



PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

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APPLICATION FOR PERMIT U.S. NAVAL BASE CORONADO PIERS J/K AND WHARVES L/M/N/O/P – MAINTENANCE DREDGING, AND BEACH NOURISHMENT

Public Notice/Application No.: SPL-2013-00694-RRS

Project: Maintenance Dredging Piers J&K and Carrier Wharf L/M/N/O/P, Naval Base Coronado

Comment Period: January 14, 2014 through February 15, 2014

Project Manager: Robert Smith; 760-602-4831; Robert.R.Smith@usace.army.mil

Applicant

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Location

Piers J/K and Carrier Wharf L,M,N,O,P at Naval Base Coronado (NBC) along Quay Rd. and Wright Avenue within/near the City of Coronado, San Diego County, CA (at: 32.7121, -117.1868).

Activity

To perform maintenance dredging (23,536 total cubic yards(cy)) at Piers J/K (4,818 cy) and Carrier Wharf L, M, N, O, P (18,718 cy) at Naval Base Coronado along Quay Rd. and Wright Avenue within/near the City of Coronado, San Diego County, CA. The project would return existing berthing areas within NBC to previous operational depths (-50 ft. MLLW, plus 2 ft. overdepth) to maintain safe and adequate berthing for Navy assets. Also in association with Maintenance Dredging Piers J&K and Carrier Wharf L/M/N/O/P, Naval Base Coronado (see attached drawings) approximately 2,562 cubic yards (cy) of dredged material deemed unsuitable by the Corps and EPA will be placed at a Corps-approved upland site with the remainder of suitable dredged material (20,884 cy) going to LA-5. Both the Corps and EPA have completed their dredged material suitability determination in 2013. For more information see page 3 of this notice.

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein and shown on the attached drawing(s). We invite you to review today's public notice and provide views on the proposed work. By providing substantive, site-specific comments to the Corps Regulatory Division, you provide information that support the

Corps' decision-making process. All comments received during the comment period become part of the record and will be considered in the decision. This permit will be issued, issued with special conditions, or denied under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act. Comments should be mailed to:

Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Division, Carlsbad Field Office
5900 La Place Ct., Suite 100
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: Robert.R.Smith@usace.army.mil

The mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Program is to protect the Nation's aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions. The Corps evaluates permit applications for essentially all construction activities that occur in the Nation's waters, including wetlands. The Regulatory Program in the Los Angeles District is executed to protect aquatic resources by developing and implementing short- and long-term initiatives to improve regulatory products, processes, program transparency, and customer feedback considering current staffing levels and historical funding trends.

Corps permits are necessary for any work, including construction and dredging, in the Nation's navigable water and their tributary waters. The Corps balances the reasonably foreseeable benefits and detriments of proposed projects, and makes permit decisions that recognize the essential values of the Nation's aquatic ecosystems to the general public, as well as the property rights of private citizens who want to use their land. The Corps strives to make its permit decisions in a timely manner that minimizes impacts to the regulated public.

During the permit process, the Corps considers the views of other Federal, state and local agencies, interest groups, and the general public. The results of this careful public interest review are fair and equitable decisions that allow reasonable use of private property, infrastructure development, and growth of the economy, while offsetting the authorized impacts to the waters of the United States. The permit review process serves to first avoid and then minimize adverse effects of projects on aquatic resources to the maximum practicable extent. Any remaining unavoidable adverse impacts to the aquatic environment are offset by compensatory mitigation requirements, which may include restoration, enhancement, establishment, and/or preservation of aquatic ecosystem system functions and services.

Evaluation Factors

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 benefit, 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. Factors that will be considered include conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, if the proposal would discharge dredged or fill material,

the evaluation of the activity will include application of the EPA Guidelines (40 CFR Part 230) as required by Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA).

The Corps of Engineers 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 of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. 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 used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Preliminary Review of Selected Factors

EIS Determination- A preliminary determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work. The Corps has determined that the Navy is the lead agency per Corps guidance and would adopt their NEPA determinations in most cases but would be preparing a Corps permit decision document with an Environmental Assessment.

