



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

ANCHORAGE  
Regulatory Division (1145)  
CEPOA-RD  
Post Office Box 6898  
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:</b>	<b>June 25, 2025</b>
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	<b>July 28, 2025</b>
<b>REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>	<b>POA-2006-01418-M8</b>
<b>WATERWAY:</b>	<b>Tongass Narrows</b>

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Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this public notice should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the project manager's email as listed below or to [regpagemaster@usace.army.mil](mailto:regpagemaster@usace.army.mil). All comments should include the public notice reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this public notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Hayley Farrer at (907) 753-2778, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at [Hayley.M.Farrer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Hayley.M.Farrer@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

**APPLICANT:** Mr. Ethan Berto, Ketchikan Dock Company, LLC.; 55 Shoenbar Court Ketchikan, Alaska 99901; (907) 225-6157; [eberto@surveypt.com](mailto:eberto@surveypt.com)

**AGENT:** Ms. Robin Reich, Solstice Alaska Consulting; 2607 Fairbanks Street #B Anchorage, Alaska 99503; (907) 929-5960; [robin@solsticeak.com](mailto:robin@solsticeak.com)

**LOCATION:** The project site is located within Section 25, T. 75 S., R. 90 E., Copper River Meridian; USGS Quad Map Ketchikan B-5; Latitude 55.3442° N., Longitude 131.6567° W.; Berth IV in Ketchikan, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to upgrade Berth IV so that it can safely accommodate a class of increasingly larger cruise ships docking in Ketchikan. Currently, Berth IV is unable to accommodate large, modern cruise ships built to support a significantly larger capacity of cruisers than those typically seen in Ketchikan at the of Berth IV's 2007 construction.

PROPOSED WORK: The proposed project would be the eighth (8) modification to the original permit. The applicant proposes to remove existing structures and expand the dock. The proposed project would remove:

- The existing barge float;
- The existing north float;
- The existing 60-foot gangway to the north float;
- The floating barge dolphin #1 consisting of two (2) 30-inch piles and one (1) 36-inch pile;
- The floating barge dolphin #2 consisting of two (2) 30-inch piles;
- The breasting dolphin #2 consisting of three (3) 36-inch piles and two (2) 30-inch piles;
- The small float restraint consisting of two (2) 24-inch pile; and
- The existing catwalk that connects breasting dolphin #2 and breasting dolphin #1.

The proposed project would then construct:

- An additional four (4) 36-inch steel batter piles to mooring dolphin #1;
- An additional two (2) 48-inch steel batter piles and two (2) 48-inch steel plumb piles to shoreline dolphin #2;
- Pontoon dolphin #1, consisting of two (2) 48-inch steel batter piles and three (3) 48-inch steel plumb piles;
- Pontoon dolphin #2, consisting with two (2) 48-inch steel batter piles, and three (3) 48-inch steel plumb piles;
- One (1) 50-foot by 285-foot floating pontoon; and
- One (1) 12-foot by 220-foot small boat float.

Additional out of water components would include installing a ladder/platform to access the existing breasting dolphin, adding two (2) new mooring points on the existing mooring dolphin #1, and adding two (2) new mooring points on the existing shoreline dolphin #2.

The two (2) existing 24-inch diameter piles, six (6) existing 30-inch diameter piles, and four (4) existing 36-inch piles would be removed using the dead pull method via crane. A vibratory hammer would then be used if removal is not achieved with the dead pull method.

For pile installation, pile templates would be installed via vibratory hammer to place one (1) to four (4) temporary piles around each dolphin. Using the template piles as a guide for positioning the permanent piles, the permanent piles would be vibrated into place. Each piling would then driven to tip elevation using an impact hammer. Once piles achieve tip elevation, a down-the-hole (DTH) hammer would be placed inside the piling and piles would be drilled about 10-feet into the bedrock. If a pile requires anchoring, the pile would first be DTH drilled about five (5) feet into the bedrock, and then an anchor (shaft) would be drilled an additional

four (4) into the bedrock. The anchor would then be filled with concrete. An estimated 10 cubic yards of drill cuttings would be produced during DTH drilling of each pile.

Two (2) to three (3) material barges (approximately 250-foot by 76-foot by 15.5-foot) would transport materials from Seattle, Washington to the project site and be used onsite as a staging area during construction. One (1) construction barge, either the *Brightwater* crane barge (280-foot by 76-foot by 16-foot) or the *Swiftwater* crane barge (230-foot by 60-foot by 15.5-foot) would be onsite to support construction. It is expected that the crane barge would travel to Ketchikan from Juneau. Two (2) 20-foot skiffs would be transported to the project site on the crane barge to support construction and potentially marine mammal monitoring activities.

The proposed project is anticipated to begin in January 2026, and construction would take three (3) to four (4) months to complete. Pile installation activities are expected to occur approximately 305 hours over 64 non-consecutive days. The total project timeline is not expected to last more than six (6) months. The construction timeline takes into account the mobilization of materials and potential delays due to delayed material deliveries, equipment maintenance, inclement weather, and shutdowns that may occur to prevent impacts to protected species.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-8), dated June 6, 2025.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The proposed project was previously authorized under POA-2006-01418-M7. The authorization expired September 30, 2023. The applicant will be submitting an application for an Incidental Harassment Authorization (IHA) under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States (U.S.) from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: The purpose of the project is to construct a dock that accommodates large cruise ships and their passengers during summer months. The applicant states that “the project is needed to provide safe harbor for large cruise ships docking in Ketchikan. To meet the purpose and need, construction must occur within waters of the United States. The project would be located within the already industrialized section of the Tongass Narrows.”

b. Minimization: The applicant states that the proposed project is the most compact design to minimize the impacts to waters of the U.S. This includes using the least number of pilings and the smallest size pilings. Oil and spill prevention measures include providing and maintaining a spill cleanup kit on site at all times, including an Oil Pollution Emergency Plan. Fuel hoses, oil drums, oil or fuel transfer valves and fittings, and similar equipment would be checked regularly for drips or leaks and would be maintained and stored properly to prevent spills. Oil booms would be readily available for spill containment should any release occur. No petroleum products, cement, chemicals, or other deleterious materials would be allowed to enter surface waters.

