

## Public Notice of Intent

### To Use Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in lieu of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Ammunition Pier and Turning Basin Project, Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach (NAVWPNSTA)

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency:** California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region (Santa Ana Water Board)

**Project Location:** Anaheim Bay, Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, and in Pacific Ocean, offshore permitted sediment disposal sites

**Project Description:** The United States Navy (by contractor) will dredge areas of Anaheim Bay (Turning Basin) so that larger ships may turn and berth at a new ammunition loading pier to be centered in the Bay. This 1,100-ft pier will replace the smaller existing pier, meet earthquake code, and be protected by a new breakwater. Fill to waters of the U.S. will consist of the pier pilings, breakwater, associated moorings, a truck turnaround, revetments, and a causeway to the main NAVWPNSTA facility that will block the existing channel to Huntington Harbour. A public navigational channel will be dredged directly between the ocean and Huntington Harbour to replace the existing channel and separate Naval operations from civilian boating. Mitigation measures will replace lost eelgrass beds, rehabilitate tidal zones and dunes, and monitor for wildlife impacts. The project will be conducted in two phases within six years. The Santa Ana Water Board is considering an application for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the project.

**Use of FONSI as CEQA Document:** Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15221, a lead agency should use a FONSI or environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act rather than preparing a new CEQA document if (1) the FONSI or EIS has been prepared before completion of a negative declaration or environmental impact report for the project, and (2) the FONSI or EIS complies with the CEQA Guidelines.

The Navy solicited comments on the environmental impacts of the project during a 2016 scoping period (March 18, 2016 to April 18, 2016) and held a scoping meeting on April 7, 2016. The Navy prepared an Initial Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and made it available for a public review and

comment from April 14, 2017 to May 29, 2017. The Navy made changes to the EA and circulated the Revised Draft EA for a 30-day public comment on September 28, 2018. Based on the findings in the EA, the Navy issued a FONSI on June 18, 2019. Both the Final EA and FONSI were posted on the Navy's project website on June 21, 2019.

The Santa Ana Water Board has reviewed the FONSI and the underlying EA and determined it complies with the CEQA Guidelines. The FONSI describes the environmental setting and the project, and analyzes the potential environmental effects of the project. The FONSI also requires the Navy to use best management practices and conservation measures to minimize environmental impacts and implement mitigation measures to reduce what would otherwise be significant impacts to less than significant levels.

The FONSI meets the requirements for a mitigated negative declaration specified in CEQA Guidelines section 15071, and the circulation of the EA satisfies the public notice requirements for a mitigated negative declaration specified in section 15105. Accordingly, the Santa Ana Water Board hereby provides notice of its intent to use the FONSI prepared for the project by the Navy in lieu of preparing a mitigated negative declaration.

**Review Period:** The public comment period begins on August 18, 2019, and ends on September 17, 2019, at 5 p.m. No public meeting will be held.

**Document Availability:** The Final EA and FONSI can be viewed on the [Project Website](#).

**How to Comment:** Interested parties may provide written comments on the Regional Board's intent to use the FONSI in lieu of a mitigated negative declaration. Comments must be **received** by the Santa Ana Water Board no later than 5 p.m. on September 17, 2019. Written comments may be provided by email to [Glenn.Robertson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Glenn.Robertson@waterboards.ca.gov) or sent via U.S. mail or fax to the attention of Glenn Robertson, Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, 3737 Main Street Suite 500, Riverside, CA 92501-3348, Fax number (951) 781-6288.