Water Quality- The applicant is required to obtain water quality certification, under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board or a waiver thereof. Section 401 requires that any applicant for an individual Section 404 or Section 10 permit provide proof of water quality certification to the Corps of Engineers prior to permit issuance. For any proposed activity on Tribal land that is subject to Section 404 and Section 10 jurisdiction, the applicant will be required to obtain water quality certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Coastal Zone Management (CZMA)- The Corps has determined that the Navy is the lead agency per Corps guidance and would adopt their CZMA determination in most cases. The Navy has certified that the proposed activity would comply with and would be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved State Coastal Zone Management Program. For those projects in or affecting the coastal zone, the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act requires that prior to issuing the Corps authorization for the project, the applicant must obtain concurrence from the California Coastal Commission that the project is consistent with the State's Coastal Zone Management Plan. The District Engineer hereby requests the California Coastal Commission's concurrence or non-concurrence. This project is located within the coastal zone and preliminary review indicates that it would affect coastal zone resources. After a review of the comments received on this public notice and in consultation with the California Coastal Commission, the Corps will make a final determination of whether this project affects coastal zone resources after review of the comments received on this Public Notice.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)- Preliminary determinations indicate the proposed activity may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat. The Corps has determined that the Navy is the lead agency per Corps guidance and would adopt their EFH determinations in most cases. This notice initiates the EFH consultation requirements of the Act with NMFS in order that the Corps can adopt the Navy's EFH determination.

In order to comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), pursuant to 50 CFR 600.920(e) (3), the Corps is providing, enclosing, or otherwise identifying the following information:

1. Description of the proposed action: See project description on page 1 of this public notice.
2. On site inspection information: See baseline information on page 5 of this public notice.
3. Analysis of the potential adverse effects on EFH: The Corps has determined that the Navy is the lead agency per Corps guidance and would adopt their assessment of project impacts to EFH resources due to turbidity, noise, and dredging impacts.
4. Proposed minimization, conservation, or mitigation measures: The Corps will ensure that the Navy has complied with all ITM procedures for minimizing impacts from the dredging or dredged material disposal, will require eelgrass mitigation for any eelgrass impacts, will enforce all BMPs, turbidity controls, and water quality measures, and incorporate all ESA measures per the Navy's ESA determination. Currently no eelgrass impacts are expected.
5. Conclusions regarding effects of the proposed project on EFH: Based on the project description and EFH assessment provided by the applicant, the proposed project would result in disturbance of approximately 4.9 acres of subtidal substrate. Furthermore, the affected substrate would likely consist of soft-bottom sediments, with little or no hard rock substrate affected.

Therefore, it is the Corps initial determination the proposed activity may adversely affect but would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in California waters. The Corps final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NOAA Fisheries. If the Corps does not receive written comments (regular mail or e-mail) within the 30-day notification period, the Corps will assume concurrence by NOAA Fisheries that no mitigation measures are necessary.

Cultural Resources- The Navy as the lead federal agency has determined that the proposed action will not affect any historic properties. Consistent with the Processes for Review of Undertakings under Stipulation 6 [C] of the 2003 Metro Area Programmatic Agreement (PA), the Naval Base Coronado staff defined the collective prescribed area of potential effects (APE) for the proposed undertaking as a 30 meter radius around each area of proposed ground disturbance. Because the harbor has been dredged up to -50 ft. MLLW, and because the current undertaking focuses on the removal of sediments that have accumulated since the last dredging effort undertaken in the 1990s, the potential for encountering intact archaeological deposits is minimal. Accordingly, under Stipulation 8[A] of the Metro Area PA, the staff has determined that the proposed undertaking meets the standard for a determination of "no historic properties affected" in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), and no further review or compliance under Section 106 is required unless the project is altered or expanded. The latest version of the National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and this site is not listed. This review constitutes the extent of cultural resources investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. The Navy, as the lead Federal agency, has determined that the proposed action may not adversely affect any cultural resources per a programmatic agreement which the Corps may adopt after reviewing current lead agency guidance for Section 106 compliance of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Endangered Species- Preliminary determinations indicate that the proposed activity would not affect federally-listed endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat. The Navy, as the lead Federal agency, has determined that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*; CLT) because the proposed dredging may occur during breeding season. There is no designated critical habitat for CLT. The Navy does not anticipate an adverse affect because the proposed dredging sites are primarily deep, subtidal, and unvegetated. The proposed dredge location at NBC is not designated as a foraging area per the MOU between the Navy and the Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). As the Navy is avoiding designated foraging areas, the MOU serves as concurrence with informal consultation. Therefore, formal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act by the Corps does not appear to be required at this time as it is adopting the Navy's determination per Corps lead agency guidance and is not consulting with the USFWS.