Additionally, the applicant states that creosote or treated wood would not be used for the proposed project. The proposed project does not require dredging, blasting, or fill. Floats or barges would not ground at any tidal stage. General pile driving measures would include using the smallest-diameter piles practicable while minimizing the overall number of piles and a bubble curtain would be maintained around 48-inch piles during Down-the-Hole drilling. Other marine mammal mitigation measures include following protocols described in the applicant's Protected Species Monitoring and Mitigation Plan.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant states "compensatory mitigation is not proposed for this project because no fill would be placed within waters of the U.S."

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the footprint of the proposed project within waters of the U.S. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at this time, and we are otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. The Corps has made a No Historic Properties Affected (No Effect) determination for the proposed project. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties. Any comments SHPO, Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work. The Corps is requesting the SHPO's concurrence with this determination.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the Mexico Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and the fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*).

We have determined the described activity may affect the Mexico DPS humpback whale and the fin whale. We have determined the described activity would have no effect to Mexico DPS humpback whale critical habitat. We have initiated the appropriate consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

The project area is within mapped EFH for Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), chum salmon (*O. keta*), coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), pink salmon (*O. gorbuscha*), and sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*). We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Corps fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Corps, Alaska District, on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This public notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal rights or resources. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander. This application is being coordinated with federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments federal recognized tribes and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by the work under the requested permit will be considered in the Corps final assessment of the described work.

PUBLIC HEARING: 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, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore 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. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the

preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps 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 Corps to determine whether to issue, 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 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 proposed activity.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States – Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

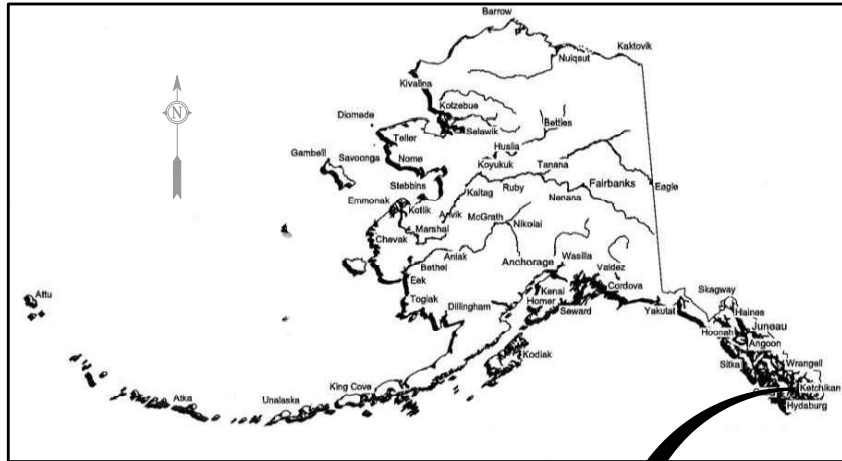
() Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

() Transport dredged material for the purpose of dumping it into ocean waters - Section 103 Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended (40 CFR Parts 220 to 229), as appropriate.

Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

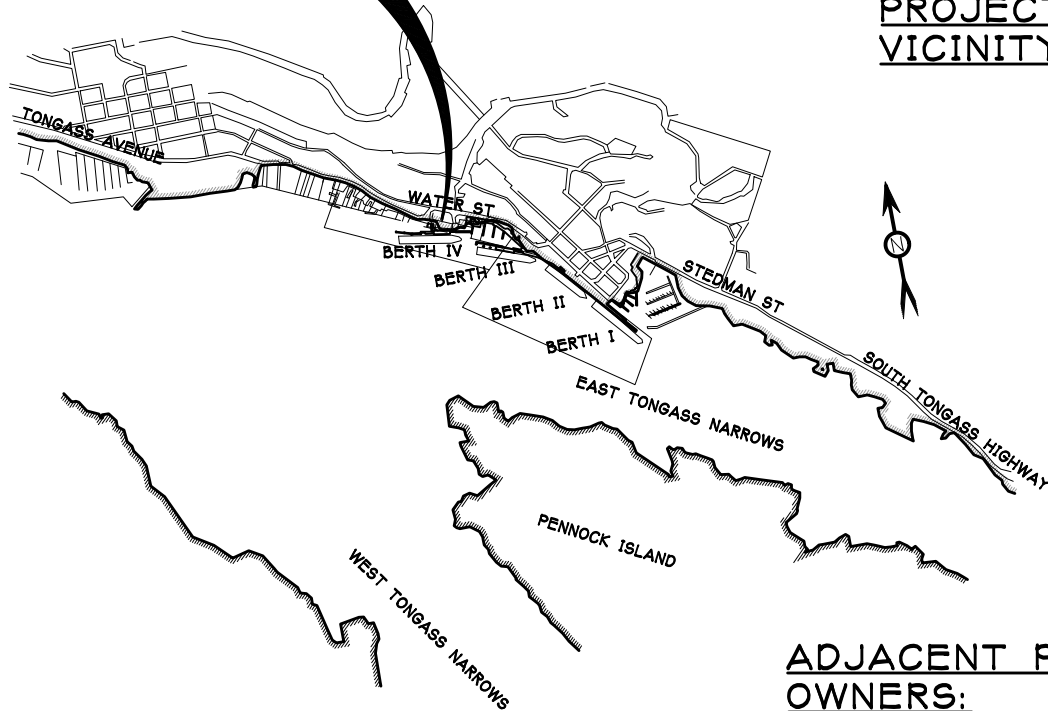
District Commander  
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



