PUBLIC NOTICE



US Army Corps of Engineers ® New England District 696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751 Comment Period Begins: August 15, 2017 Comment Period Ends: September 14, 2017

File Number: NAE-2008-00190

In Reply Refer To: Ms. Diane M. Ray

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E-mail: diane.m.ray@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application to conduct work in waters of the United States from The Strand/BRC Group, LLC. This work is proposed in the West Branch of Stamford Harbor & East Creek at 100 Bateman Way, Stamford, Connecticut. The site coordinates are: Latitude 41.03458, Longitude -73.54171.

The applicant is proposing to install approximately 854 linear feet of bulkhead to replace the existing rip-rap revetment on the east side of the 14-acre site. The 854 foot section of bulkhead incorporates two structural designs due to the presence of shallow bedrock. In the shallow bedrock area, the bulkhead will involve a combination pipe pile and sheet pile configuration; the bulkhead for the other areas will involve steel sheet pile driven to depth. Pipe piles and concrete will be used for the tie back system. The approximately 17,000 square foot area between the existing high tide line (HTL) and the proposed bulkhead will be filled with approximately 6,140 cubic yards of clean free-draining fill. The proposed bulkhead will be approximately 22 feet beyond the mean high water (MHW) line. The centerline of the bulkhead will be coincident with the Pierhead/Bulkhead line. The bulkhead is needed to stabilize an eroding and subsiding shoreline.

The Strand/BRC Group is also proposing to install additional bulkhead on the northeastern and northwestern portions of the site. This will include 250 linear feet of bulkhead to enclose and fill the travel lift wells (northwest portion of the site) and extend the bulkhead an additional 50 feet to complete the installation. The proposed travel lift well enclosure work will occupy an area of approximately 2,480 square feet and require approximately 1,750 cubic yards of clean fill below the elevation of the HTL. The bulkhead location is coincident with the face of the travel lift wells, and coincident with the Pierhead/Bulkhead line. Filling the area of the existing wood pile-supported boardwalk will occupy an area of approximately 6,015 square feet and require approximately 4,250 cubic yards of fill below the elevation of the HTL. The bulkhead will extend approximately 30-35 feet beyond the MHW line, and coincident with the Pierhead/Bulkhead line. Approximately 93 feet of bulkhead will be installed at the northeastern corner of the site to enclose a derelict boat launch ramp and extend to the hurricane barrier to the north of the site. The boat launch enclosure work will occupy an area of approximately 1,120 square feet below the HTL and require approximately 300 cubic yards of clean fill. The bulkhead will be approximately 30 feet beyond the MHW line within the launch ramp area.

The purpose of the bulkhead in the northwest part of the site is to create a stable linear shoreline that will support the marina and an upland public access walkway around the perimeter of the site. The proposed extension of the bulkhead to the existing hurricane barrier at the northeast corner of the site will increase coastal resiliency and support the public access walkway.

The work is shown on the attached plans entitled "Site Location 14-acre site", dated, "Feb. 2017" on Figure 1 and "The Strand/BRC Group, LLC" dated "01/04/17", on Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5.

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AUTHORITY

Permits are required pursuant to:

- x Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
- x Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers 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 of Engineers 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.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

This project will impact approximately 0.61 acres of Essential Fish Habitat (*EFH*) for those species listed on the attached table. This habitat consists of predominantly silt. Loss of this habitat may adversely affect any of the attached list of species. However, the District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will not be substantial. Further the Corps of Engineers will submit an expanded EFH assessment to the National Marine Fisheries Service, who in turn may provide conservation recommendations to the Corps. The Corps will coordinate with the applicant regarding implementation of any recommendations that NMFS may have. The EFH consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that little likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties with cultural or Native American significance, or listed in, or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no further consideration of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is necessary. This determination is based upon one or more of the following:

- a. The permit area has been extensively modified by previous work.
- b. The permit area has been recently created.
- c. The proposed activity is of limited nature and scope.
- d. Review of the latest published version of the National Register shows that no presence of registered properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are in the permit area or general vicinity.
- e. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s)

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION

The New England District, Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed the list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, which might occur at the project site. It is our preliminary determination that the proposed activity for which authorization is being sought is designed, situated or will be operated/used in such a manner that it is not likely to adversely affect any federally listed endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat. The Corps of Engineers will coordinate with NMFS on ESA and the ESA consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved **Coastal Zone Management Programs**. Where applicable, the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (x) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- (x) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Diane M. Ray at (978) 318-8831, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

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Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

