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**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

## Public Notice

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Public Notice No.	Date
CENAP-PL-E-18-02	02 AUG 2018

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Application No.	File No.
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In Reply Refer to:  
Environmental Resources Branch

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**EXPANSION OF OFFSHORE BORROW AREA K FOR THE CAPE MAY INLET  
TO LOWER TOWNSHIP STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT AND  
THE LOWER CAPE MAY MEADOWS – CAPE MAY POINT  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROJECT  
CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

Pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed a draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) to expand Borrow Area K for the Cape May Inlet to Lower Township Storm Damage Reduction Project and the Lower Cape May Meadows – Cape May Point Environmental Restoration Project, Cape May County, New Jersey. The draft EA titled: Expansion of Offshore Borrow Area K for the Cape May Inlet to Lower Township Storm Damage Reduction Project and the Lower Cape May Meadows – Cape May Point Environmental Restoration Project, Cape May County, New Jersey is available for public review and comment. This environmental assessment addresses the need to evaluate an expansion of the existing Borrow Area K in order to provide additional beachfill material for the projects. It is estimated that the existing Borrow Area K has approximately 3 million cubic yards of material remaining above elevation -40 feet NAVD 88. The last several dredging contractors however, have had significant impacts to productivity due to larger gravel and seashells at and just below the surface. This material clogs the screens required for Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) avoidance. Based on the recent reduced productivity and the future need for additional sand for these projects, an expansion of Borrow Area K was investigated. The Cape May Inlet to Lower Township project was initially constructed in 1991 and the Lower Cape May Meadows – Cape May Point project completed initial construction in 2005. Both projects are currently in the periodic nourishment phase with nourishment occurring every two years for the Cape May City project

and every four years for the Cape May Meadows project. The next scheduled nourishment is November 2018 for Cape May City and 2020 for Cape May Meadows. Both projects are being cost-shared by the Federal government and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the non-Federal project sponsor.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, a draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) has been developed for this project and is being circulated to the appropriate State and Federal agencies; local, State, and Federal officials; and private organizations.

Impacts to Water Quality have been evaluated in accordance with the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines of the Clean Water Act, and are not adverse. In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, an updated Water Quality Certification is being requested from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

In accordance with Section 307 (c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must comply with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. An updated certification of compliance is being requested from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

It has been determined that the proposed work would not affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act has been completed for this project.

Review of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties, or properties listed as eligible for inclusion, would be impacted.

All practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the recommended plan.

The public and all agencies are invited to comment on this proposal. Copies of this EA and other related documents can be obtained by accessing the internet link:

<http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/PublicNoticesReports.aspx>.

Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice (1 August 2018 to 31 August 2018), that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for a public hearing shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

All comments on the work described in this public notice and/or in the report titled: Expansion of Offshore Borrow Area K for the Cape May Inlet to Lower Township Storm Damage Reduction Project and the Lower Cape May Meadows – Cape May Point Environmental Restoration Project, Cape May County, New Jersey should be directed to Mr. Peter R. Blum, ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390 by August 31, 2018.

Peter R. Blum  
Chief, Planning Division  
Philadelphia District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT  
ATTN: CENAP-PL-E  
WANAMAKER BUILDING  
100 PENN SQUARE EAST  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107-3390**