PROJECT  
LOCATION

PROJECT  
VICINITY



ADJACENT PROPERTY  
OWNERS:

CITY OF KETCHIKAN  
1000 WATER STREET  
KETCHIKAN, AK

TALBOTS INC  
1101 TONGASS  
KETCHIKAN, AK

PURPOSE: INCREASE CAPACITY  
OF EXISTING BERTH IV

VICINITY MAP  
& LOCATION MAP

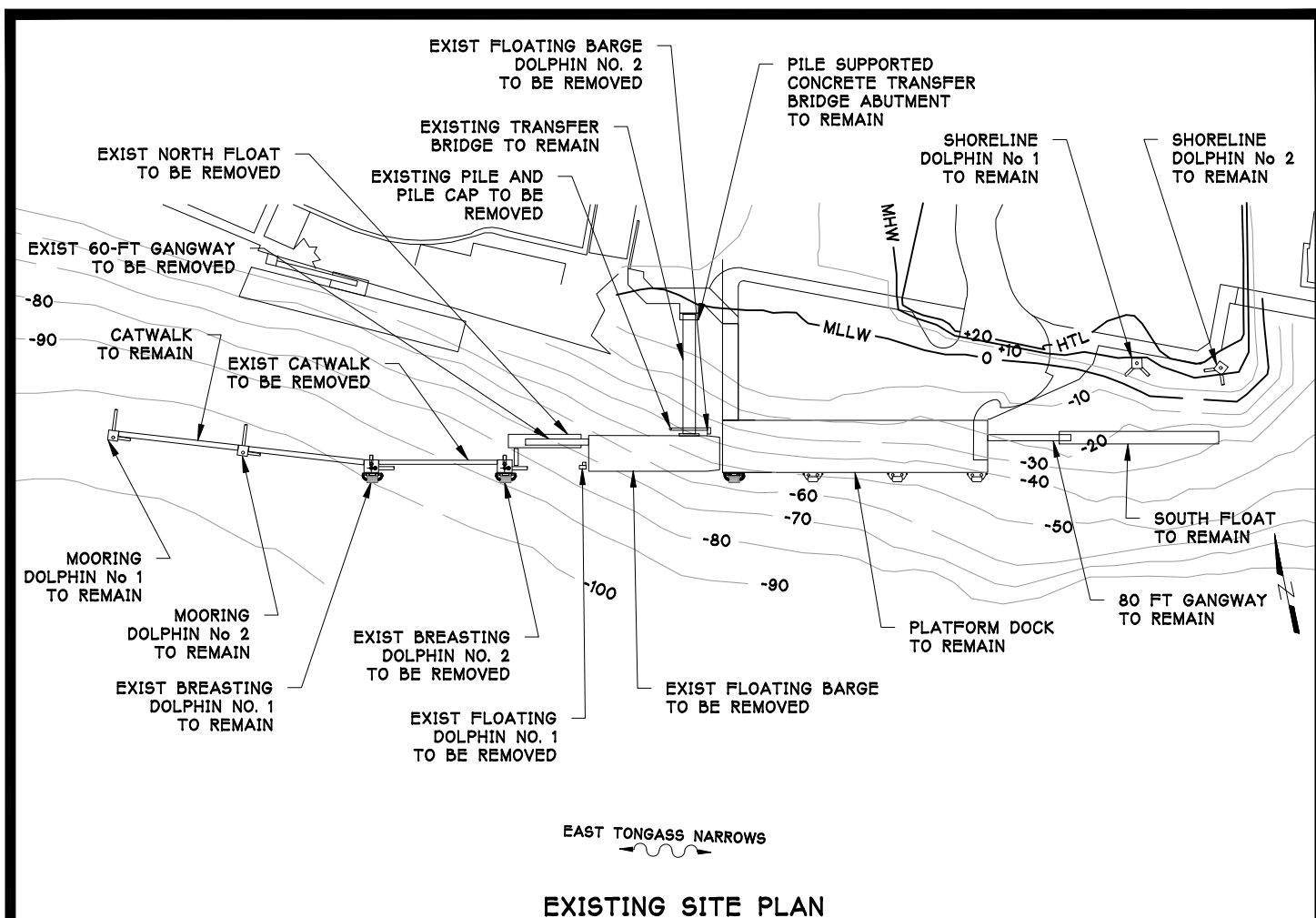
PROPOSED: KETCHIKAN BERTH IV  
IN: TONGASS NARROWS  
AT: KETCHIKAN, AK  
APPLICATION BY: KETCHIKAN DOCK COMPANY LLC

DATUM: 0.0' HTL = 19.7'  
MHW = 15.45'  
MLLW = 0.0'

JOB NO. 17\_124\_A

DATE: JUNE 6, 2025

SHEET: 1 OF 8



PURPOSE: INCREASE CAPACITY  
OF EXISTING BERTH IV

DATUM: 0.0' HTL = 19.7'  
MHW = 15.45'  
MLLW = 0.0'

