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**US Army Corps** 

Philadelphia District

Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390

of Engineers.

Wanamaker Building 100 Penn Square East

ATTN: CENAP-OP-R

## **Public Notice**

Public Notice No. CENAP-OP-R-2015-483-35

3-35

OCT 13 2015

Application No.

File No.

Date

In Reply Refer to: REGULATORY BRANCH

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments and recommendations from the public concerning issuance of a Department of the Army permit for the work described below.

- APPLICANT: Ocean County Department of Parks and Recreation 1198 Bandon Road Toms River, New Jersey 08753
- AGENT: Ms. Ericka Naklicki Senior Environmental Scientist T&M Associates 11 Tindal Road Middletown, New Jersey 07748
- WATERWAY: Barnegat Bay.

LOCATION: Berkeley Island County Park, Brennan Concourse, Block 1669, Lots 1 & 1.01, Berkeley Township, Ocean County, New Jersey (enclosure 1 and 2).

ACTIVITY: The applicant proposes to discharge fill material into waters of the U.S. to perform shoreline protection and for creation of a living shoreline bank stabilization at Berkeley Island County Park (enclosures 3 through 8). The project involves work on the north and south sides of the main access roadway (Brennan Concourse).

Proposed work on the south side of the park includes construction of 5 stone/wood breakwaters, occupying 0.409 acres of sub-tidal shallows, off-shore of the park to maintain approximately 0.50 acres of sand discharged/placed below the High Tide Line to create a stable living shoreline and wetland system. The breakwaters are separated to allow tidal flow into the created wetland area. The area behind the stone/wood breakwater would then be planted with native salt marsh vegetation. Additionally, an existing stone jetty, would be extended and would occupy 0.046 acres of sub-tidal habitat, in order to protect 0.270 acres of restored beach habitat. The beach has eroded due to recent storm activity.

Proposed regulated work on the north side of the park involves the discharge of rock rip rap, mostly on top of existing stone, to protect the north shoreline from erosion. Maintenance of the existing revetment would involve the discharge of fill material into 0.26 acres of intertidal habitat. Extension of the revetment as breakwater would result in the discharge of stone into 0.096 acres of sub-tidal habitat. The breakwater is proposed to protect the shoreline immediately adjacent to the park access road which has suffered significant erosion.

The applicant has also proposed to replace, within 24" of the existing structure, 575' linear feet of vinyl bulkhead to protect the northern portion of the park.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to restore damaged shorelines through living shoreline techniques and protect the shore from further erosion.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work will not effect threatened and endangered species. While Atlantic Sturgeon (<u>Acipenser oxyrinchus</u>), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (<u>Lepidochelys kempii</u>), loggerhead sea turtle (<u>Caretta caretta</u>), green sea turtle (<u>Chelonia mydas</u>), leatherback sea turtle (<u>Dermochelys coriacea</u>) and hawksbill sea turtle (<u>Eretmochelys imbricate</u>) are in the vicinity, due to the water depths of the work area (i.e., very shallow) and limited disturbance nature of the restoration activities, these species are not likely present or effected by the project.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the activity's probable impact including its cumulative impacts on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and welfare of the people. A Department of the Army permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

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.

Comments on the proposed work should be submitted, in writing, within 15 days to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390.

Coordination under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is currently ongoing.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely effect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). A preliminary assessment of the species listed in the "<u>Guide to Essential Fish Habitat Designations in the Northeastern United States, Volume IV: New Jersey and Delaware</u>", dated March 1999, indicates that the project may adversely affect EFH. In order to avoid or minimize impacts to EFH species, specifically Winter Flounder (*Pseudoplueronectes americanus*), from the discharge of sand and rock on the north and south shoreline, no in-water work will be authorized between January 1<sup>st</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup> of any given year.

In accordance with Section 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, applicants for Federal Licenses or Permits to conduct an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must provide certification that the activity complies with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. The applicant has stated that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved State Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. No permit will be issued until the State has concurred with the applicant's certification or has waived its right to do so. Comments concerning the impact of the proposed and/or existing activity on the State's coastal zone should be sent to this office, with a copy to the State's Office of Coastal Zone Management.

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate is necessary from the State government in which the work is located. Any comments concerning the work described above which relate to Water Quality considerations should be sent to this office with a copy to the State.

The evaluation of the impact of the work described above on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

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

Additional information concerning this permit application may be obtained by calling Mr. Michael H. Hayduk at 215-656-5822, via email at michael.h.hayduk@usace.army.mil, or writing this office at the above address.

Frank J. Cianfrani

Chief, Regulatory Branch



Prepared by: EJN, 11/14/14 Source: USGS Topographic Map File Path: H:\OCTY\00530\Permits\NJDEP\CAFRA\USGS Map.mxd NOTE: This map was developed using New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Geographic Information System digital data, but this secondary product has not been verified by NJDEP and is not State-authorized.

ENCLOSURE 1













