Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New England District

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

In Reply Refer to: Engineering and Planning Division
Email: cenae-ep@usace.army.mil
Date: APRIL 26, 2013
Comment Period Closes: MAY 28, 2013

30-DAY PUBLIC NOTICE

CAMP ELLIS BEACH SHORELINE DAMAGE MITIGATION PROJECT
SACO, MAINE

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, in partnership with the City of Saco, has prepared a Draft Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment (FS/EA) that examines alternatives to prevent and mitigate for erosion along Camp Ellis Beach resulting from the Saco River Federal navigation project. Such work is authorized under Section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, as amended. Work below mean high water would be performed in the navigable waters of this District, under the provisions of Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1341 and § 1344). The Draft FS/EA is available at:
http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/ProjectsTopics/CampEllis.aspx

Purpose and Need of the Proposed Project: Camp Ellis Beach is located north of the mouth of the Saco River in Saco, Maine. The Saco River Federal Navigation Project consists of an 8-foot deep channel that extends from deep water in Saco Bay to a turning basin and anchorage below Cataract Dam, a distance of about six miles. Three additional anchorage areas are located along the channel in the lower river. The channel along this reach varies from 100 to 200 feet wide. The entrance channel is protected by a 6,600-foot long jetty to the north and a 4,800-foot long jetty to the south. Camp Ellis Beach lies adjacent to the north jetty and extends north to Ferry Beach.

The Camp Ellis Beach shoreline has shown continued erosion since the early 1900's. In the past 50 years, the Camp Ellis community has lost over 30 buildings and residential structures, roadways, and public and private infrastructure. Numerous shoreline change studies, conducted by the Corps of Engineers and others, indicate that the Saco River was the primary sediment source for Saco Bay beaches, and that the primary direction of sediment movement along the shoreline is south to north. Construction of the north jetty has restricted movement of these sediments, and they have not been available as natural nourishment at Camp Ellis Beach. Another major impact to the area is significant wave reflection off of the north jetty onto the beach.

The objective of the study is to develop a plan to prevent or mitigate the erosion losses caused by the Saco River Federal navigation project. Numerous structural alternatives were evaluated that addressed the loss of natural riverine sediment supply and reflection of waves by the north jetty. The primary non-structural alternative that was assessed was the purchase and demolition of structures within the area of potential erosion. Extensive coastal modeling was conducted to establish baseline conditions and evaluate alternatives.

Recommended Project Description: The Federally recommended plan to mitigate further shoreline losses includes the construction of a spur jetty and the placement of beach fill along Camp Ellis Beach. The figure below presents the layout of the proposed plan. The recommended plan includes:

- A 750-foot long stone spur jetty would be attached to the existing north jetty about 1,475 feet from the shoreline. The top of the structure would be about 15 feet wide at an elevation of 14.5 feet MLLW. The seaward and landward side slopes of the spur jetty would be 1 vertical on 2 horizontal (1V:2H). The seaward side and head section of the structure would include a layer of toe stone about six feet thick and 10 feet wide to prevent scour.
- Due to increased turbulence at the spur and jetty junction, about 400 feet of the existing north jetty seaward of the spur jetty would require reinforcement. Modifications to the first 200 feet of the north jetty include raising the top elevation to reduce overtopping, flattening the slope on its north face to 1 vertical on 2 horizontal, adding armor stone, and reinforcing the toe to prevent scour. An additional 200 feet of the north jetty would receive toe reinforcement only.
- Approximately 365,000 cubic yards of sand would be placed on Camp Ellis Beach. The fill would extend from the north jetty to a point about 3,250 feet to the north. The proposed beach berm elevation would be about 17 feet above MLLW, which is roughly equivalent to the elevation of the natural beach berm to the north. The berm width would vary based on topography, but the minimum beach berm width required in the southern section is 60 feet and the minimum width required in the north section is 70 feet. Sand placed on the beach will have a 1 vertical on 10 horizontal beach slope.
- Beach renourishment will be required about every 12 years to maintain an effective beach width. Volumes of sand required for renourishment would vary depending on the rate of sea level rise, and would range from about 116,000 cubic yards for continuation of the historic rate of rise to about 236,000 cubic yards for the high rate of rise.
- Beach fill placement would occur between September 1 and March 31 to avoid potential piping plover nesting activity. Sand fill would be transported from an upland source by trucks; therefore no dredging is required.
- Placement of the rock for the spur jetty and reinforcement of the north jetty is expected to occur from seaborne barges. There is no time of year restriction on stone placement for jetty construction.

Coordination: The proposed work is being coordinated with the following Federal, State, and local agencies:

Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service
U.S. Coast Guard

State of Maine
Maine Coastal Program
Maine Geological Survey
Department of Environmental Protection
Department of Marine Resources
Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Historic Preservation Commission
Department of Transportation

City of Saco
Mayor
City Administrator
Harbormaster
Department of Public Works

City of Biddeford
City Manager
Harbormaster

Environmental Impacts: A Draft Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact have been prepared for this shoreline damage mitigation project. Temporary and permanent impacts to Essential Fish Habitat will occur by converting some subtidal habitat to intertidal and supratidal habitat, and permanent conversion of soft bottom habitat to rocky habitat (spur jetty). The project is expected to be consistent with Maine water quality standards.

Endangered Species: Delivery of beach fill material would occur by truck. Beachfill would be spread on the beach by heavy equipment. Beachfill work would occur between September 1 and March 31 to avoid potential piping plover nesting habitat. In addition, this environmental window may also provide additional protection to the endangered shortnose sturgeon and the threatened Atlantic sturgeon. No other species designated as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.) or designated critical habitat of such designated species are expected to be affected by the proposed project.

Cultural Resources: No archaeological or historic resources impacts are expected to occur in the project area.

Clean Water Act: A draft Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation has been prepared as part of the Draft FS/EA. In addition, construction will not begin until a Water Quality Certification has been obtained from the State of Maine.

Coastal Zone Management Act: A determination that the proposed project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the State's approved coastal management policies will be submitted to the State of Maine.

Compliance: This Public Notice is being issued in compliance with the environmental laws, regulations, and directives in the Attachment.

Any person who has an interest which may be affected by this shoreline damage mitigation project may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the comment period of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity. Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you know to be interested in the project. Comments are invited from all concerned parties relating to this project and should be directed to the District Engineer at 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751, ATTN: Engineering and Planning Division (Mr. Richard Heidebrecht at 978-318-8513) within 30 days of this notice.

April 26, 2013
Date

Charles R. Samaris
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Approximate Location of the Camp Ellis Beach Fill and Spur Jetty

Attachment
Pertinent Laws, Regulations and Directives

American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, 42 U.S.C. 1996.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.

Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.

Clean Water Act of 1977 (Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972) 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1982, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.

Estuarine Areas Act, 16 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.

Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 4601-12 et seq.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 4601-1

Magnuson-Stevens Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3000-3013, 18 U.S.C. 1170

Preservation of Historic and Archaeological Data Act of 1974, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 469 et seq. This amends the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 469).

Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 401 et seq.

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.

Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment, May 13, 1971.

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, May 24, 1977 amended by Executive Order 12148, July 20, 1979.

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, May 24, 1977.

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, February 11, 1994.

Executive Order 13007, Accommodations of Sacred Sites, May 24, 1996.

Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, April 21, 1997.

Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Tribal Governments, November 2000.

White House Memorandum, Government-to-Government Relations with Indian Tribes, April 29, 1994.