## EXISTING CONDITION SITE PLAN

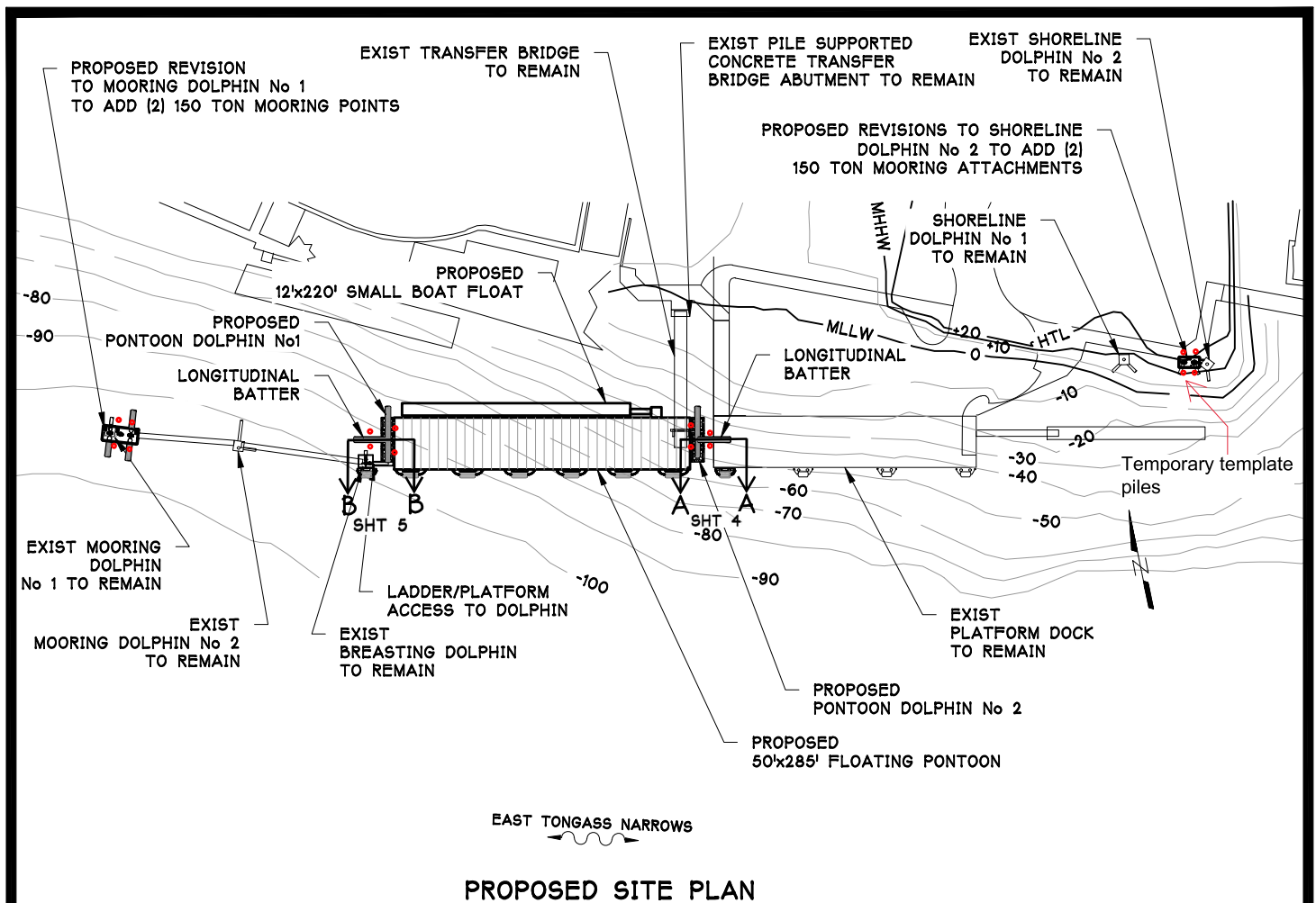
JOB NO. 17\_124\_A

PROPOSED: KETCHIKAN BERTH IV  
IN: TONGASS NARROWS  
AT: KETCHIKAN, AK  
APPLICATION BY: KETCHIKAN DOCK COMPANY LLC

DATE: JUNE 6, 2025

SHEET: 2 OF 8





**PROPOSED PILE SCHEDULE**

DOLPHIN LOCATION	PROPOSED ADDITIONAL PILES
EXISTING MOORING DOLPHIN No 1	(4) 36" BATTER
EXISTING SHORELINE DOLPHIN No 2	(2) 48" PLUMB & (2) 48" BATTER
PONTOON DOLPHIN No 1	(2) 48" BATTER & (3) 48" PLUMB
PONTOON DOLPHIN No 2	(2) 48" BATTER & (3) 48" PLUMB
○ TEMPORARY PILES	(20) 30"

PURPOSE: INCREASE CAPACITY  
OF EXISTING BERTH IV

DATUM: 0.0' HTL = 19.7'  
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MLLW = 0.0'

