

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Joint Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/ Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/SEIR) for the Port of Los Angeles Channel Deepening Project Feasibility Study; Los Angeles County, CA**

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), DOD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Corps and the Port of Los Angeles (POLA) propose to deepen the Main Channel of the Port of Los Angeles from -45' Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) to between -50' MLLW and -55' MLLW dredging and disposing of approximately 3.7 to 7.8 million cubic yards (mcy).

ADDRESSES: Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, Attn: CESPL-PD-RN, P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, California, 90053-2325.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Mr. Larry Smith, phone (213) 452-3846; or E-mail: lsmith@spl.usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. *Authorization:* The study was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-662) Section 203.

2. *Background:* The SEIS/SEIR supplements the Deep Draft Navigation Improvements, Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors, San Pedro Bay, California Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (SEPT 1992) and the Channel Deepening Project Port of Los Angeles Environmental Impact Report (JAN 1998).

3. *Proposed Action:* The Corps and the POLA are proposing to deepen the main navigation channel into the Port of Los Angeles in order to accommodate the larger deeper draft generation of container ships now entering the shipping service. The proposed project would deepen the Main Channel from its current depth of -45' MLLW to a propose depth of either -50', -52', or -55' MLLW. This would require the dredging of between 3.7 to 7.8 mcy of harbor sediments. Disposal options include offshore, near/onshore and upland sites. Potential disposal sites being investigated are the Pier 300 Expansions Site, the Pier 400 Submerged Storage Site, the Pier 400 Upland Site, the Southwest Slip Fill Site, the Cabrillo Shallow Water Habitat Expansion Site, a local Upland Disposal

site, and/or Ocean Disposal Sites LA-2 and/or LA-3.

4. *Alternatives:* Alternative depths being considered are -50' MLLW, -52' MLLW and -55' MLLW. Alternative disposal sites are listed above. Each site will be evaluated for its full storage potential. A combination of sites will be selected based on the chosen channel depth alternative, and thus dredge disposal volume, and potential impacts from the use of each disposal site. The proposed plan, viable project alternatives, and the "no action" plan will be carried forward for detailed analysis pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, as amended) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (Public Resources Code, Sections 21000-21177).

5. *Scoping Process:* a. Potential impacts associated with the proposed action will be fully evaluated. Resource categories that will be analyzed are: biology, air quality, water quality, cultural resources, land use, geology, recreational, aesthetics, ground and vessel transportation, noise, public health and safety, and utilities.

b. The Corps and the POLA are preparing a joint Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Report (SEIS/SEIR) to address potential impacts associated with the proposed project. The Corps is the Lead Federal Agency for compliance with NEPA for the project, and the POLA is the Lead State Agency for compliance with the CEQA for the non-Federal aspects of the project. The Draft SEIS/SEIR (DSEIS/SEIR) document will incorporate public concerns in the analysis of impacts associated with the Proposed Action and associated project alternatives. The DSEIS/SEIR will be sent out for a 45-day public review period, during which time both written and verbal comments will be solicited on the adequacy of the document. The Final SEIS/SEIR (FSEIS/SEIR) will address the comments received on the DSEIS/SEIR during public review, and will be furnished to all who commented on the DSEIS/SEIR, and is made available to anyone that requests a copy during the 30-day public comment period. The final step involves, for the federal SEIS, preparing a Record of Decision (ROD) and, for the state SEIR, certifying the SEIR and adopting a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan. The ROD is a concise summary of the decisions made by the Corps from among the alternatives presented in the FSEIS/SEIR. The ROD can be published immediately after the FSEIS public comment period ends. A certified SEIR indicates that the environmental document adequately

assesses the environmental impacts of the proposed project with respect to CEQA.

c. The public, as well as Federal, State, and local agencies are encouraged to participate in the scoping process by attending the scoping meeting and/or submitting data, information, and comments identifying relevant environmental and socioeconomic issues to be addressed in the environmental analysis. Useful information includes other environmental studies, published and unpublished data, historical photos of the area, alternatives that should be addressed in the analysis, and potential environmental enhancement and restoration opportunities that exist along the creek. Individuals and agencies may offer information or data relevant to the proposed study and provide comments by attending the public scoping meeting, or by mailing the information to Mr. Larry Smith before 15 September, 1999. Requests to be placed on the mailing list for announcements and the DSEIS/SEIR should also be sent to Mr. Larry Smith.

6. *Location and time:* A formal scoping meeting to solicit public comment and concerns on the proposed action and alternatives will be held on September 15, 1999 at 3:00 P.M., in the Port Plaza Building of the Port Los Angeles, 425 South Palos Verdes Street, San Pedro, California.

Dated: September 10, 1999.

John P. Carroll,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers District Engineer.
[FR Doc. 99-23936 Filed 9-13-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Navy****Public Hearing for the Draft Overseas Environmental Impact Statement/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DOEIS/DEIS) for the Operational Employment of the Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active (SURTASS LFA) Sonar**

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a DOEIS/DEIS for the operational employment of the SURTASS LFA sonar. Public hearings will be held for the purpose of receiving oral and written comments on the DOEIS/DEIS. Federal, state and local agencies, and

interested individuals are invited to be present or represented at the hearings.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: Hearing dates and locations are as follows:

1. September 29, 1999, 7:00 p.m., Nauticus—The National Maritime Center (Theater), 1 Waterside Drive, Norfolk, VA 23510.

2. October 12, 1999, 7:00 p.m., Marina Village Conference Center, 1960 Quivira Way, Building E, Suite 5, San Diego, CA 92109.

