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**Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District**  
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## **NOTICE OF PREPARATION**

### **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**PROJECT TITLE:** Humboldt Bay Sediment Management Strategy

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Humboldt Bay, Humboldt County, California

**LEAD AGENCY:** Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District

This notice announces that a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) will be prepared for a Humboldt Bay Sediment Management Strategy. The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (Harbor District) is the project proponent and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency.

**Background:** In Humboldt Bay, the primary mechanism for sediment management is dredging. Shipping channels are dredged by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Smaller channels, docks and marinas are dredged by local and private entities. The Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan for the Eureka Littoral Cell<sup>1</sup> (CRSM Plan) describes the following objectives for beneficial uses of dredged sediments from Humboldt Bay:

1. Reduce shoreline erosion and coastal storm damage;
2. Provide for environmental restoration and protection;
3. Increase natural sediment supply to the coast;
4. Restore and preserve beaches.

There are many opportunities to meet these objectives using dredged sediments from the bay. However, there are logistical and environmental challenges involved with moving sediments to the necessary locations at the correct times. The proposed project will help address these challenges for Humboldt Bay's locally managed dredge sites (i.e., smaller channels, docks and marinas that are outside of shipping channels).

There is not currently a comprehensive strategy for management of sediments that accumulate within Humboldt Bay's locally managed sites. The Humboldt Bay Sediment Management Strategy PEIR will describe a long-term strategy for sediment management and assess the environmental effects of the proposed strategy.

#### **Project Description:**

The Humboldt Bay Sediment Management Strategy will be a long-term program for dredging, pumping, dewatering, processing, stockpiling and beneficially using dredged sediments from locally maintained sites. Some beneficial use sites may be appropriate for direct pumping from dredge sites. For example, in south Humboldt Bay, the Salmon Creek Unit of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge may be able to receive dredged sediments from nearby dredging sites to support habitat restoration. Other potential beneficial use sites are too far from dredge sites for direct pumping. For example, on the

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<sup>1</sup> Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan: Eureka Littoral Cell, California, August 2017. Prepared by the California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup; drafts through December 2013 prepared by Moffatt & Nichol under contract to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

north shore of Humboldt Bay and in Mad River Slough, sediments could be used for habitat restoration and sea level rise protection, but pumping distances from dredge sites are likely too far. In these cases, and in circumstances when there is not a beneficial use immediately available; dewatering, processing and stock-piling sites are required. In north Humboldt Bay, Redwood Marine Terminal 2 (RMT 2), which is a former pulp mill site being repurposed by the Harbor District, is a potential location for this. Additionally, the sites known as the "Superbowl Site" and "LP Site" (or "Samoa Lagoons") have been used for dewatering and stockpiling in the past and could be re-opened for use. Both of these sites are on the Samoa peninsula. In south Humboldt Bay, the Harbor District's Fields Landing property has potential for sediment dewatering, processing and stockpiling. Another alternative that may be explored in the PEIR is to pump dredge material offshore.

Specific components of the sediment management strategy will be developed during the first phase of PEIR development. The strategy may involve the components described above and/or other components that are identified through research and outreach that will be conducted.

**Possible environmental effects:**

Because of the potential for significant impacts to the environment, the Harbor District has decided to prepare a PEIR. The purpose of a PEIR is to inform decision-makers and the general public of the environmental effects of a proposed project. The PEIR process is intended to provide information sufficient to evaluate a proposed project and its potential to cause significant effects on the environment; examine methods of reducing adverse environmental impacts; and identify and evaluate alternatives to the proposed project.

Based on a preliminary review performed by the Harbor District, the following environmental resources could be affected by the Project

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture & Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology/Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use / Planning
- Noise
- Recreation
- Transportation / Traffic
- Utilities & Service Systems
- Tribal Cultural Resources

Interested public agencies, organizations and individuals are invited to comment on the scope and content of the PEIR.

**Comments on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., February 28, 2018 (or, if applicable, within 30 days after receipt of the NOP as indicated by certified mail). A public scoping meeting will be held on Thursday February 15, 2018 at 3:00PM at Harbor District Offices.**

Your comments regarding the forthcoming PEIR must be written and submitted to:

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Telephone: (707) 443-0801  
Facsimile: (707) 443-0800  
Email: [districtplanner@humboldtby.org](mailto:districtplanner@humboldtby.org)

DATE: January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

SIGNATURE:

