

Notice of Section 401 Application Reception

File Number: 302022-17

Project Name: Linda Isle Lagoon Maintenance Dredging

Received: 8/10/2022

Date Application Posted: 8/30/2022

End of 21 Day Public Comment Period: 9/20/2022

Project City: Newport Beach

Project County: Orange

Applicant Organization: Linda Isle Community Association

Applicant Name: Grant Whitcher

Waterboard Staff: TBA

Brief Description of Project:

Project Description: The project is to restore navigational depths to the lagoon to support vessel access to and from multiple private docks. At present some of the vessels impact the bottom at lower tides and vessel propeller scarring is abundant along the main entrance channel and in proximity to several docks. Vessel docks are located within areas subject to RGP 54 dredging and thus these areas are excluded from the proposed dredging project. The project would restore necessary navigational depths, while also designating a conservation/management area for subtidal eelgrass within the central core of the lagoon. The management area is intended to maintain eelgrass habitat, while still allowing the ongoing recreational uses the lagoon was initially constructed to provide.

Project Activities: The work includes completion of maintenance dredging of Linda Isle Lagoon that was constructed in 1962 by the Irvine Company. The dredging would occur within waters of the access channel and central lagoon area not covered by the City of Newport Beach Regional General Permit 54. The dredged material is fine sediment and would be disposed of at the designated LA-3 Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site. Material is all expected to be suitable for ocean disposal based on testing conducted for RGP-54 projects which identifies all RGP 54 dredge areas to be suitable to - 10 feet MLLW plus 2 feet of over depth for unrestricted disposal at the LA-3 ODMDS. Dredging would be conducted by clamshell dredge to scows and then sediment would be transported to LA-3 for disposal. The project proposes excavation of areas needed for navigation by vessels berthed in the lagoon, while retaining a central core eelgrass conservation/management area. This conservation/management area is not proposed to be dredged during the present permit cycle and is intended to be maintained long-term as a subtidal eelgrass bed accommodating surface shallow draft recreational uses.

To this end, future dredging would be accommodated to lower the conservation / management area if the site rises above -3 feet MLLW, it could be dredged to -6 feet MLLW and replanted with eelgrass.