



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Operations Branch

Public Notice

Date June 22, 2018 Identification No. O-18-002
Please refer to the identification number when replying.

Seward South Harbor Boat Launch Section 408 Permission Request

The Alaska District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has received a request pursuant to Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 408), hereafter referred to as a Section 408 permission request, from the City of Seward and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), for actions that will alter the Federal dredging project within Seward Harbor, Alaska.

Section 408 authorizes the Secretary of the Army, on the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works project if the Secretary determines the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the Federal project. In accordance with Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-216, this Section 408 permission request must be considered and granted prior to the Alaska District's issuance of a decision for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act.

The requestors' project will replace the current deteriorating south boat launch ramp with a new 4-lane, 2-float configuration, that will allow continued safe use while meeting modern criteria set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the State Organization for Boating Association (SOBA). The ADFG Division of Sport Fish has partnered with the City of Seward in the development of this project.

Documents describing the selected design alternative for the new ramp can be found under the Documents Available for Review (Operations and Maintenance) portion of the webpage <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Library/Reports-and-Studies/>. The recommended alternative for the proposed launch ramp would extend the toe of the new concrete ramp approximately 20 feet into the southwest corner of the Federal dredging area, and also require the installation of pilings into the Federal project to stabilize the new boarding floats. Where the new ramp intrudes upon the current Federal project, that area would no longer be part of the Federal dredging responsibility, reducing the size of the 17.4-acre Federally maintained mooring basin by roughly 2,000 square feet (0.05 acre).

The Corps is soliciting comments and information from any interested parties that may affect its decision on whether to grant this Section 408 request. The Corps' Section 408 review is limited

to the proposed alteration of the Federal project, and to potential impacts to the usefulness of the Federal project, the public interest, and the environment that may be caused by the alteration in-place. The actual construction of the new launch ramp is the requestors' action; potential environmental impacts specific to the launch ramp construction will be evaluated separately as part of the DA permit process and a separate notice will be issued for public comment.

For more information about the proposed project, please contact Michael Tencza at (907) 753-2648 or at Michael.G.Tencza@usace.army.mil.

This public notice will expire 15 days after the issue date of the notice.

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Chief, Operations Branch