

environmental issues associated with the Proposed Action. The meeting was held at the San Diego County Water Authority, 4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, California, on November 1, 2006. An additional public meeting ("Community Forum") was held in the Lakeside community on December 11, 2006. Although conducted outside the official NOI/NOP public scoping period, the Lead Agencies have agreed to give the comments received at the Lakeside Community Forum the same weight as those received during the NOI/NOP public scoping period, and are equally addressed in the EIR/EIS.

Two public hearings to receive comments on the Draft EIR/EIS will be held by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Water Authority. The locations and times for the public hearings are as follows:

- Lakeside Community Center, 9841 Vine St., Lakeside, CA, 92040 at 6:30 PM on October 8, 2007.
- Valley Center High School, Maxine Theater, 31322 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center, CA 92082, at 6:30 p.m., on October 11, 2007.

These public hearings will be announced in the local news media, and separate notice will also be sent to all parties on the project mailing list.

Participation by all interested Federal, State and County resource agencies, as well as Native American peoples, groups with environmental interests, and all interested individuals is encouraged. The public review period will conclude 45 days after publication of this notice.

Individuals and agencies may offer information or data relevant to the environmental or socioeconomic impacts by attending the above-referenced public meetings, or by mailing the information to Mr. Robert R. Smith or to Ms. Kelley Gage at the addresses provided in this notice prior to October 15, 2007. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Water Authority will consider public concerns on the Draft EIR/EIS. A summary of the public meetings and written comment letters and responses will be incorporated into the Final EIR/EIS as appropriate.

The Final EIR/EIS will be considered and acted upon by the Water Authority's Board of Directors at a noticed public hearing. The Corps will sign the Record of Decision at least 30 days after the Notice of Availability of the Final EIR/EIS. Comments, suggestions, and requests to be placed on the mailing list for announcements and for the Draft Final EIR/EIS, should also be sent to Mr. Smith or Ms. Gage.

**6. Availability of the Draft EIR/EIS:** The Draft EIR/EIS and appendices are available for review and downloading from the Water Authority's Internet Web page at the following address: <http://www.sdcwa.org>. Copies of the Draft EIR/EIS and all documents referenced in the Draft EIR/EIS are available for public review by appointment at the Water Authority offices at the address provided in this notice. Please contact Ms. Kelley Gage at the Water Authority at (858) 522-6763 to set up an appointment. Please note that only qualified individuals will be allowed to review the confidential cultural resources appendices. Copies of the Draft EIR/EIS and appendices are also available for public review at the following locations:

(1) Lakeside Public Library, 9839 Vine Street, Lakeside, CA 92040.

(2) Valley Center Public Library, 29200 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center, CA 92082.

**Mark Durham,**

*Chief, South Coast Branch, Los Angeles District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*

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**BILLING CODE 3710-KF-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for Homer Harbor Navigation Improvements Feasibility Study

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announces its intention to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to study the feasibility of expanding the existing moorage capacity for vessels at Homer, AK. This study will be performed through partnership of USACE, the City of Homer, and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. The existing moorage condition at Homer is at maximum capacity, resulting in overcrowded and unsafe conditions for harbor users. Additionally, the City will be unable to meet the growing moorage demands of commercial, Government, recreation, and subsistence vessels in the near future. The EIS will address potential environmental impacts of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the new and existing

harbor. USACE will hold public scoping meetings in Homer, AK.

**DATES:** The location, date, and time for the first scoping meeting will be as follows: Homer, AK: Thursday, September 6, 2007, from 1–6 p.m. at the Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center. Subsequent meetings will be advertised in the Homer News and Homer Tribune.

**ADDRESSES:** Please direct comments or suggestions on the scope of the EIS to: Ms. Lisa Rabbe, NEPA Coordinator, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, EN-CW-ER, P.O. Box 6898, Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-0898; Phone: 907-753-2634; Fax: (907) 753-2625, e-mail [Lisa.a.rabbe@poa02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Lisa.a.rabbe@poa02.usace.army.mil) (please use "NOI Comments on Homer Harbor" for the subject).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information or questions concerning the proposed project, contact: Mr. Pat Fitzgerald, Study Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, EN-CW-PF, P.O. Box 6898, Elmendorf AFB, AK 99506-0898; Phone: 907-753-5638; Fax: (907) 753-2625; e-mail: [patrick.s.fitzgerald@usace.army.mil](mailto:patrick.s.fitzgerald@usace.army.mil).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

The City of Homer was established in 1964. The Homer Harbor was initially constructed in 1961 and was expanded to its existing configuration in 1984. The harbor accommodates a large array of commercial, Government, recreation, and subsistence vessels.

##### Purpose and Need for Agency Action

The City of Homer needs to expand the existing harbor to a more efficient and safe harbor for navigation and mooring for its users. The existing Homer Harbor is utilized beyond its capacity. The harbor is not able to appropriately accommodate the needs of some of the larger commercial fishing vessels. Overcrowding of large vessels often results in increased damages to the vessels and docks. Overcrowding is also a problem for smaller commercial fishing, charter, and recreational vessels that use Homer Harbor. Additionally, the depths within the harbor are inadequate for these larger vessels on lower tides, which can result in vessel delays.

