 proposal for transition material placement.

AUTHORITY

The Grays Harbor and Chehalis River Project, including maintenance of the Federal navigation channel and the south jetty, is authorized by the River and Harbor Act of August 30, 1935 (House Document 53, 73rd Congress, 2nd Session) and the Water Resources Development Act of November 17, 1986 (Public Law 99-662). The proposed work is intended to maintain access to the south jetty and to prevent another breach from occurring and threatening the stability of the jetty. Therefore, it is within the Grays Harbor and Chehalis River Project operations and maintenance (O&M) authority.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project consists of placing up to 40,000 tons (27,000 cubic yards) of gravel and cobble material along approximately 1,000 linear feet of beach in the southwest portion of Half Moon Bay. This material is meant to create a gradual "transition" beach area between the diffraction mound, which is composed of angular armor rock, and the sandy beach to the east.

The material will be placed between the rapidly eroding shoreline edge and the +4-foot depth contour (MLLW datum), as shown on the attached drawing. Heavily incised storm water drainage channels at the top of the bank will also be filled. The material will be end-dumped by trucks from an access road on the upper bank. No grading of material will occur. Currents and waves are expected to re-grade and disperse the materials along the beach.

The gravel and cobble material will be clean, and rounded with all material less than 12 inches in diameter, and between 50-85% (by weight) less than 3 inches. Use of cobble size materials will minimize the material quantities and affected footprint needed to stabilize the shoreline, and require less frequent maintenance. The performance materials placed will be carefully monitored during the formulation of a long-term solution for management of erosion in this area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires assessment of potential impacts to listed and proposed species. Federally listed and proposed species which may occur in the project vicinity include five species listed as threatened, the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), Western snowy

plover (*Charadrius alexandrius nivosus*), marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), and bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*).

After receipt of comments from this public notice, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will evaluate the potential impacts to the listed species. A preliminary determination has been made that the proposed work may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect threatened species, or their critical habitat, under the jurisdiction of USFWS. The project is expected to have no effect on marine mammal and sea turtle species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

The District Engineer has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties:

The project area was created after construction of the Grays Harbor South Jetty and has had no historic human habitation; therefore, little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge on an historic property.

The District Engineer invites responses to this Public Notice from Federal, State and local agencies, historical and archeological societies, Indian tribes and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

PUBLIC HEARING

Any person may request, in writing and within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reason for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION

The decision whether to perform the proposed work 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 the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic 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.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District 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 activity. Any

comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to modify, condition, or not proceed with the proposed work. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

The evaluation of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. This evaluation will include an alternatives analysis.

ADDITIONAL EVALUATION

The State of Washington will review this work for consistency with the approved Washington Coastal Zone Management Program. A coastal zone consistency statement will be prepared and submitted to the Department of Ecology. A preliminary determination has been made that the proposed maintenance work is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the State of Washington Coastal Zone Management Program.

A Section 401 water quality certification is requested from the State of Washington.

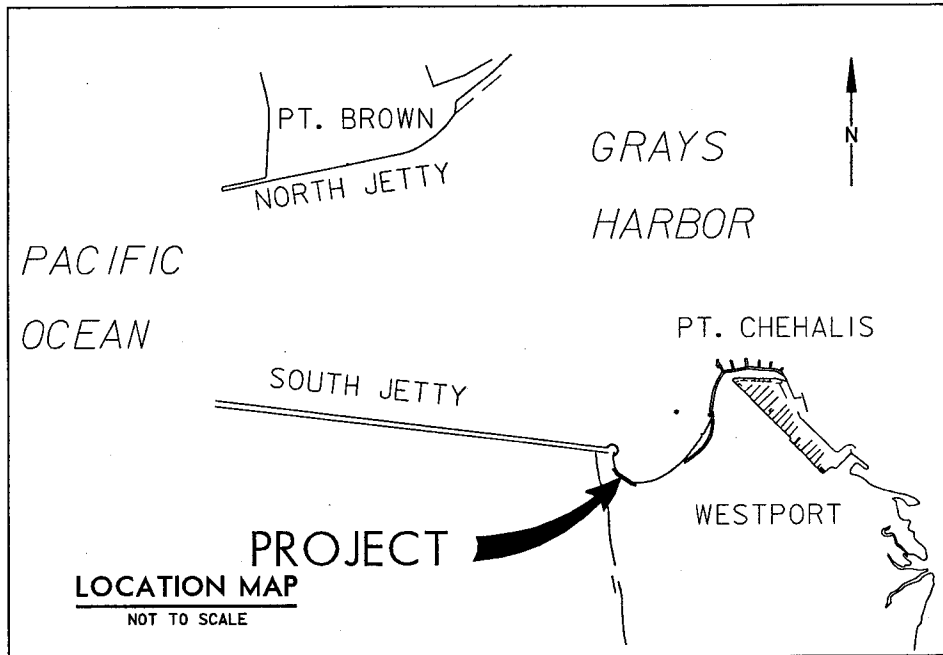
Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, a draft Environmental Assessment has been prepared and is available on the Seattle District web site at: <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/ers/envirdocs.html>. A preliminary determination has been made that the proposed maintenance work will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD

Comments on these factors will be accepted, made part of the record, and will be considered in determining whether it would be in the best public interest to proceed with the proposed project. Comments should reach this office, Attn: Navigation Section, not later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration. Requests for additional information should be directed to Hiram Arden, Project Manager, at (206) 764-3401.