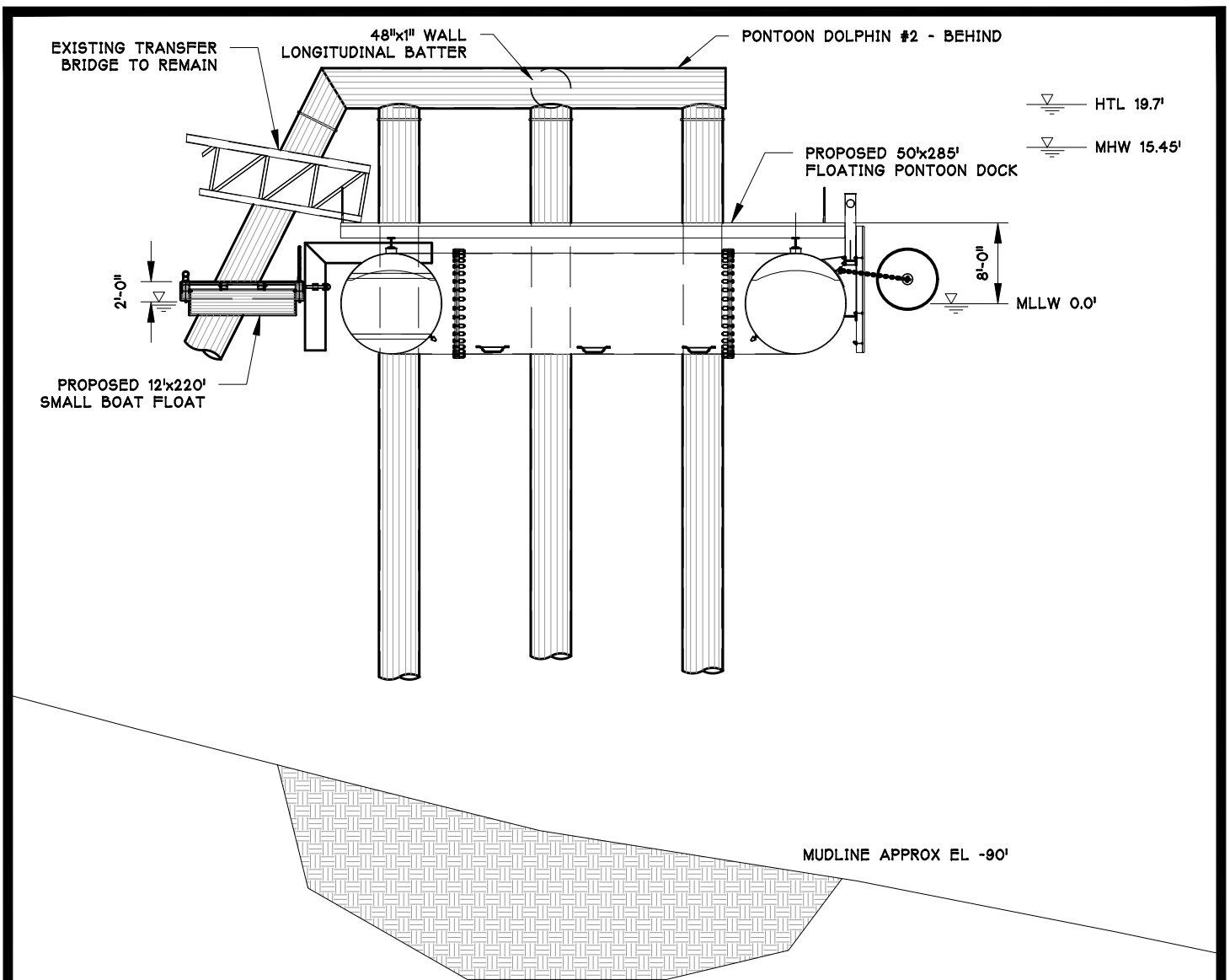
## PROPOSED SITE PLAN

JOB NO. 17\_124\_A

PROPOSED: KETCHIKAN BERTH IV  
IN: TONGASS NARROWS  
AT: KETCHIKAN, AK  
APPLICATION BY: KETCHIKAN DOCK COMPANY LLC

DATE: JUNE 6, 2025

SHEET: 3 OF 8



## TYPICAL SECTION - A-A SH 3

PURPOSE: INCREASE CAPACITY  
OF EXISTING BERTH IV

DATUM: 0.0' HTL = 19.7'  
MHW = 15.45'  
MLLW = 0.0'

