DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command
834Th Transportation Battalion
410 Norman Avenue
Concord, California 94520-1142

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

October 9, 2019

SUBJECT: Section 7 Consultation for Proposed Maintenance Dredging at Military Ocean Terminal Concord, Concord, CA

Ms. Jana Affonso
Assistant Field Supervisor ESA – Regulatory Division
United States Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
San Francisco Bay-Delta Fish and Wildlife Office
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 8-300
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Affonso:

The US Army is requesting consultation for the maintenance dredging of Piers 2 through 4, and Barge Pier at the Military Ocean Terminal, Concord, California (MOTCO), and dredged material placement at a suitable disposal site based on sediment testing. Enclosed is a Biological Assessment (BA) to initiate formal consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). As described in the enclosed BA, the proposed action may affect, not likely to adversely affect the threatened Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*). The proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the Delta smelt or adversely modify designated critical habitat. This request is part of an Environmental Assessment in accordance with the 1999 LTMS programmatic biological opinion on the Long-Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region, California (Service File No. 1-1-98-F-62). A conference call was held on September 18, 2019 with USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service to exchange information regarding the proposed dredging at MOTCO.

We request your review of the enclosed BA and please provide a biological opinion for our review within the 135 day time period. It is critical that the consultation be completed within the 135 day consultation limit so that the procurement of dredging services and maintenance dredging can be completed within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) recommended in-water work window, August 1 through November 30.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter and enclosure to Mr. Jim Star of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Mr. Ethan Lavine, of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and Ms. Elizabeth Christian of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact Mr. Guy Romine at (971) 645-3645 or by email at guy.k.romine.civ@mail.mil. Written comments may be mailed to the attention of Mr. Romine at the address on this letterhead.

Sincerely,

Guy Romine
Environmental Branch Chief
Military Ocean Terminal Concord

cc:

Ms. Kaylee Allen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California

Ms. Kim Squires, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento, California

Mr. Jim Starr, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Stockton, California

Mr. Ethan Lavine, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, San Francisco, California

Ms. Elizabeth Christian, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Oakland, CA