

agencies, Native American tribes, and other interested organizations, parties, and the public to participate in the scoping process for the EIS. Input from other agencies and organizations that have a special interest and expertise in key resource areas such as fisheries, wildlife, water quality, hydrology, and stream restoration techniques is welcome. The EIS process includes environmental review and consultation in accordance with other environmental statutes, rules, and regulations which apply to the proposed action.

Scoping meeting: A public scoping meeting for the EIS will be held in Jackson, Wyoming on September 25, 1996. Time and location information will be advertised and provided in a scoping letter that will be distributed throughout the region.

Availability: The draft EIS should be available in September 1998.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to Open Scoping for the Disposal and Reuse of Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, California

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and to open scoping to evaluate the environmental effects associated with the disposal and reuse of Long Beach Naval Shipyard (NSY), Long Beach, California. Long Beach NSY is located in Long Island Beach Harbor, immediately east of Long Beach Naval Station, and includes approximately 259 acres of real estate. On this, approximately 4 acres will be retained as a government-owned, contractor-operated parcel, and 85 acres will revert automatically to the City of Long Beach in conformance with the original deed which transferred land from the City to the Navy. These parcels are not included as part of the disposal and reuse of the Long Beach NSY. The proposed action involves the disposal of land, buildings, and infrastructure for subsequent reuse of the remaining 170 acres.

As a result of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (DBCRA) of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), and in

accordance with the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process of 1995, Long Beach NSY is slated for operational closure on September 30, 1997. The DBCRA, as amended by the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996, established procedures to minimize hardships on local communities adversely affected by base closures and to facilitate economic recovery of such communities. In this regard, job creation and economic development are given the highest priority in the reuse of closed military bases, in accordance with objectives for disposal of federal property.

The Secretary of the Navy must consider the community's redevelopment plan proposed for the base slated for closure. The development plan is a plan approved by the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) which provides for the reuse or redevelopment of the closed military installation. The City of Long Beach was designated as the LRA by the Secretary of Defense. The City of Long Beach has prepared a reuse plan (July 1996) with recommendations for the reuse of surplus Long Beach Naval Shipyard property.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared by the Department of the Navy in accordance with NEPA and DBCRA requirements. The EIS will analyze the environmental effect of the disposal and reuse of the Long Beach NSY. The environmental studies will be based on the reasonably foreseeable reuse of the existing buildings and redevelopment of the site. The EIS will analyze three reuse alternatives in an equal level of detail and a "no action" alternative. The proposed action is the disposal of the base for reuse. Alternative 1 is consistent with the reuse plan proposed by the LRA and would involve demolition of three piers, two dry-docks (one large dry-dock would remain), and most buildings. These would be replaced by a 152-acre container terminal; an intermodal railyard; an 18-acre (one pier) shipyard facility surrounding the remaining dry-dock, with a 100,000 square-foot support building (possibly an existing building); and six 500,000-barrel tanks in a 36-acre liquid bulk facility. Alternative 2, Two-pier Shipyard, would be identical to the proposed action except that the shipyard area would be expanded to 32 acres and contain 2 piers and some additional buildings. Alternative 3, Commercial Shipyard, would involve the conversion of the existing shipyard for commercial use. Under this alternative, all the piers and dry-docks would remain and most of the buildings

could be reused. The EIS will also address any alternatives that are raised during the public scoping process. Environmental issues to be addressed in the EIS include: geology, topography, and soils; hydrology; biology; noise; air quality; land use; historic and archaeological resources; socio-economic; transportation/circulation; public facilities/recreation; safety and environmental health; aesthetics; and utilities. Issue analysis will include an evaluation of the direct, indirect, short-term, and cumulative impacts associated with the proposed action.

The decision to implement the proposed action will not be made until the NEPA process is complete.

ADDRESSES: The Department of the Navy will initiate a scoping process for the purpose of determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying significant issues relative to this action. A public meeting to allow oral comments from the public will be held at the Long Beach Public Library, Main Branch, 101 Pacific Avenue, Long Beach, California on September 18, 1996 at 7:00 P.M. This meeting will be advertised in area newspapers. Navy representatives will be available at the scoping meeting to receive comments from the public regarding issues of concern. A brief presentation describing the disposal and NEPA processes will precede request for public comments. It is important that federal, state, and local agencies, as well as interested organizations and individuals, take this opportunity to identify environmental concerns that they feel should be addressed during the preparation of the EIS.

Agencies and the public are invited and encouraged to provide written comments in addition to, or in lieu of, oral comments at the public meeting. To be most helpful, scoping comments should clearly describe specific issues or topics that the commenter believes the EIS should address. Written comments or questions regarding the scoping process and/or EIS should be postmarked no later than October 4, 1996 and sent to the following address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Melanie Ault (Code 232MA), BRAC Program Office, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1420 Kettner Boulevard, Suite 507, San Diego, CA 92101-2404; telephone (619) 556-0250 Ext. 226.

Dated: August 28, 1996.

D.E. Koenig,

LCDR, JAGC, USN, Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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