3. October 14, 1999, 7:00 p.m., University of Hawaii—Monoa Campus, Hawaii Imin International Conference Center Jefferson Hall, Keoni Room, 2600 Campus Road, Honolulu, HI.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Clayton H. Spikes, telephone (703) 465-8404.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency a DOEIS/DEIS for the operational employment of the SURTASS LFA sonar.

A Notice of Intent for this EIS was published in the **Federal Register** on July 18, 1996. Public Scoping meetings were held in Norfolk, Virginia, on August 6, 1996; in San Diego, California, on August 8, 1996; and in Honolulu, Hawaii, on August 13, 1996.

The U.S. Navy proposes to operate up to four SURTASS LFA sonar systems worldwide. The SURTASS LFA sonar employs long-range sound propagation to detect return echoes from objects on and under the sea. The LFA system will provide the U.S. Navy an improved detection capability in support of its national defense mission. The Navy proposes to make the SURTASS LFA system available to Fleet Commanders for worldwide employment to enhance antisubmarine capabilities.

The U.S. Navy has analyzed the environmental effects resulting from the operational employment of up to four SURTASS LFA sonar systems worldwide. Alternatives developed and analyzed in the DOEIS/DEIS include: the No Action Alternative, in which no operational deployment of SURTASS LFA sonar would occur; Alternative 1, which provides for geographic restrictions and monitoring to prevent injury to potentially affected species; and Alternative 2, which provides for unrestricted operation of the system. The Navy currently prefers Alternative 1 because it best meets the program

purpose and need and satisfies Navy operational requirements.

Environmental resource areas addressed in the DOEIS/DEIS include the acoustic environment, marine environment, and socioeconomic environment. Issue analysis includes an evaluation of the direct, indirect, short-term, and cumulative impacts; and irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources associated with the proposed action.

No decision on the proposed action will be made until the National Environmental Policy Act process has been completed and the Secretary of the Navy, or a designated representative, releases the Record of Decision.

The DOEIS/DEIS has been distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, and special interest groups and public libraries. The DOEIS/DEIS is also available for public review at the following libraries:

- Los Angeles Library, 2801 Wabash Avenue, Los Angeles, CA.
- San Diego County Library, Building 15, 5555 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA.
- San Diego Public Library, 820 E Street, San Diego, CA.
- San Diego Society of Natural History Library, P.O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA.
- California State Library Sutro Library, 480 Winston Drive, San Francisco, CA.
- San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco, CA.
- Hawaii Documents Center Hawaii State Library, 478 South King Street, Honolulu, HI.
- Kaneohe Regional Library, 45-829 Kamehameha Highway, Kaneohe, HI.
- Hilo Regional Library, 300 Waiianuenue, Hilo, HI.
- Wailuku Regional Library, 251 High Street, Wailuku, HI.
- Lihue Regional Library, 4344 Hardy Street, Lihue, HI.
- Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston, MA.
- Norfolk Public Library Kirn Memorial Library, 301 East City Hall Avenue, Norfolk, VA.
- Virginia Beach Public Library, 4100 Virginia Beach Boulevard, Virginia Beach, VA.
- Fred C. Schmidt Documents Dept-KS, The Libraries Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO.
- Seattle Public Library, 1000 4th Avenue, Seattle, WA.
- Martin Luther King Memorial Library, 901 G Street NW, Floor 4, Washington, DC.

The Navy will conduct three public hearings to receive oral and written

comments concerning the DOEIS/DEIS. A brief presentation will precede a request for public information and comments. Navy representatives will be available at each hearing to receive information and comments from agencies and the public regarding issues of concern. Federal, state, and local agencies, and interested parties are invited and urged to be present or represented at the hearings. Those who intend to speak will be asked to submit a speaker card (available at the door). Oral comments will be heard and transcribed by a stenographer.

To assure accuracy of the record, all statements should be submitted in writing. All statements, both oral and written, will become part of the public record in the study. Equal weight will be given to both oral and written comments. In the interest of available time, each speaker will be asked to limit oral comments to three minutes. Longer comments should be summarized at the public hearings and submitted in writing either at the hearing or mailed to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Code N874, c/o Clayton H. Spikes (703) 465-8404, Marine Acoustics, Inc., Suite 708, 901 North Stuart Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Written comments are requested not later than Saturday, November 13, 1999.

Dated: September 9, 1999.

J. L. Roth,

Lieutenant Commander, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Availability of Invention for Licensing; Government-Owned Invention

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DOD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The invention listed below is assigned to the United States Government as represented by the Secretary of the Navy and is available for licensing by the Department of the Navy.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/313,577 entitled "Tissue Diagnostics Using Evanescent Spectroscopy" Navy Case No. 79,047.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the patent application cited should be directed to the Naval Research Laboratory, Code 3008.2, 4555 Overlook Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20375-