Public Hearing- Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearing shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Proposed Activity for Which a Permit is Required

Basic Project Purpose- The basic project purpose comprises the fundamental, essential, or irreducible purpose of the proposed project, and is used by the Corps to determine whether the applicant's project is water dependent (i.e., requires access or proximity to or siting within the special aquatic site to fulfill its basic purpose). Establishment of the basic project purpose is necessary only when the proposed activity would discharge dredged or fill material into a special aquatic site (e.g., wetlands, pool and riffle complex, mudflats, coral reefs). Because no fills are proposed within special aquatic sites, identification of the basic project purpose is not necessary. However, the basic project purpose for the proposed project is berthing and navigation. The project is water dependent.

Overall Project Purpose- The overall project purpose serves as the basis for the Corps' 404(b)(1) alternatives analysis and is determined by further defining the basic project purpose in a manner that more specifically describes the applicant's goals for the project, and which allows a reasonable range of alternatives to be analyzed. The overall project purpose for the proposed project is to perform maintenance dredging of the Piers J and K and Carrier Wharf Berths L, M, N, O, P at Naval Air Station North Island, Naval Base Coronado, in the city of Coronado, San Diego County, CA.

Additional Project Information

Baseline information- The proposed action consists of maintenance dredging to restore berthing areas at NBC to design depths. The Navy has been in consultation with the Corps and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the sediment sampling and testing within these berthing areas to support disposal of the material. A sampling and analysis plan was drafted and approved by the Corps and EPA for the proposed dredging sites in February 2012. Samples were collected at each site in March of 2012. The material was tested per the Evaluation of Dredged Material Proposed for Ocean Disposal Testing Manual (Green Book). The results were presented to the Corps and EPA and disposal locations were determined for all sediment in October 2012 after both the Corps and EPA completed their dredged material suitability determination. All of the material from Piers J and K (approximately 4,818 cubic yards (cy)) and most of the material from Carrier Wharf L/M/N/O/P (approximately 16,156 cy of 18,718 cy total) will be disposed of at the LA-5 disposal site located 5.4 miles southwest of Point Loma.

Some of the material from Carrier Wharf L/M/N/O/P (approximately 2,562 cy) will be disposed of at an approved upland landfill to be determined by the dredging contractor. The material to be disposed of at the upland landfill will be temporarily contained within a temporary confined disposal facility (CDF) located within NBC, or in a dump scow within the Turning Basin. The design of the CDF will preclude any return water from this upland contained dredged material disposal area or sediment from entering into waters of the U.S. All material suitable for ocean disposal was investigated for beneficial re-use, however grain size of the material was not compatible with beach sand at the receiver site, as the material was predominantly silt.

Project description- Carrier Wharf L/M/N/O/P will be dredged to -50 ft MLLW (6,677 cy), plus 2 ft over dredge (12,041 cy), for a total volume of 18,718 cy of material. Piers J/K will be dredged to -50 ft. MLLW (1,029 cy) plus 2 ft. overdepth (3,789 cy for a total volume of 4,818 cy. Disposal of the majority of material (20,974 cy) will be disposed of at LA-5 and the remaining 2,562 cy from composite area A, the core CW-A-C1 polygon, will be disposed of at an approved upland landfill to be determined by the construction contractor based on the Corps and EPA suitability determination. Spill kits and cleanup materials will be present during construction, should there be an accidental spill or release of debris, construction materials, etc. The material included in this application will be dredged likely using a clamshell dredge. A debris boom will be installed during in-water construction. Any debris accidentally discharged into the water will be collected, transported to, and disposed of, at an appropriate upland disposal site, or recycled, if appropriate. During project implementation the Navy will regularly monitor activities to ensure that no deviation from the proposed action is occurring.

Proposed Mitigation- The proposed mitigation may change as a result of comments received in response to this public notice, the applicant's response to those comments, and/or the need for the project to comply with the 404(b) (1) Guidelines and the regulations at 40 CFR 230 and the MRPSA. In consideration of the above, the proposed mitigation sequence (avoidance/minimization/compensation), as applied to the proposed project is summarized below:

Avoidance: Spill kits and cleanup materials will be present during construction, should there be an accidental spill or release of debris, construction materials, etc. A debris boom will be installed during in-water construction. Any debris accidentally discharged into the water will be collected, transported to, and disposed of, at an appropriate upland disposal site, or recycled, if appropriate.