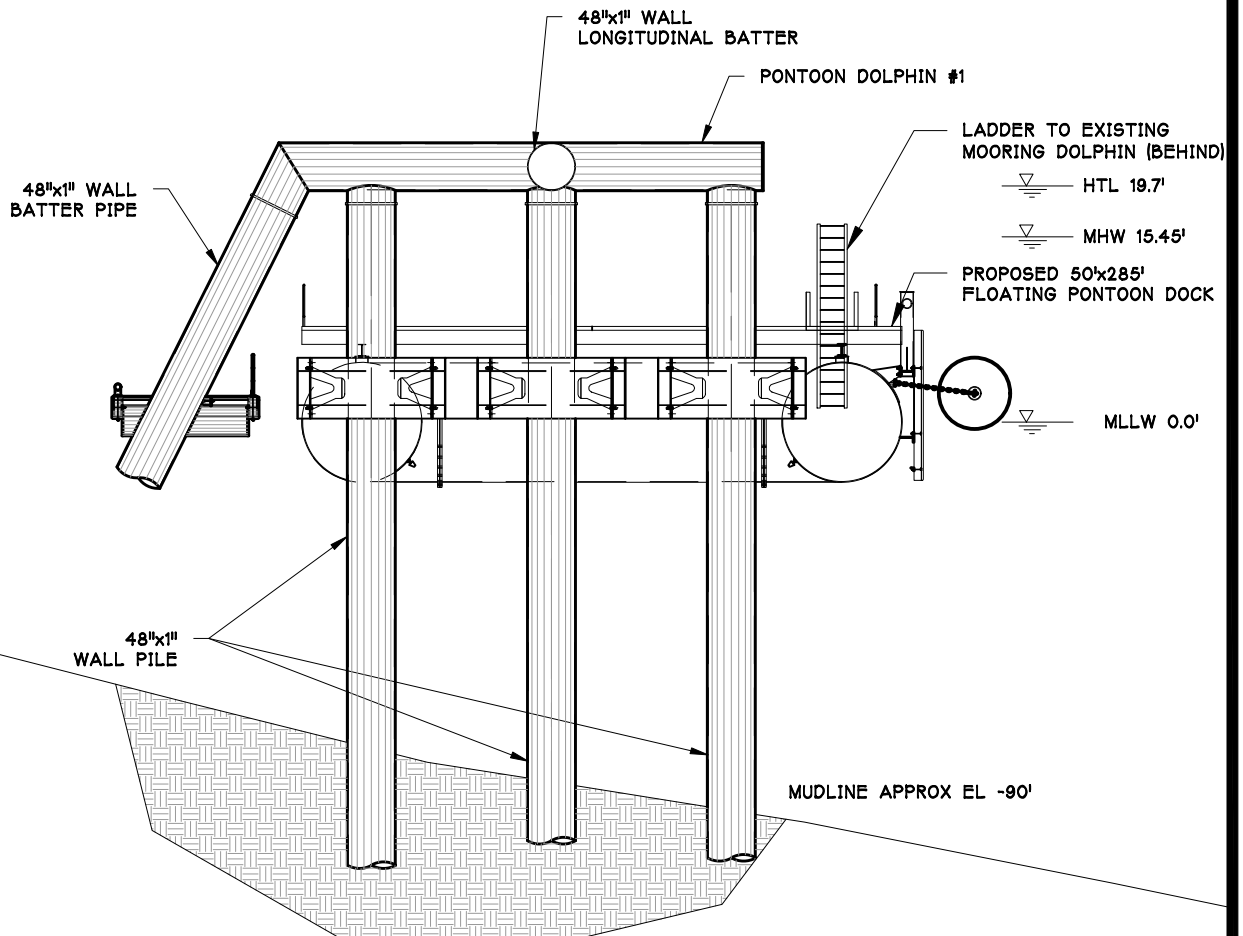
PROPOSED  
TYPICAL SECTION

JOB NO. 17\_124\_A

PROPOSED: KETCHIKAN BERTH IV  
IN: TONGASS NARROWS  
AT: KETCHIKAN, AK  
APPLICATION BY: KETCHIKAN DOCK COMPANY LLC

DATE: JUNE 6, 2025

SHEET: 4 OF 8



# TYPICAL ELEVATION AT PONTON DOLPHIN #1 - B-B SH 3

PURPOSE: INCREASE CAPACITY  
OF EXISTING BERTH IV

DATUM: 0.0' HTL = 19.7'  
MHW = 15.45'  
MLLW = 0.0'

