



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10278
ATTN: CENAN-OP-ST

Public Notice

In replying refer to:
Public Notice No. EAST ROCKAWAY INLET FY12
Published: October 27, 2011 Expires: November 27, 2011

EAST ROCKAWAY INLET, NEW YORK FEDERAL NAVIGATION PROJECT MAINTENANCE DREDGING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 (33 U.S.C. 1344) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (amended in 1977 and commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act), proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the East Rockaway Inlet Federal navigation channel and deposition basins with placement of the dredged material on Rockaway Beach (see Figure Nos. 1 & 2).

WATERWAY: East Rockaway Inlet

LOCATION: South shore of Long Island, between Far Rockaway in Queens County and Atlantic Beach in Nassau County, Long Island, New York.

The East Rockaway Inlet Federal navigation channel was authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 3 July 1930, House Document No. 19, 71st Congress, 1st session.

The existing Federal navigation project provides for a channel, 12 feet deep at mean low water, 250 feet wide from a 12 foot depth contour in the Atlantic Ocean to a 12 foot depth contour in East Rockaway Inlet. The channel is about 1.4 miles long.

It should be noted that due to the rapid shoaling nature of the East Rockaway Inlet, advance maintenance measures are being considered, including: 1) maintaining a previously constructed deposition basin with a variable width of 150 - 270 feet which is directly parallel to the entire western boundary of the channel; and 2) maintaining a second deposition basin with a maximum width of 200 feet and length 0.4 miles directly parallel to the eastern boundary of the outer portion of the channel. Advance maintenance dredging to 14 feet plus 2 feet allowable overdepth has been performed for the entire channel during past maintenance operations and is planned for the proposed maintenance dredging.

This activity is being evaluated to determine if the proposed dredging with placement of dredged material on the nearby beach will not unreasonably degrade or endanger human health, welfare, economic potential, recreation and aesthetics, water quality, marine resources, ecological systems and/or flood protection.

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. Comments are used to assess impacts on navigation, water quality, endangered species, historic resources, wetlands, scenic and recreational values, and other public interest factors. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and to determine the need for a public hearing.

ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THIS ACTIVITY MUST BE PREPARED IN WRITING AND MAILED TO REACH THIS OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS ON THE FRONT PAGE BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS NOTICE. otherwise, it will be presumed that there are no objections to the activity.

Any person who has an interest which may be affected by the placement of this dredged material 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 the activity. It should be noted that information submitted by mail is considered just as carefully in the process and bears the same weight as that furnished at a public hearing.

No known archaeological, scientific, prehistorical or historical data are expected to be lost by work accomplished under the required dredging.

Reviews of the activity pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will include application of the guidelines announced by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. The Corps obtained a water quality certificate (WQC) from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in October 2004 in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act; this WQC, which will remain in effect through 2014, allows for dredged material from East Rockaway Inlet Channel and deposition basins to be placed along Rockaway Beach.

Pursuant to Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 as amended [16 USC 1456(c)], for activities conducted or supported by a federal agency in a state which has a federally approved Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program, the Corps has submitted a determination that the proposed project is consistent with the State CZM program to the maximum extent practicable. This Corps will request that the State concur with that determination. For activities within the coastal zone of the State of New York, project information is available from the Consistency Coordinator, New York State Department of State, Office of Coastal, Local Government and Community Sustainability, Coastal Zone Management Program, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1010, Albany, New York 12231, Telephone (518) 474-6000.

In compliance with Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (1996 amendments), an Essential Fish Habitat Assessment will be prepared and submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service for review and comment.

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

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Coast Guard, Third District

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Department of State
- City of New York Parks and Recreation

If you have any questions concerning this notice, you may contact Mr. Joseph Olha at (917)-790-8404. Comments or questions may be FAXED to (212) 264-4260 ATTN: Mr. Joseph Olha.

DESCRIPTION OF PLANNED ACTION:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (the Corps) proposes to perform maintenance dredging of the Federal navigation channel and deposition basins in East Rockaway Inlet. The channel was last dredged in 2010 with the removal of approximately 137,000 cubic yards (CY) of sand, which was used in a beneficial manner as beach nourishment, placed along severely eroded areas of the Rockaway Beach shoreline. The proposed maintenance dredging is expected to involve the removal of approximately 240,000 CY of sand, which would be used in a beneficial manner as beach nourishment placed along the Rockaway Beach shoreline. In recent cycles, the sand was placed between Beach 27th and Beach 38th streets or Beach 92nd and Beach 103rd streets. The channel and deposition basins will be dredged to a depth of 14 feet plus 2 feet allowable overdepth. The proposed work may be accomplished in Fiscal Year 2012, subject to the availability of funds.

The purpose of the proposed work is to alleviate the affects of shoaling and maintain the authorized project dimensions, thereby providing safe and economical use of the East Rockaway Inlet by commercial and recreational boating interests while providing beneficial use of the dredged material. Between maintenance operations the bypassed sand placed at the feeder beach would be carried by littoral drift to feed down drift beaches. The maintenance operation would thus serve to place sand trapped in the channel back into the normal littoral movement that naturally replenishes the western beaches, while maintaining a safe channel for navigation.

