#### JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

# CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107 and the S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400 Charleston, South Carolina 29405

#### REGULATORY DIVISION Refer to: P/N #SAC-2003-13386-2G

7 MAY 2014

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et.seq.) an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

# PATRIOTS POINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Attn: MR. ROBERT HOWARD C/O JACK T. WALKER GEL ENGINEERING, LLC POST OFFICE BOX 30712 CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29417

for a permit to perform maintenance dredging in waters of

#### **CHARLESTON HARBOR**

at locations in the access channel and tour boat berthing area adjacent to Patriots Point Naval Museum and within the Charleston Harbor Marina facility, at Patriots Point Road, Mount Pleasant, Charleston County, South Carolina (Latitude 32.78786° - Longitude -79.90985).

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 and SCDHEC 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.

The proposed work consists of dredging approximately 100,000 cubic yards of material from a 57 acre area comprising the access channel, tour boat berthing area, and area adjacent to Patriots Point, and in the Charleston Harbor Marina. In detail, the proposed work consists of dredging to a depth of -13.0 feet MLW with a 2.0 foot over dredge for a maximum dredge depth of -15.0 feet MLW in the access channel and tour boat berthing area. Existing bottom elevations range from approximately -2.0 feet MLW in the access channel just east of the Yorktown, to -13.0 feet MLW in the access channel closest to the river. The proposed dredged depth in Charleston Harbor

Marina is to -10.0 MLW with an allowable 2.0 feet MLW for a maximum dredge depth of -12.0 feet MLW. The existing bottom elevations the Charleston Harbor Marina range from approximately -3.0 MLW in the northeast corner of the marina basin to approximately -8.0 feet MLW in the southeast corner of the marina basin. The applicant estimates approximately 80,000 cubic yards of material will be dredged from the access channel and tour boat berthing facility area and approximately 20,000 cubic vards of material will be dredged from the Charleston Harbor Marina. The material consists primarily of fine silty clays, with minor amounts of sand and will be dredged by cutter head suction dredging. The applicant proposes to dispose of the dredged material in an upland Confined Disposal Facility (CDF). The applicant intends to request approval from the South Carolina State Ports Authority to use either the Drum Island CDF, the Daniel Island CDF, or the Morris Island CDF for disposal of sediments from this and future dredging events. The applicant has provided a draft Sampling and Analysis Plan for review. The applicant proposes to conduct dredging and sediment disposal using the following bests management practices: 1. Installing a staff gauge in the disposal basin to insure that the disposal basin is not over filled during dredging activities. 2. Constant monitoring of the disposal basin during all dredging activities to insure that the structural stability of the dikes is not compromised. 3. Monitoring of all outfall weirs to ensure that the effluent from the disposal basin does not contain elevated levels of suspended solids. The area was last dredged in 2005 according to the applicant (under permit #2003-1H-359). The applicant has requested a ten year maintenance dredging permit. The purpose of the proposed work as stated by the applicant is to achieve safe operating depths for recreational and commercial vessels in the Patriots Point tour boat channel and the Charleston Harbor Marina during all stages of the tide.

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). 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.

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 57 acres of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our 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). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species 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.

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

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properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with the NHPA, the District Engineer has also consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. To insure that other cultural resources 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 to provide any information it may have with regard to historic and cultural resources.

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.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. 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 of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

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 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 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.

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Mary Hope Green at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.



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