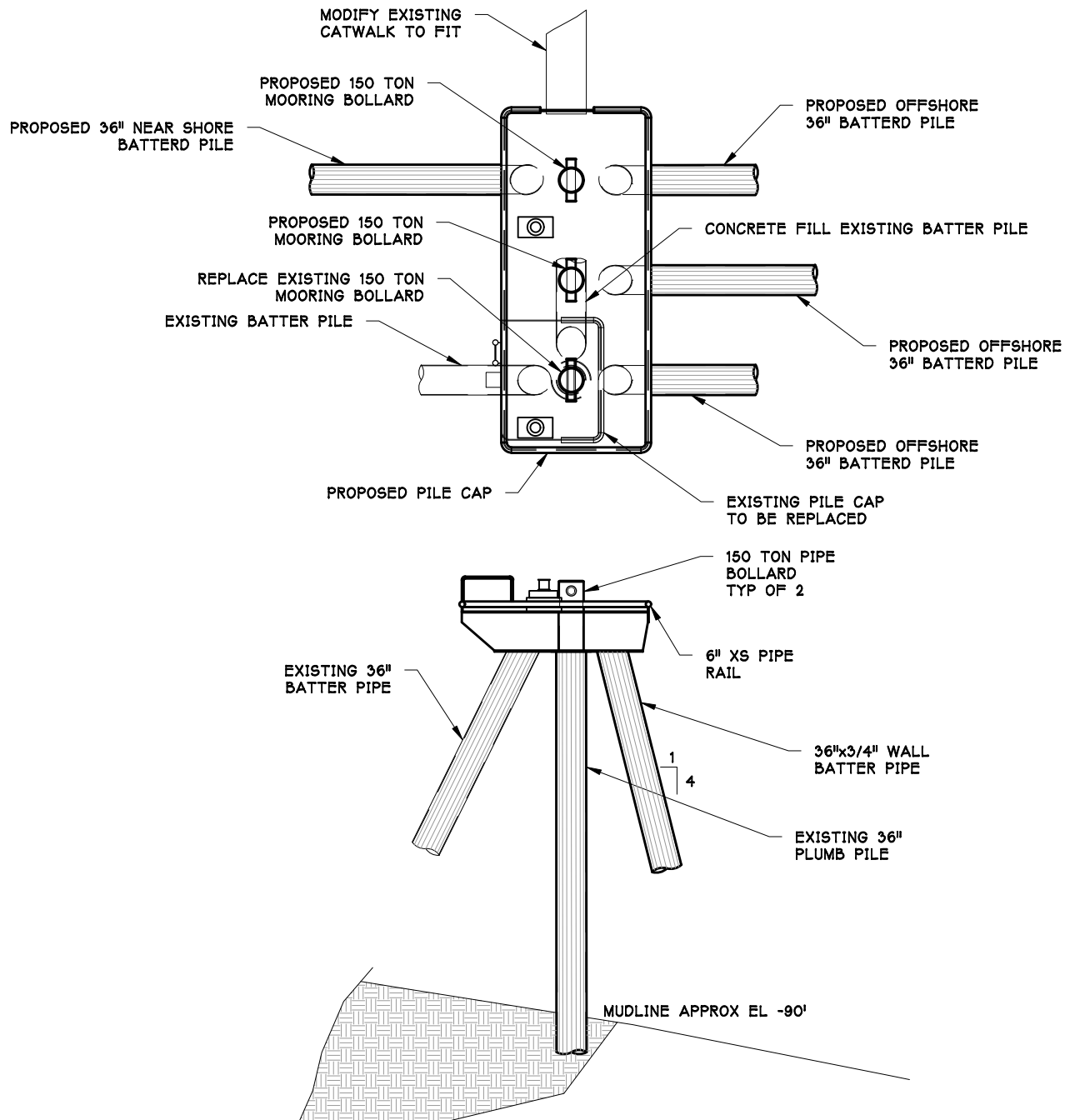
PROPOSED  
TYPICAL SECTION

JOB NO. 17\_124\_A

PROPOSED: KETCHIKAN BERTH IV  
IN: TONGASS NARROWS  
AT: KETCHIKAN, AK  
APPLICATION BY: KETCHIKAN DOCK COMPANY LLC

DATE: JUNE 6, 2025

SHEET: 5 OF 8



## DETAIL AT EXISTING MOORING DOLPHIN No 1

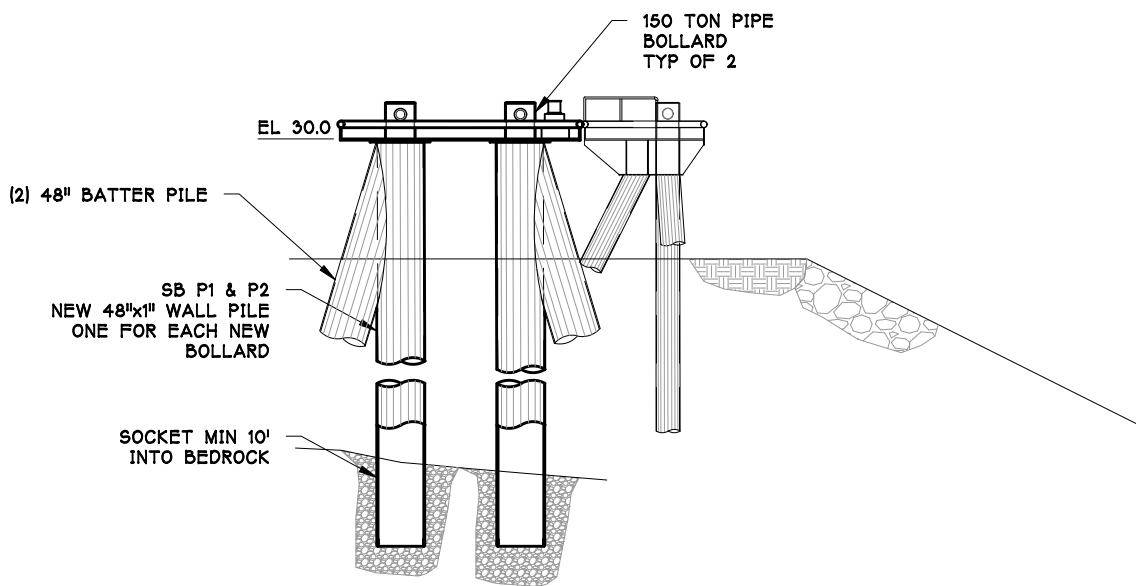
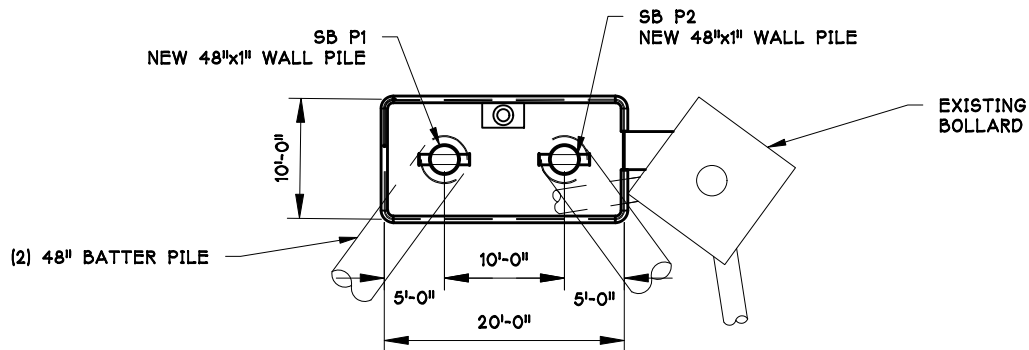
PURPOSE: INCREASE CAPACITY  
OF EXISTING BERTH IV

DATUM: 0.0' HTL = 19.7'  
MHW = 15.45'  
MLLW = 0.0'