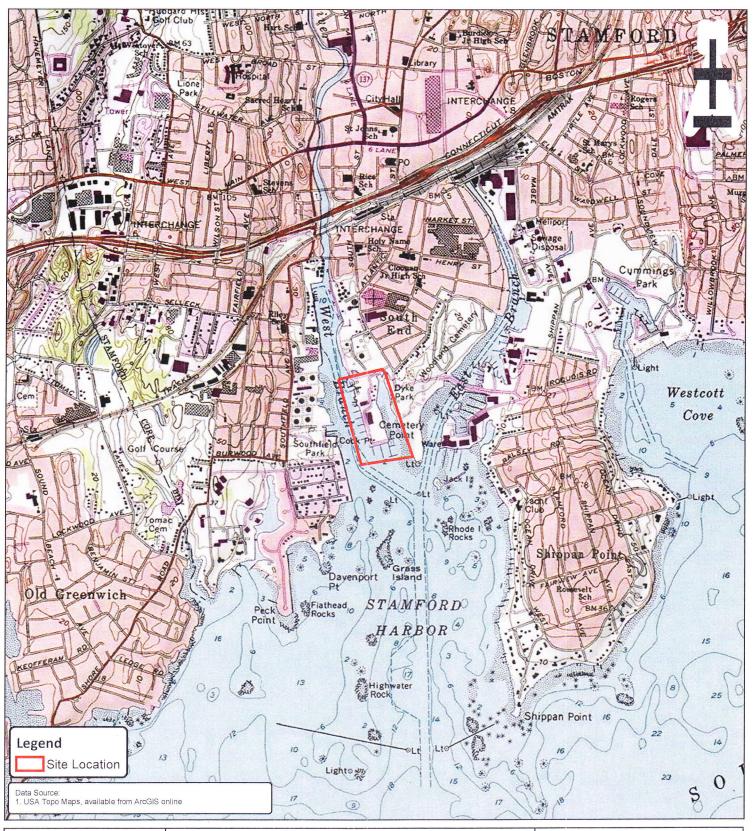
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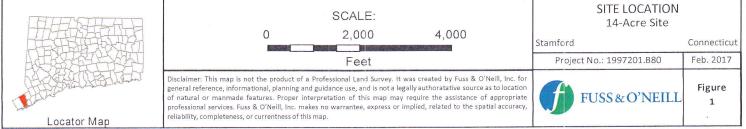
Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch

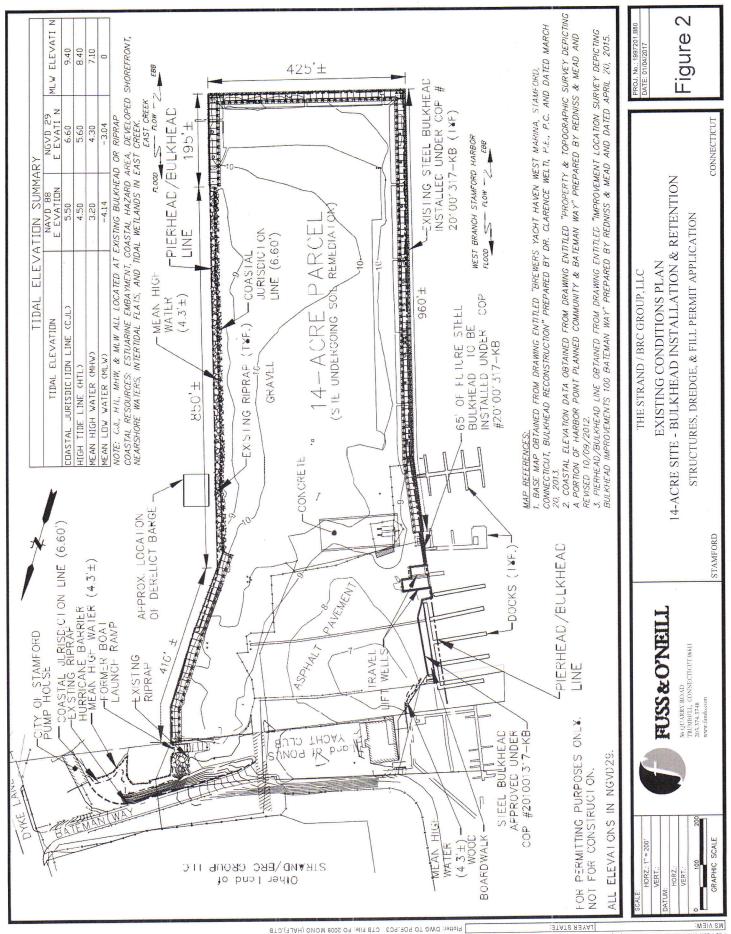
Regulatory Division

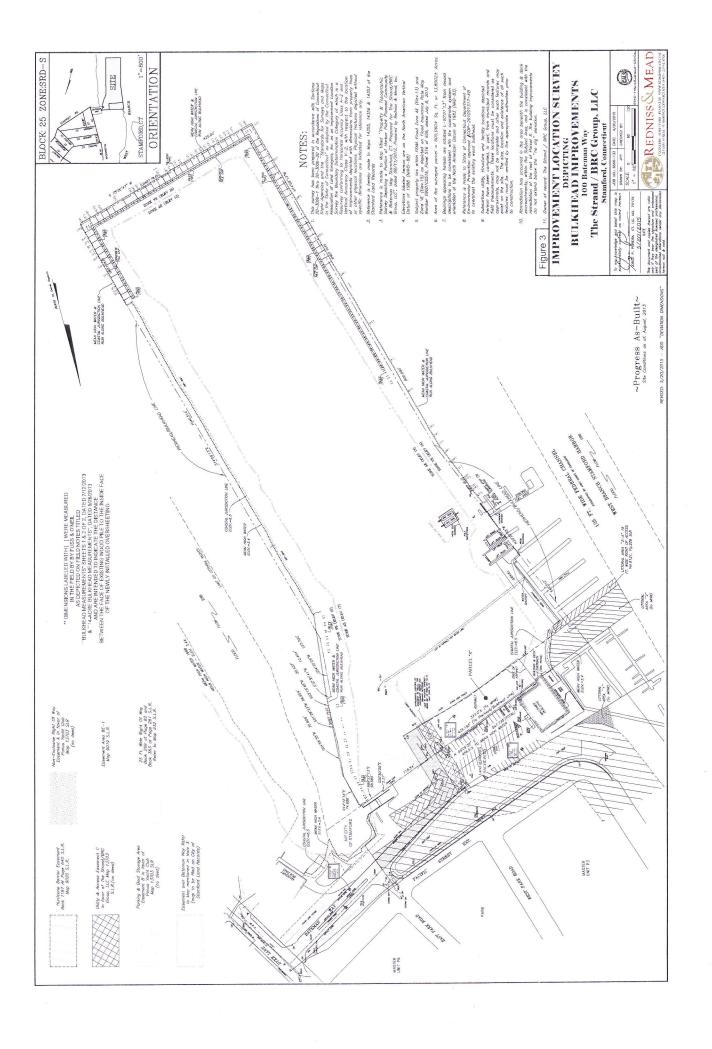
If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices by email, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil. You may also check here () and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

