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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

January 23, 2020

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

Mr. Gary Stern
U.S. Department of Commerce
NOAA Fisheries - West Coast Region
777 Sonoma Ave. Room 325
Santa Rosa, California 95404

Dear Mr. Stern:

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 informal consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). As described in the enclosed BA, the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the threatened North American Green Sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*) Southern distinct population segment (DPS), Central Valley Steelhead (*Onchorhynchus mykiss*), Central California Coast Steelhead (*Onchorhynchus mykiss*), Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon (*Onchorhynchus tshawytscha*), Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook Salmon (*Onchorhynchus tshawytscha*), and/or Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook Salmon (*Onchorhynchus tshawytscha*). The proposed action is also not likely to adversely affect designated critical habitat.

The revised BA includes an assessment of Essential Fish Habitat for Pacific Groundfish, Pacific Salmon, and Coastal Pelagic species along with the San Francisco Bay estuarine, seagrass, and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation HAPCs. The turbidity, suspended contaminants, and direct disturbance of benthic habitat by clamshell dredging may adversely affect EFH for these fish species and HAPCs. These effects will be minimized by the proposed measures described in the EFH assessment.

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 timely review of the enclosed BA and please provide a consultation response 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 Starr 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. Sara Azat, NOAA Fisheries - West Coast Region, Santa Rosa, 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