Maintenance dredging of the channel and deposition basins at East Rockaway Inlet will be accomplished by pipeline dredge, hopper dredge or similar plant. The entire channel will generally not require maintenance dredging; only areas where shoaling has reduced the depth of the channel will require dredging.

No work will occur between April 1 to September 30 on areas of Rockaway Beach having an environmental window for roseate tern and piping plover.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by the U.S. Army Engineer District, New York in September 1973. Environmental Assessments (EA) updating this EIS were prepared by the New York District in 1993, October 1998, August 2000, September 2002, September 2004, October 2006, September 2008 and December 2009. The EIS and EAs indicated that dredging of East Rockaway Inlet with placement of the dredged material as nourishment along the nearby shoreline of the designated beach would have no significant adverse environmental impact on water quality, marine resources, fish, wildlife, endangered species, recreation, aesthetics and flood protection of the area.

An update of the EA and a 404 (b) evaluation as required by the Clean Water Act 40 CFR 230 will be prepared prior to the implementation of the proposed work.

PLACEMENT SITE:

The dredged material from this project is proposed to be placed along eroded areas of Rockaway Beach, located in Queens County, New York (See attachment). The dredged material will be transported by hopper dredge and/or pipeline and deposited at the designated site.

MATERIAL DESCRIPTION:

Results of grain size analyses performed on samples collected within the project area have indicated that the material to be deposited is predominantly sand (greater than 90% sand). Therefore, this proposed dredged material would be suitable for beach placement.

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the proposed work to any persons known by you to be interested and who did not receive a copy of this notice.

For more information on New York District Corps of Engineers programs, please visit our web site at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Randall G. Hintz", is written over the printed name.

