



# **KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH**

## **Coastal Management Program**

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**JOHN J. WILLIAMS  
BOROUGH MAYOR**

September 19, 2007

Ms. Nina Brudie, Project Review Coordinator  
Office of Project Management and Permitting  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 750  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Subject: Homer Small Boat Harbor Dredge Disposal, AK 0708-15AA

Dear Ms. Brudie:

Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Coastal District staff has completed its review of the above referenced project for consistency with KPB Coastal Management Program (KPBCZMP) enforceable policies and finds that the activity is consistent with applicable KPBCZMP policies. This project is located within the City of Homer, a First Class city, and an active partner with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in this project.

### Project description

The applicant seeks to improve the process of disposal of dredged material from the Homer Small Boat Harbor entrance channel and Coast Guard dock. The existing disposal site does not have a sufficient dewatering area that will meet State of Alaska water quality standard for turbidity, and a larger dewatering area is necessary. The USACE proposes to build a dewatering facility on the existing dredged material storage site north of the small boat harbor. Disposal directly to the north site will eliminate the need to haul dewatered material from the existing site to the north site for temporary storage. Material dredged from the entrance channel and Coast Guard dock is composed mostly of uncontaminated sand and gravel that is suitable for beneficial use on the Homer Spit, which the City of Homer coordinates. The existing dewatering site, which is southwest of the small boat harbor, would be abandoned. Both the existing and proposed dewatering sites are on City of Homer property.

### Project Scope

The activity subject to this review is construction of the new dredged disposal dewatering facility north of the small boat harbor. The dewatering facility would have a 92,000 sq. ft. footprint that would allow dewatering and temporary storage of a limited quantity of dredged material within its berms. The facility would use permanent, reinforced berms and an excavated basin for dewatering. The facility would have a capacity of 9,500 cubic yards, and dredged material that is discharged in excess of capacity during any single dredging period would be temporarily piled inside the berms or removed by the dredge contractor and piled adjacent to the berms. During

years when dewatering in excess of capacity would occur, the footprint of the facility could be increased by approximately 17,000 sq. ft. to 109,000 sq. ft. The increase in footprint area would be used to temporarily pile excess dredged material outside the berms until the City of Homer could haul it from the site.

The proposal also includes a slurry pipeline between the dredge and the dewatering facility that would have sections of floating, submerged, and aboveground (surface) pipe. Approximately 700 feet of floating pipeline would be required to allow the dredge to move about the dredging area without repositioning its submerged sections. The submerged pipeline section would run from a central point in the dredged area/entrance channel roughly 1,450 feet along the outside of the harbor. The aboveground section would have a total length of 3,600 feet and may require a booster pump.

Effluent decanted from the dewatering facility would be routed under the highway and down the beach to approximately the mean low water line and discharged on the west or Cook Inlet side of the spit. Discharge of effluent would be constructed in a manner that would mitigate potential erosion of the beach while accommodating public pedestrian access on the beach. The slurry pipeline and discharge pipe would be removed after the conclusion of maintenance operations each year.

Dredging associated with this project has been previously approved and is not subject to this consistency review.

### Findings

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in its consideration of alternatives in its Finding of No Significant Impact regarding the dredged material management plan and environmental assessment, found that the most cost effective and environmentally sound alternative, among the six alternatives considered, was a permanent berm with impermeable geotextile located on the north west of the current disposal site on the Homer Spit. KPBCZMP policy that guides this project is 2.5, Disposal of Dredged Material.

KPBCZMP 2.5 Disposal of Dredged Material, requires dredged material to be contained and stabilized to prevent erosion or leaching of harmful substances into fish bearing waters.

The USACE material disposal plan for this project is consistent with the applicable policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Gary Williams  
Coastal District Coordinator