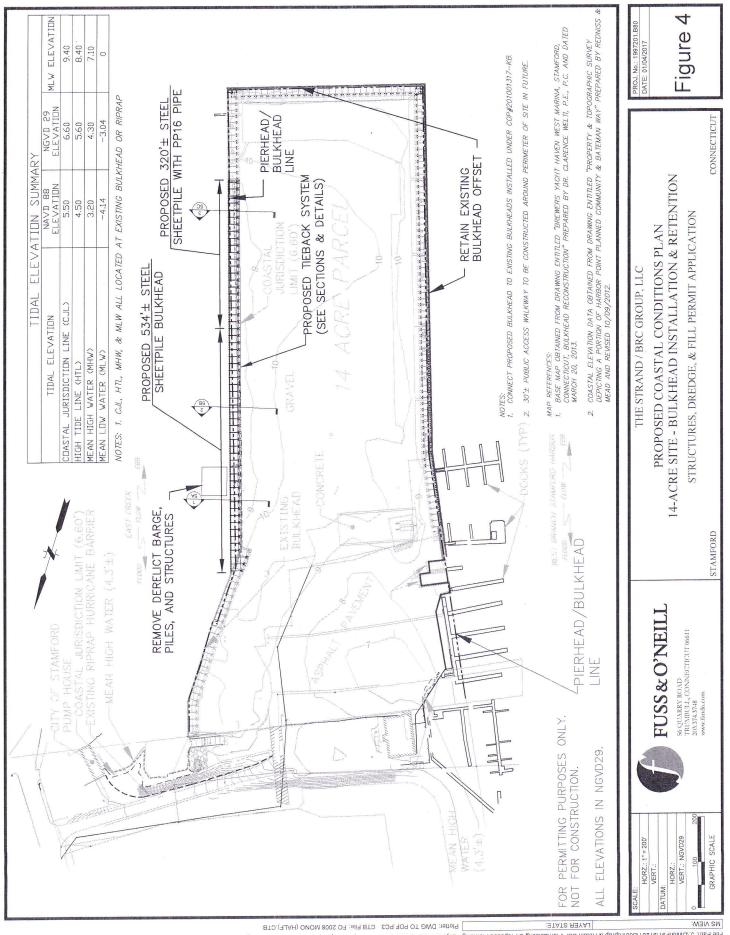
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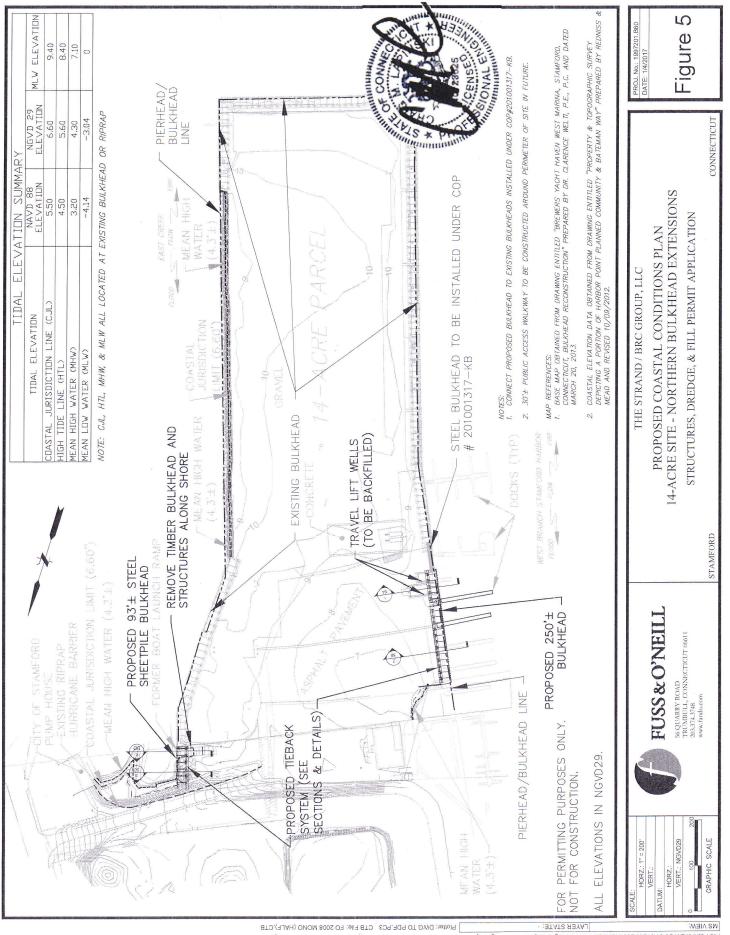












Summary of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Designation

10♦ x 10♦ Square Coordinates:

Boundary	North	East	South	th West	
Coordinate	41° 10.0� N	73° 30.0 ♦ W	41° 00.0� N	73° 40.0 � W	

Square Description (i.e. habitat, landmarks, coastline markers): Atlantic Ocean waters within the square within Long Island Sound affecting south of the following: Greenwich, CT., Belle Harbor, CT., Cos Cob, CT., Riverside, CT., Stamford, CT., Glenbrook, CT., and Mianus, CT., along with Greenwich Pt., Shippan Pt., Field Pt., Cos Cob Harbor, and the entrance to the Ripparan River and the Mianus River, from Holly Pond south of Noroton Heights to east of Port Chester NY. Also affected are: Captain Harbor, Newfoundland Reef, The Cows, Stamford Harbor, Westcott Cove, and western Holly Pond.

Species	Eggs	Larvae	Juveniles	Adults
Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar)			X	X
pollock (Pollachius virens)			X	X
red hake (Urophycis chuss)	X	X	X	X
winter flounder (Pleuronectes americanus)	X	X	X	X
windowpane flounder (Scopthalmus aquosus)	X	X,	X	X
American plaice (Hippoglossoides platessoides)	2000000		X	X
Atlantic sea herring (Clupea harengus)			X	X
bluefish (Pomatomus saltatrix)			X	X
Atlantic mackerel (Scomber scombrus)	X	X	Χ .	X
summer flounder (Paralicthys dentatus)	PRESENTATION OF THE PROPERTY O		X	
scup (Stenotomus chrysops)	X	X	X	X
black sea bass (Centropristus striata)			X	
king mackerel (Scomberomorus cavalla)	X	X	X	X
Spanish mackerel (Scomberomorus maculatus)	X	X	X	X
cobia (Rachycentron canadum)	X	X	X	X
sand tiger shark (Odontaspis taurus)		X		