Minimization: During project implementation the Navy will regularly monitor activities to ensure that no deviation from the proposed action is occurring. If turbidity is observed beyond the immediate vicinity of the project area, dredging will pause until the turbidity has dissipated.

Compensation: No eelgrass or other mitigation is proposed due to avoidance of impacts to eelgrass or other aquatic resources.

Proposed Special Conditions

No permit conditions are proposed at this time.

For additional information please call Robert Smith of my staff at (760)-602-4831 or via e-mail at Robert.R.Smith@usace.army.mil . This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Division.



Regulatory Program Goals:

- To provide strong protection of the nation's aquatic environment, including wetlands.

- To ensure the Corps provides the regulated public with fair and reasonable decisions.
- To enhance the efficiency of the Corps' administration of its regulatory program.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers
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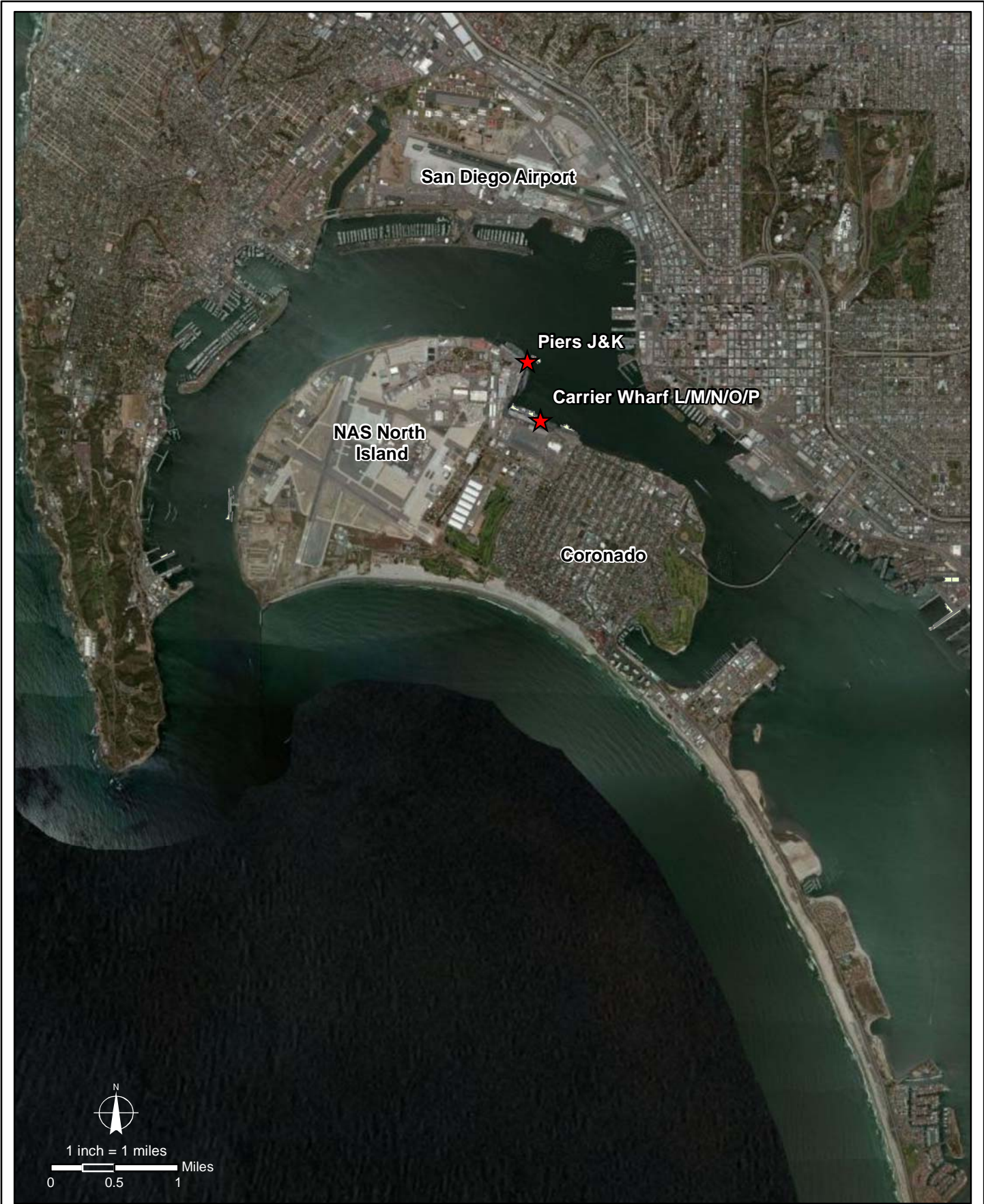
Path: R:\sd11\Aquatics\SD_Bay_Maintenance_Dredging\mxd\Report Figures\Updated_Figures_No_Logos\Fig1-1_regional_nbc.mxd