In addition, the U.S. Coast Guard and other federal and state vessels do not have adequate security for their vessels at their individual piers. A common area for state and federal vessels will decrease the administrative and personnel burdens for security measures needed to protect the vessels.

Operators of larger vessels have expressed that they would be interested in using Homer Harbor on a longer term basis if it were not as crowded and suitable moorage were available. Many of these operators are known to travel back to the Pacific Northwest for moorage. If suitable moorage were available in Homer, they could save the costs of the trip back to the Pacific Northwest. There is an opportunity to save operating costs, damages, and opportunity costs of time for crews of these vessels by providing additional protected moorage at Homer.

The USACE authority to conduct this study is provided by the "Rivers and Harbors in Alaska" study resolution adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Public Works on December 2, 1970.

This EIS will assess the potential environmental impacts of constructing, operating, maintaining an expanded and/or new harbor as well as other reasonable alternatives. The EIS will aid decision making on the Homer Harbor study by evaluating the environmental impacts of the range of reasonable alternatives, as well as providing a means for public input into the decision making process. USACE is committed to ensuring that the public has ample opportunity to participate in this review.

#### Preliminary Alternatives

Consistent with NEPA implementation requirements, this EIS will assess the range of reasonable alternatives regarding constructing, operating, and maintaining the proposed Homer Harbor project. The following preliminary list of alternatives is subject to modification in response to comments received during the public scoping process.

**Alternative 1: North Harbor Site.** This harbor would be constructed on the east side of the spit between the existing Homer Harbor and the ADF&G fishing hole. Rubble mound breakwaters would be necessary for wave protection. Significant dredging would be required for the mooring basin and entrance channel and the project would likely require extensive annual dredging.

**Alternative 2: East Harbor Site (Preferred Alternative).** This site is on the Kachemak Bay side of the upland staging area created when the harbor was expanded in 1984. This site avoids the need for a long entrance channel by placing the new basin in naturally deep waters. Dredging of the mooring basin and entrance channel would be required.

**Alternative 3: Harbor Expansion.** This alternative includes expansion of the

existing harbor by dredging and excavating a portion of the existing 30-acre staging area adjacent to the harbor. No new breakwaters would be required. This excavation would eliminate vital uplands on the Homer Spit. These areas of uplands are currently used as a parking and staging area, location of the U.S. Coast Guard buildings, and are integral to the movement of goods delivered from vessels at the City's deep water dock.

**No Action Alternative:** Under the "no action" alternative, the Homer Harbor would continue the "status quo" and over time become more crowded and safety issues would elevate. Where applicable under the alternatives listed above, disposal options, such as deep sea dumping, shoreline dumping, offsite dumping, will be considered for each alternative. Further, USACE would appreciate comments regarding whether there are additional siting alternatives for the Homer Harbor that should be considered.

#### Identification of Environmental and Other Issues

USACE intends to address the following environmental issues when assessing the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives in this EIS. Additional issues may be identified as a result of the scoping process. USACE invites comment from the Federal agencies, Native American tribes, State and local governments, and the general public on these and any other issues that should be considered in the EIS:

- Potential impacts on health from the Homer Harbor project include: Potential impacts to workers during the construction of the facilities.
- Potential impacts to surface water, tidelands and fauna include turbidity from construction activities.
- Potential impacts on air quality from emissions and from noise during harbor construction and operations.
- Potential cumulative impacts of the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions include impacts resulting from activities of the U.S. Coast Guard and commercial operations.
- Potential impacts to historically significant properties, if present, and on access to traditional use areas.
- Potential impacts on local, regional, or national resources from materials and utilities required for construction and operation.
- Potential impacts on ecological resources, including threatened and endangered species and water quality.
- Potential impacts on local employment, income, population,

housing, and public services from harbor construction and operations.

#### NEPA Process

The EIS for the proposed project will be prepared pursuant to the NEPA of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), Council on Environmental Quality NEPA Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and USACE's NEPA Implementing Procedures (33 CFR parts 230 and 325). Following the publication of this Notice of Intent, USACE will hold scoping meetings, prepare and distribute the draft EIS for public review, hold public hearings to solicit public comment on the draft EIS, and publish a final EIS. Not less than 30 days after the publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability of the final EIS, USACE may issue a Record of Decision (ROD) documenting its decision concerning the proposed action.

