JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

## CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 1949 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD, ROOM 140 CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29526 and THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Section 2600 Bull Street Columbia, South Carolina 29201

REGULATORY DIVISION Refer to: SAC-2023-00354

April 6, 2023

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 <u>et.seq.</u>), and the S.C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program (R. 19-450, <u>et. seq.</u>, 1976 <u>S.C. Code of Laws</u>, as amended), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

### Mr. John June c/o: Bridgeview Environmental Consulting P.O. Box 30937 Charleston, South Carolina 29417 joynercm@bridgeviewec.com

for a permit to construct two (2) private-use docks and associated dredging in the

## Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway (AIWW) and Williams Island Canal

located at 121 Serenity Pointe Drive, parcel identified as Horry County PIN# 35006040037, in Little River, Horry County, South Carolina (Latitude: 33.8466 °, Longitude: -78.6644 °), Wampee Quad.

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

# NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by the **Corps** until

# 15 Days from the Date of this Notice,

and **SCDHEC** will receive written statements regarding the proposed work until

## 30 Days from the Date of this Notice

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

NOTE: This public notice and associated plans are available on the Corps' website at: <u>http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices</u> .

#### Applicant's Stated Purpose

According to the applicant, the purpose of the proposed project is for private recreational boating access and storage within the AIWW.

#### **Project Description**

The proposed work consists of the construction of two (2) private-use docks and associated dredging. In detail, the proposed AIWW dock will consists of the construction of a 4' x 20' walkway leading to a shore parallel 4' x 36' walkway and a 12' x 14' fixed pierhead. Adjacent to the shore parallel walkway will be a 12' x 26' four (4) pile boat lift. On the west side of the proposed fixed pierhead there will be a 3' x 16' ramp leading to an 8' x 12' floating dock. The Williams Island Canal dock will consist of the construction of a 3' x 20' gangway leading to a 4' x 4' landing and a 5' x 30' floating dock. The proposed dredging will encompass approximately 3,050 square feet of the AIWW and will remove approximately 104 cubic yards of material. The area will be dredged to a depth of -2.08' (MLW). Dredging will be completed by a long-arm track hoe stationed within adjacent onsite uplands. The dredged material will be placed within onsite uplands behind a berm with no outfall structure/return water pipe and therefore will not allow any return water to the AIWW. The dredged material will be allowed to dry in place and once dried will be utilized onsite for general site preparation purposes. It is understood that this work is to be conducted on/or adjacent to an area subject to a prism and/or disposal area held by the United States. Appropriate provisions will be included in the permit to ensure the interests of the Federal Government are understood.

#### Avoidance and Minimization

The applicant stated that the proposed project will avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment by employing Best Management Practices (BMPs) during construction. In addition, the applicant stated dredging is only proposed in the area necessary for boating access and all structures are being located outside of the federal channel setback.

#### **Proposed Compensatory Mitigation**

The applicant offered no compensatory mitigation for impacts associated with the project.

#### South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the certifying authority, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). This activity may also require evaluation for compliance with the S. C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. State review, permitting and certification is conducted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

## **Essential Fish Habitat**

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact 0.07 acres of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the shrimp, and snappergrouper management complexes. The District Engineer's initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The District Engineer's final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

## **Endangered Species**

Pursuant to the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the Corps has reviewed the project and based on the location of the project and available information, the following species may be present in the County(s) where the work will occur: West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Shortnose Sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*), and Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*), American wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), Sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*), Right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*), Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), Finback whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*), American chaffseed (*Schwalbea americana*), Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Northern long-eared bat

#### (Myotis septentrionalis), and Rufa red knot (Calidris canutus rufa)

Based on all information provided by the applicant and the most recently available information, the District Engineer has determined the following:

The project will have <u>no effect</u> on Shortnose Sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*), and Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*), American wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), Sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*), Right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*), Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), Finback whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Seabeach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*), American chaffseed (*Schwalbea americana*), Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat.

The project <u>is not likely to adversely affect</u> West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request for written concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service on this determination.

This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity.

#### **Cultural Resources**

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA, the District Engineer has consulted South Carolina ArchSite (GIS), for the presence or absence of historic properties (as defined in 36 C.F.R. 800.16)(*I*)(1)), and has initially determined that no historic properties are present; therefore, there will be no effect on historic properties. To ensure that other historic properties that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office and any other interested parties to provide any information they may have with regard to historic properties. This public notice serves as a request for concurrence within 30 days from the SHPO (and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer).

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon

coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

## **Corps' Evaluation**

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

#### Solicitation of Public Comment

The Corps 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 activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. 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 activity. Any person may request, in writing, 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, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Please submit comments in writing, identifying the project of interest by public notice/file number (SAC-2023-00354), to Robert.C.Huff@usace.army.mil <u>or</u> the following address:

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION 1949 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD, ROOM 140 CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29526

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Rob Huff, Watershed Manager, at (843) 365-4239, or by email at Robert.C.Huff@usace.army.mil.