Source: ESRI - 2011

**Regional Location of Naval Base Coronado
San Diego Bay Maintenance Dredging**

FIGURE

1-1



Piers J&K and CW L/M/N/O/P Maintenance Dredge Project Site
Naval Base Coronado

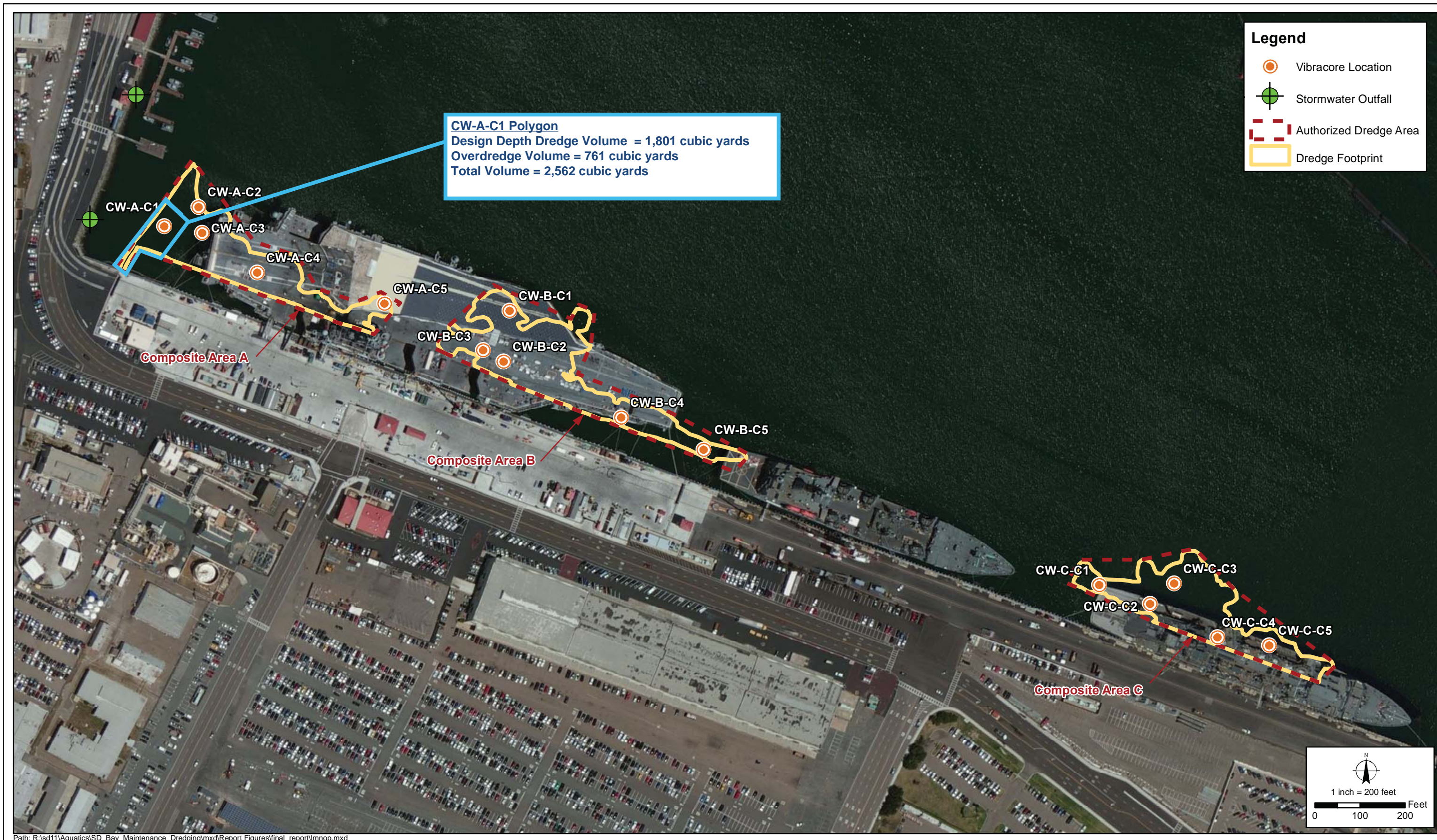
FIGURE

1-3



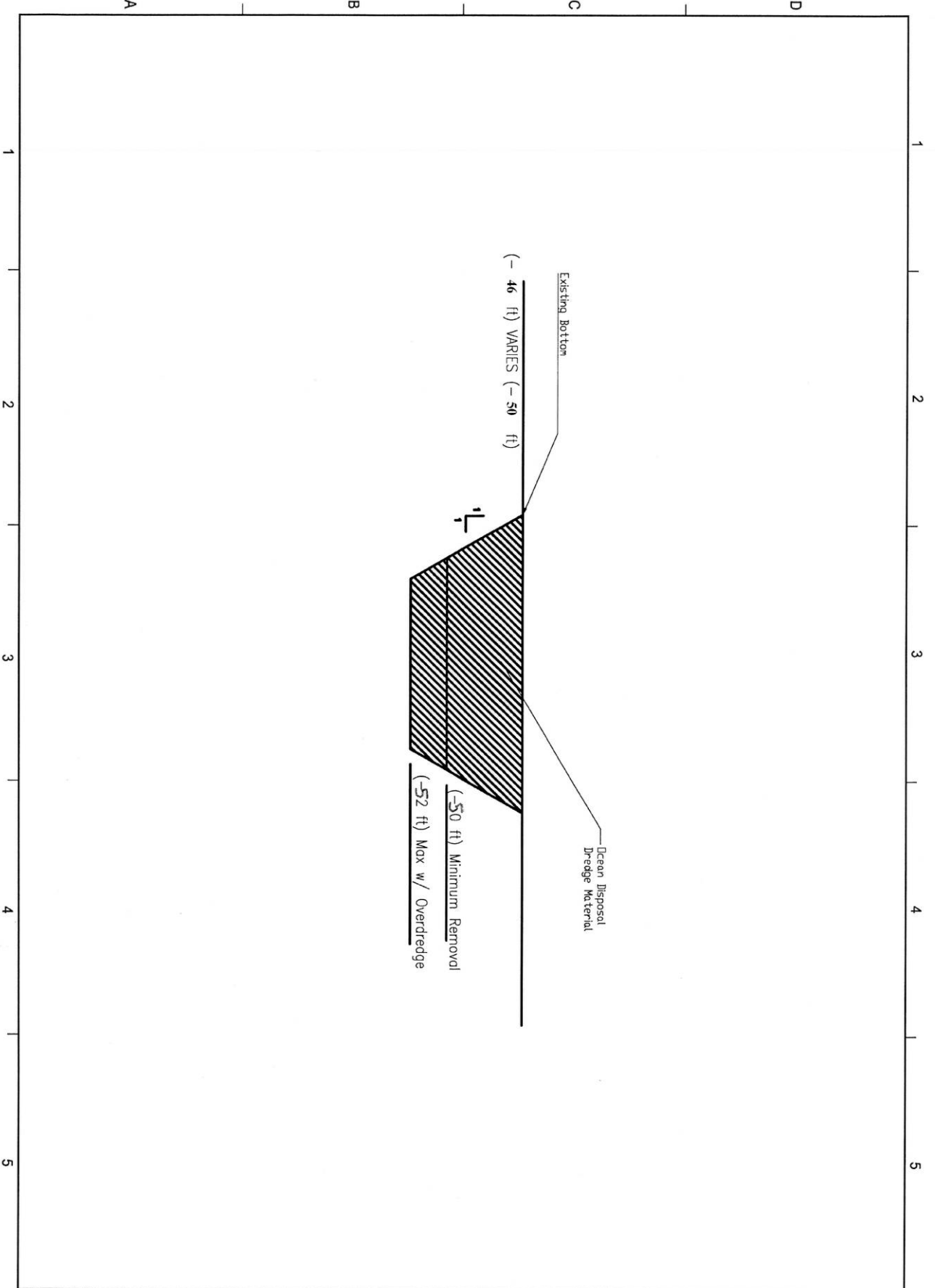
Piers J & K Sediment Collection Locations
Naval Base Coronado