#### Scoping Meetings

The purpose of this Notice is to encourage early public involvement in the EIS process and to solicit public comments on the proposed scope of the EIS, including the issues and alternatives it would analyze. USACE invites public comments on the proposed scope of the Homer Harbor Project EIS. To ensure consideration, comments must be postmarked by October 30, 2007. Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable. Public meetings will be held in Homer, AK and will provide the public with an opportunity to present comments on the scope of the EIS and to ask questions and discuss concerns with USACE officials regarding the EIS. USACE will hold public scoping meetings in Homer, AK (see **DATES**) to solicit both oral and written comments from interested parties. Oral and written comments will be considered equally in the preparation of the EIS. The scoping meetings will not be conducted as evidentiary hearings. During at least the first hour of each scoping meeting, USACE officials will be available for informal discussions with attendees. During the formal part of the meeting, the public will have the opportunity to provide comments orally or in writing. The presiding officer will establish procedures to ensure that everyone who wishes to speak has a chance to do so. In addition, the presiding officer may set a time limit for each speaker. Comment cards will also be available for those who would prefer to submit written comments. The EIS will also contain a section summarizing the nature of the comments received during the scoping process and describing any

modification to the scope of the EIS in response to the scoping process comments.

#### EIS Schedule

The draft EIS is scheduled to be published by June 2009. A 45-day comment period on the draft EIS is planned, which will include public meetings to receive oral comments. Availability of the draft EIS, the dates of the public comment period, and information about the public hearings will be announced in the **Federal Register** and in the local news media.

The final EIS for the Homer Harbor project is scheduled for January 2010. A ROD would be issued no sooner than 30 days after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency notice of availability of the final EIS is published in the **Federal Register**.

**Brenda S. Bowen,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Education, President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

**ACTION:** Notice of an Open Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice sets forth the schedule and agenda of the meeting of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is required by section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and is intended to notify the public of its opportunity to attend.

**DATES:** Wednesday, September 12, 2007. Time: 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The Board will meet at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey, NW., Washington, DC 20001. Phone: 202-737-1234, Fax: 202-737-5773.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Charles M. Greene, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, 1990 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006; telephone: (202) 502-7511, fax: 202-502-7852.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities is established under

Executive Order 13256, dated February 12, 2002 and Executive Order 13316 dated September 17, 2003. The Board is established (a) to report to the President annually on the results of the participation of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in federal programs, including recommendations on how to increase the private sector role in strengthening these institutions, with particular emphasis given to enhancing institutional planning and development; strengthening fiscal stability and financial management; and improving institutional infrastructure, including the use of technology, to ensure the long-term viability and enhancement of these institutions; (b) to advise the President and the Secretary of Education (Secretary) on the needs of HBCUs in the areas of infrastructure, academic programs, and faculty and institutional development; (c) to advise the Secretary in the preparation of an annual Federal plan for assistance to HBCUs in increasing their capacity to participate in Federal programs; (d) to provide the President with an annual progress report on enhancing the capacity of HBCUs to serve their students; and (e) to develop, in consultation with the Department of Education and other Federal agencies, a private sector strategy to assist HBCUs.

#### Agenda

The purpose of the meeting is to receive and deliberate on policy issues pertinent to the Board and the nation's HBCUs and to discuss relevant issues to be addressed in the Board's annual report. This meeting will also provide the Board a forum to vote and approve action items regarding implementation of Presidential Executive Order 13256.

#### Additional Information

Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meeting (e.g., interpreting services, assistive listening devices, or material in alternative format) should notify ReShone Moore at (202) 502-7893, no later than Friday, August 31, 2007. We will attempt to meet requests for accommodations after this date, but cannot guarantee their availability. The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

An opportunity for public comment is available on Wednesday, September 12, 2007, between 2:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Individuals who wish to provide comments will be allowed three to five minutes to speak. Those members of the public interested in submitting written comments may do so by submitting them to the attention of Charles M.

Greene, 1990 K Street, NW., Washington, DC, by Friday, August 31, 2007.

Records are kept of all Board proceedings and are available for public inspection at the office of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, U.S. Department of Education, 1990 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20006, Monday–Friday during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Electronic Access to this Document:** You may view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the following site: [www.ed.gov/news/fedregister/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/news/fedregister/index.html). To use PDF you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at this site. If you have questions about using PDF, call the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO), toll free at 1-888-293-6498; or in the Washington, DC, area at 202-512-1530.

**Diane Auer Jones,**

*Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education.*

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## ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

### Sunshine Act Notice

**AGENCY:** United States Election Assistance Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of Public Meeting and Hearing Agenda.

**DATE & TIME:** Thursday, September 6, 2007, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

**PLACE:** U.S. Election Assistance Commission, 1225 New York Ave, NW., Suite 150, Washington, DC 20005. (Metro Stop: Metro Center).

**AGENDA:** The Commission will consider the following topics: Commissioners will discuss EAC's regulatory authority under the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and consider approving a process for adopting NVRA regulations; Commissioners will discuss EAC's regulatory and administrative responsibilities and discuss other administrative matters.

EAC will provide a public comment period to receive comments regarding the commission's regulatory authority under the NVRA. Members of the public who wish to speak must contact and register with EAC by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2007. Speakers may contact EAC via e-mail at [testimony@eac.gov](mailto:testimony@eac.gov), or via mail addressed to the U.S. Election