

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) has been prepared by the California State Lands Commission (CSLC), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), to analyze and disclose the environmental effects associated with the proposed Vulcan Materials New Dredging Project (Project). Vulcan Materials Company (Applicant) proposes to dredge approximately 2,519 cubic yards (CY) within approximately 0.50 acre in one new dredging event, with an additional similar volume in one maintenance dredging event in the next 10 years. The dredging would occur adjacent to the Applicant's industrial site at 210 Landing Way in the City of Petaluma (see Figures ES-1 and ES-2). The dredged materials would be transported via barge to a sediment disposal site authorized by the San Francisco Bay Dredge Materials Management Office (DMMO) in San Pablo Bay or the Montezuma Wetlands (Figure ES-3).

CSLC has prepared an ND because the IS determines that, with Project design features and Project conformance with the Long-Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for the San Francisco Bay and DMMO process, no significant impacts would occur.

Project Background and Proposed Project

The Applicant operates a construction materials company at its property adjacent to the Petaluma River that receives materials from the Petaluma River via barges that utilize a berth area adjacent to an existing bulkhead wall along the property's river frontage. Due to historical accumulation of sediments and no prior dredging history at the berth area, new dredging of the berth area is required for safer navigation and more reliable use of the berth area during low tides. The key components of the Project are as follows:

- Proposed dredging area of approximately 0.5 acre. Initial dredging would remove 2,519 cubic yards of sediment to a depth of -8 feet mean lower low water plus an over-depth allowance (buffer) of 1 foot. Project activities would occur for approximately 6 days in September.
- Transport of dredged sediment via barge to one of three sediment disposal sites authorized by the DMMO: the SF-10 In-Bay disposal site, the Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project site, or the Montezuma Wetlands Restoration Project site. Only one of these sites would be selected for sediment disposal. Any debris (i.e., garbage/waste) encountered during

dredging would be transported by barge to Pillar Point Harbor and then transported by vehicle to Ox Mountain Landfill in Half Moon Bay. All the disposal sites have existing State and federal authorization to receive the sediment for disposal and are not subject to further CEQA review for the Project, as further explained in Section 2.

- Consideration of a 10-year lease from the CSLC with one maintenance dredging event anticipated over the 10-year lease term for a similar volume of sediment, approximately 2,500 cubic yards
- DMMO review of proposed dredging for conformance with the LTMS for San Francisco Bay and associated environmental protection measures

Impact Analysis Summary

Although Project activities are substantially similar to CEQA-exempt maintenance dredging activities (see California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15304(g)), the CSLC determined that “new dredging” is not categorically exempt pursuant to Article 19 of the CEQA Guidelines and guidance from the DMMO. Sections 3 and 4 of this IS/ND conclude that all Project-related impacts from the Project would be less than significant or that there would be no impact.

Figure ES-1 Project Region Map



Figure ES-2 Dredging Vicinity



Figure ES-3 Sediment Placement Sites