FIGURE
2-1

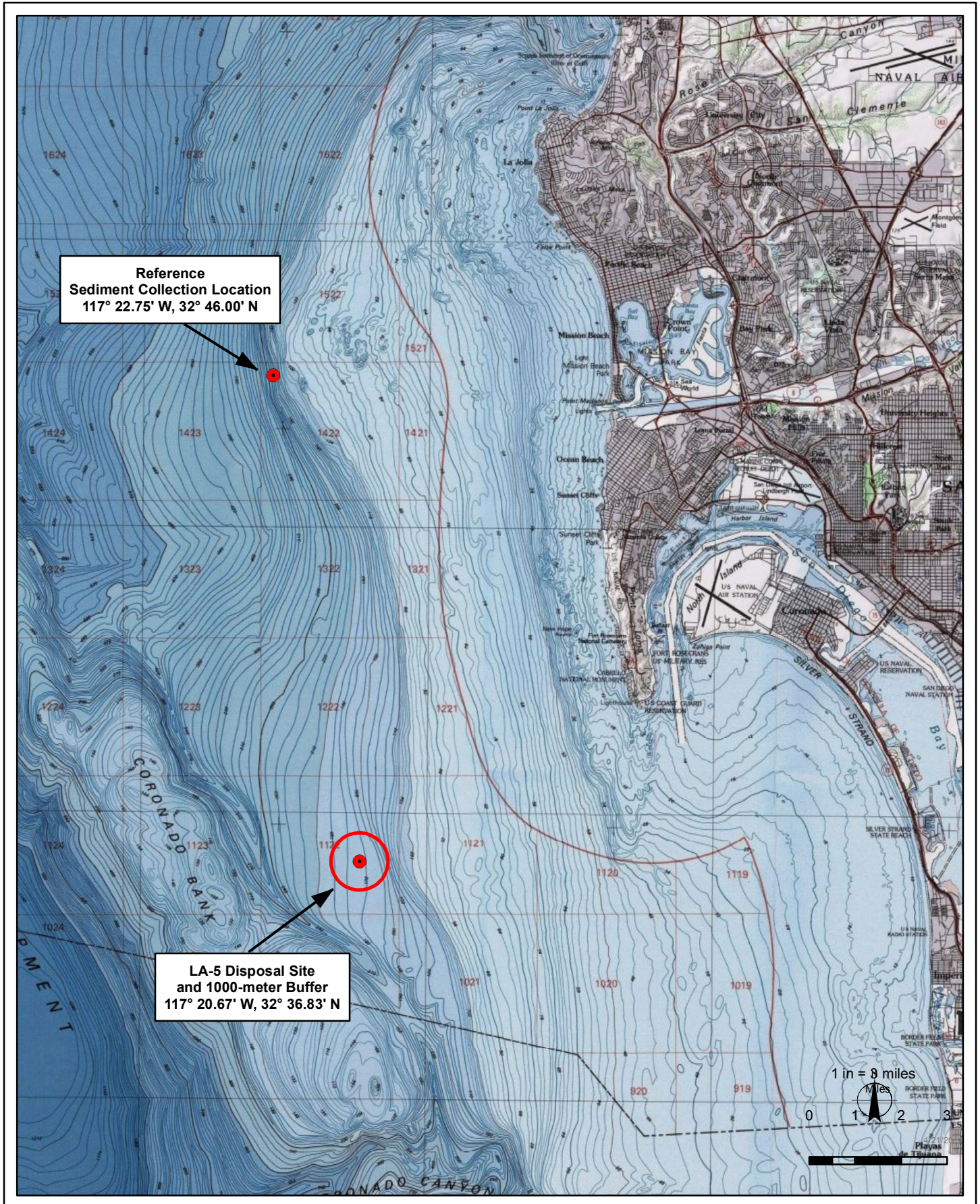


Carrier Wharf L/M/N/O/P Sediment Collection Locations
 Naval Base Coronado

FIGURE
 2-1



		DESIGN DEVELOPMENT SUBMITTAL	
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND SOUTH-WEST DESERT INTEGRATED PROJECT TEAM Naval Air Station North Island			
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND CORONADO, CA		CORONADO	
PROJECT NO. XXXXX	DRAWING NO. 1012/012	DATE 10/26/12	SCALE 1" = 10'
DRAWN BY JKH	CHECKED BY JKH	DATE 10/26/12	SCALE 1" = 10'



Location of LA-5 Ocean Dredged Material Disposal and Reference Sediment Collection Sites

FIGURE
2-3