JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

January 13, 2020

United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District Regulatory Branch 7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, LA 70118-3651

State of Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Water Permits Division Post Office Box 4313 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

(504) 862-2272 Project Manager Amy Oestringer <u>Amy.L.Oestringer@usace.army.mil</u> MVN-1997-03712-WQQ (225) 219-3225 Project Manager Elizabeth Hill WQC Application Number WQC # 191220-01

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [X] Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (30 Stat. 1151; 33 USC 403); and/or [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

Application has also been made to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, for a renewed Water Quality Certification (WQC) in accordance with the statutory authority contained in LRS 30:2074 A(3) and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (P.L. 95-217; 33 U.S.C. 1341).

TIME EXTENSION OF MAINENANCE DREDGING IN THE CAMERON PASS LOOP IN CAMERON PARISH

NAME OF APPLICANT: Cameron Parish Port, Harbor & Terminal District, c/o Lonnie G. Harper & Associates, Inc., Attn: Chris Wheat, 2746 Hwy 384, Suite 500, Bell City, Louisiana 70630.

LOCATION OF WORK: located in the Calcasieu River Ship Channel and Cameron Loop Pass, at the Cameron Parish Port, Harbor and Terminal, in Cameron, Louisiana, in Cameron Parish, as shown on the enclosed drawings.

Latitude: 29.792336° Longitude: -93.323747° Hydrologic Unit Code 08080206 (Lower Calcasieu River Basin)

CHARACTER OF WORK: The applicant has requested permit reissuance to perform maintenance dredging of a segment of the Calcasieu River Ship Channel and the existing Cameron loop pass. Multiple permit authorizations and time extensions have been granted for dredging at the existing port facility since September 25, 2000. The most recent permit authorization was granted on July 14, 2011, to dredge the channel to a depth of -30 feet to accommodate deep draft vessels. The applicant has requested permit reissuance to dredge the channel to a depth of -20 feet, removing approximately 375,000 cubic yards of material by hydraulic suction dredge, as shown on the permit drawings. All dredged materials will be pumped through a submerged pipe to a 2700' x 9800' primary disposal area east of the mouth of the Calcasieu River, into the Gulf of Mexico. A 2112' x 9283' alternate disposal area to the west of the mouth of the River, into the Gulf of Mexico will be utilized if necessary.

Approximately 125 acres of Waters of the US will be impacted by the project, and no wetland impacts are proposed.

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit will close <u>20 days</u> from the date of this public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit must be mailed so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number, and be mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, ATTENTION: <u>REGULATORY BRANCH</u>. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing or e-mailing the Corps of Engineers Project Manager listed above. Any request must be specific and substantively supportive of the requested extension, and received by this office prior to the end of the initial comment period. The Section Chief will review the request and the requestor will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous to the initial comment period and, inclusive of the initial comment period, will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days.

Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. 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 proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal 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, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, 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 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.

No properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near the proposed work. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Archeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

The New Orleans District has determined that the proposed activity is not likely to affect the West Indian Manatee, utilizing the dichotomous key Standard Local Operating Procedure for Endangered Species of Louisiana (SLOPES), dated October 22, 2014, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Office. Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any species, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of such species, listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnus-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and certification that the proposed activity will not violate applicable water quality standards will be required from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, before a permit is issued.

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 public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

The applicant has certified that the project will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program.

Darrell S. Barbara Chief, Western Evaluation Section Regulatory Branch