Hiram Arden
Project Manager
Navigation Section



U.S. ARMY ENGINEERS DISTRICT, SEATTLE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Seattle, Washington

VICINITY AND LOCATION MAPS
GRAYS HARBOR, WASHINGTON

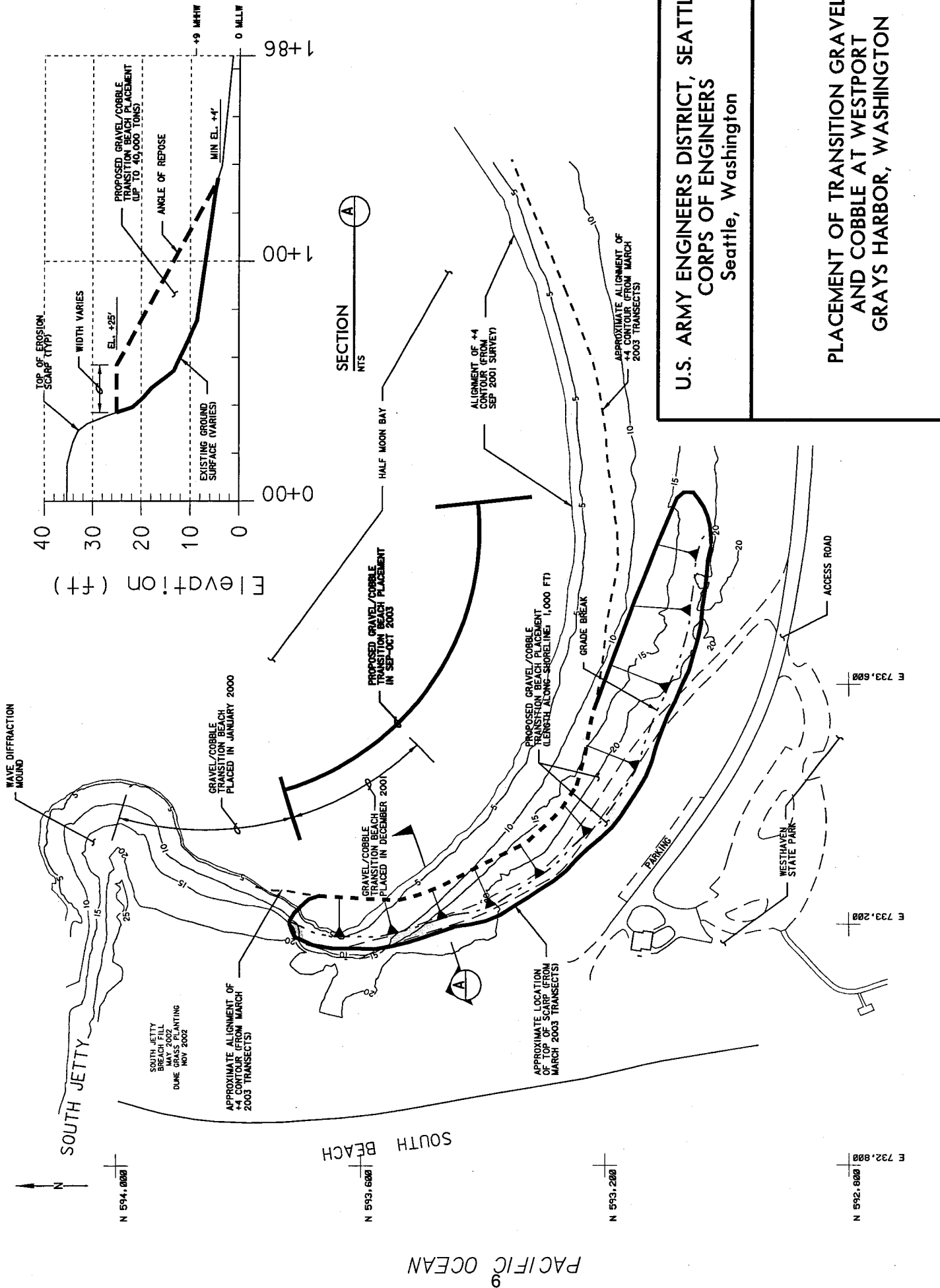
DATE:

27 JUN 03

PUBLIC NOTICE:

CENWS-OD-TS-NS-21

FIGURE 1



U.S. ARMY ENGINEERS DISTRICT, SEATTLE
 CORPS OF ENGINEERS
 Seattle, Washington

PLACEMENT OF TRANSITION GRAVEL
 AND COBBLE AT WESTPORT
 GRAYS HARBOR, WASHINGTON

DATE:	SCALE:	PUBLIC NOTICE:
27 JUN 03	NOT TO SCALE	CENWS-OD-TS-NS-21

FIGURE 2



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Mail Stop PV-11 • Olympia, Washington 98504-8711 • (206) 459-6000

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Notice of Application for
Water Quality Certification
and for
Certification of Consistency with the
Washington Coastal Zone Management Program

Date: June 27, 2003

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217), to certify that the project described in the Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. CENWS-OD-TS-NS-21 will comply with Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Act, and with applicable provisions of State and Federal water pollution control laws.

Notice is also given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 307(c) of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451), to certify that the above-referenced project will comply with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that Program.

Any person desiring to present views pertaining to the project on either or both (1) compliance with water pollution control laws or (2) the project's compliance or consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program may do so by providing written comments within 30 days of the above publication date to:

Permit Coordination Unit
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47703
Olympia, WA 98504-7703