Randall G. Hintz
Chief, Operations Support Branch

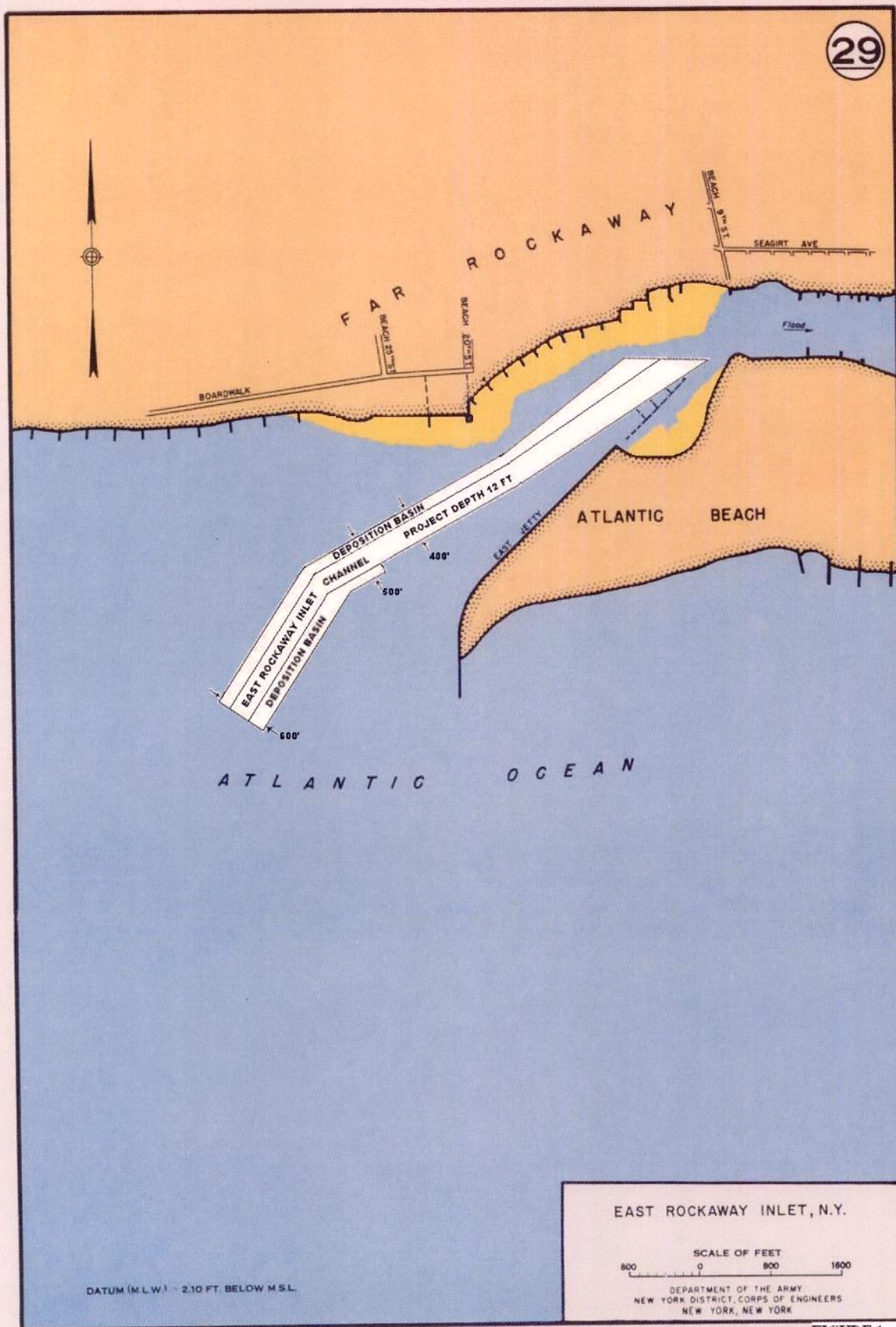
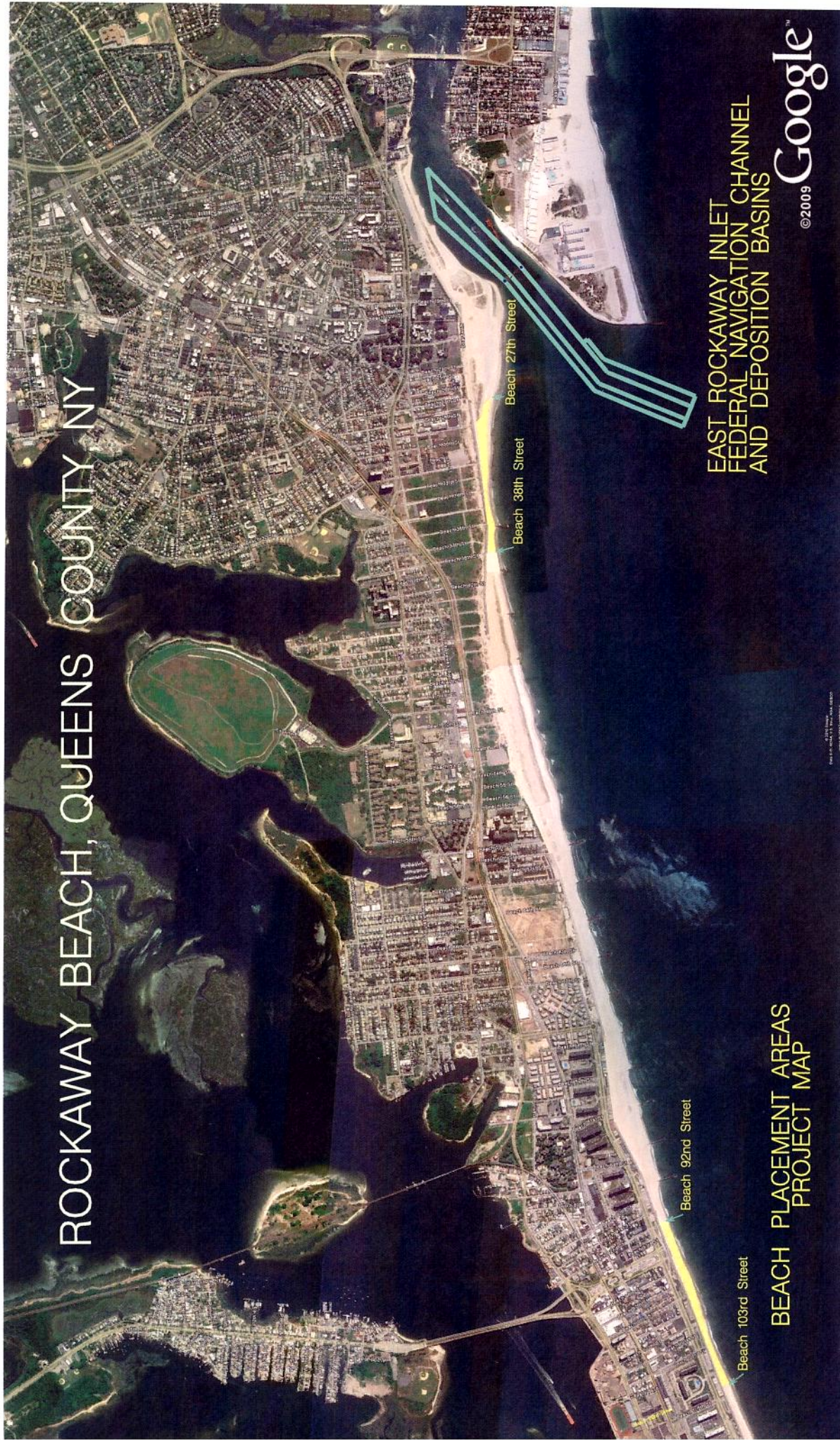


FIGURE 1

ROCKAWAY BEACH, QUEENS COUNTY NY



EAST ROCKAWAY INLET
FEDERAL NAVIGATION CHANNEL
AND DEPOSITION BASINS

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BEACH PLACEMENT AREAS
PROJECT MAP

FIGURE 2