PROPOSED  
DOLPHIN PILE DETAILS

JOB NO. 17\_124\_A

PROPOSED: KETCHIKAN BERTH IV  
IN: TONGASS NARROWS  
AT: KETCHIKAN, AK  
APPLICATION BY: KETCHIKAN DOCK COMPANY LLC  
DATE: JUNE 6, 2025 SHEET: 6 OF 8



ELEVATION

## DETAIL AT EXISTING SHORELINE DOLPHIN No 2

PURPOSE: INCREASE CAPACITY  
OF EXISTING BERTH IV

DATUM: 0.0' HTL = 19.7'  
MHW = 15.45'  
MLLW = 0.0'

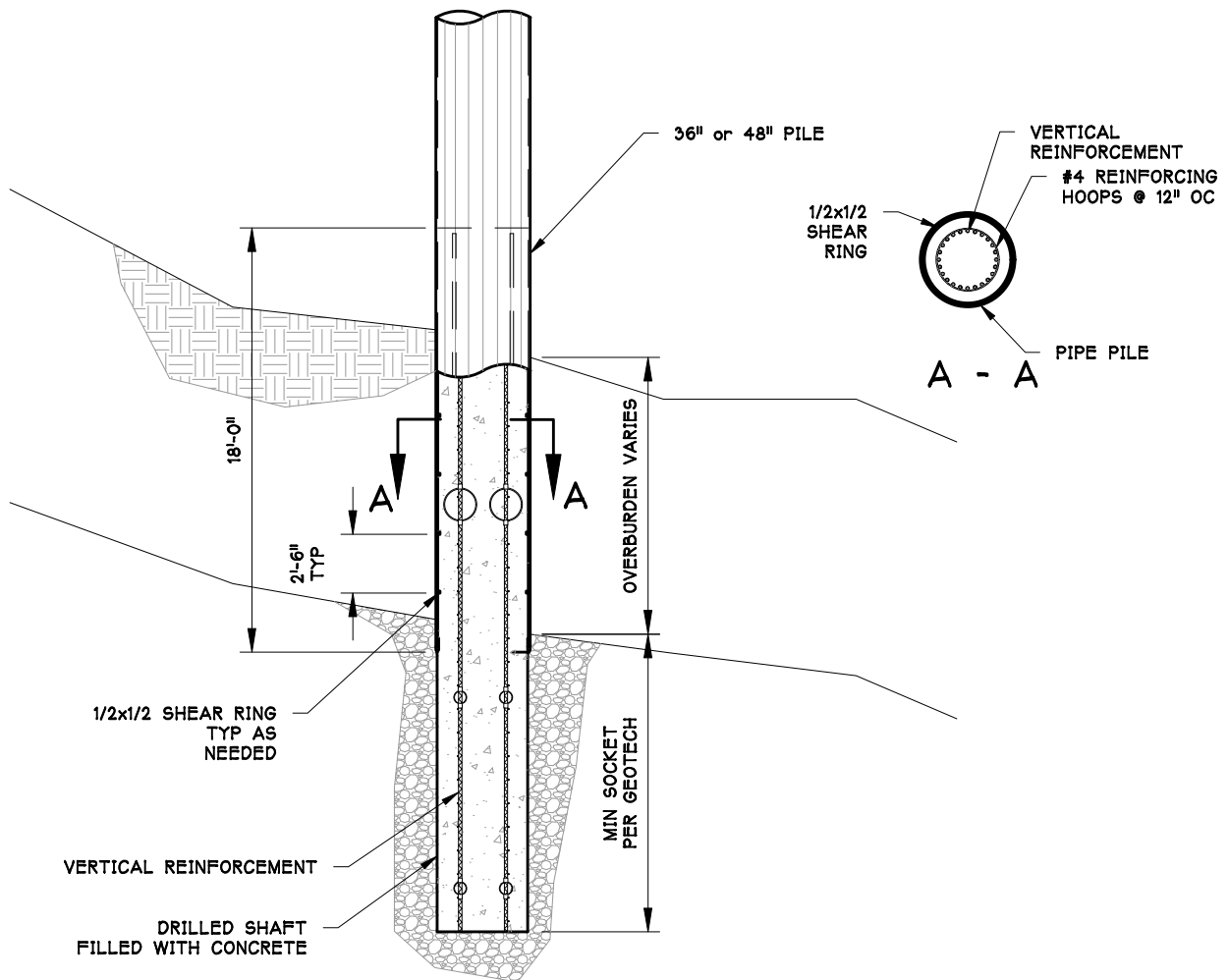
PROPOSED  
SHORELINE DOLPHIN 2

JOB NO. 17\_124\_A

PROPOSED: KETCHIKAN BERTH IV  
IN: TONGASS NARROWS  
AT: KETCHIKAN, AK  
APPLICATION BY: KETCHIKAN DOCK COMPANY LLC

DATE: JUNE 6, 2025

SHEET: 7 OF 8



## TYPICAL ELEVATION AT ROCK ANCHOR

PURPOSE: INCREASE CAPACITY  
OF EXISTING BERTH IV

### PROPOSED PILE DETAILS

PROPOSED: KETCHIKAN BERTH IV  
IN: TONGASS NARROWS  
AT: KETCHIKAN, AK  
APPLICATION BY: KETCHIKAN DOCK COMPANY LLC

DATUM: 0.0' HTL = 19.7'  
MHW = 15.45'  
MLLW = 0.0'

JOB NO. 17\_124\_A

DATE: JUNE 6, 2025

SHEET: 8 OF 8