

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR THE LEASE OF SUBMERGED LANDS TO ENABLE THE CONSTRUCTION
AND OPERATION OF A FERRY MAINTENANCE FACILITY AT MARE ISLAND,
VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA**

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508), the U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the lease of submerged lands at Mare Island, in Vallejo, California. A 15-day public comment period is being held to receive written comments on the Draft EA.

This Draft EA presents an analysis of the Navy's Proposed Action to issue a lease of the Navy's submerged lands for use by the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA). The lease may be directly to WETA, or could be between the Navy and another entity such as the City of Vallejo, who would then sublet the lease area to WETA. WETA is proposing to construct and operate a ferry maintenance facility that would be located on both non-Navy landside property and 3.58 acres of the Navy's submerged lands in Mare Island Strait. The federally Proposed Action—the submerged land lease—would enable WETA to use a portion of the Navy's submerged lands for in-water berths at the maintenance facility.

The Navy conducted a previous evaluation pursuant to NEPA in 1998 for the disposal and reuse of surplus Mare Island property, including the submerged lands, which led to the disposal of the majority of the surplus Federal property. However, the Navy still retains the submerged lands pending the completion of environmental clean-up activities. Because the proposed ferry maintenance facility use was not assessed under the previous NEPA documentation, the Navy is conducting this EA to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the lease. Although the Proposed Action is solely granting a lease agreement that would enable the construction and operation of the in-water components of the WETA ferry maintenance facility, the on-land components of the facility are also evaluated in this document to the extent necessary to assess and disclose potential indirect and cumulative effects. The Draft EA examines the potential human and natural environmental consequences of the Proposed Action (i.e., the issuance of a lease) and any impacts associated with the reasonably foreseeable reuse of the property.

Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as interested members of the public, are invited and encouraged to review and comment on the Draft EA. The Draft EA is available for viewing at the following location: John F. Kennedy Library, 505 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, California, 94590. An electronic version can be viewed or downloaded at the following website: <http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil>. A limited number of hard copies are available by contacting the Navy's Base Realignment and Closure Program Management Office (BRAC PMO) at the address in this notice.

Comments on the Draft EA can be made in writing via mail, fax, or email. All comments should be forwarded to:

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To be considered, all comments must be received by Monday, September 8, 2014.