


CITY OF VENTURA
CITY MEMORANDUM

Date: August 31, 2007

To: Joe McDermott
From: Maura Macaluso 
Subject: Keys Water Channel Dredging

Thank you for submitting an environmental determination request for the Keys Water Channel Dredging project. Attached is an Addendum to the previously approved Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND-2202) for the Keys Dredging in 1997. Since the circulation of the FMND in 1997, there have been no new or substantially more severe environmental impacts related to the project, no significant changes in the project or the surrounding circumstances, nor significant new information that has since come to light that would require a revision of the conclusions in the FMND or recirculation of the document.

The Addendum concludes that the current request is consistent with the project as approved with the FMND. However, there are several Mitigation Measures included in the FMND in order to mitigate potential impacts related to biological resources, noise, water resources and water quality. These Mitigation Measures are included in the attached Addendum.

ADDENDUM NO. 1 TO FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

KEYS WATER CHANNEL DREDGING - EIR CASE NO. 2171

This Addendum No. 1 to the Keys Water Channel Dredging Project Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND) is being prepared to substantiate that the analysis and previously determined Mitigation Measures contained therein are consistent with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15164.

Since the circulation of the FMND in 1997, there have been no new or substantially more severe environmental impacts related to the project, no significant changes in the project or the surrounding circumstances, nor significant "new information" that has since come to light that would require a revision of the conclusions in the FMND or recirculation of the document.

The proposed project continues to be necessary to maintain channel configurations, and to restore and assure safe navigability within the Keys waterways. The project also provides material for beach replenishment. Deposition options include the surf zone at Cell 1 of the Pierpont Bay Groin Field (the first cell north of Marina Park), and the surf zone at the mouth of the Santa Clara River and/or the near shore waters at the mouth of the Santa Clara River. The dredging and deposition activities would not commence until after Labor Day in September of any year and would cease on or before March 15 of the following year so as to avoid impacts on grunion spawning, least tern and snowy plover nesting, and recreational use of the beach.

The dredging effort would continue, as in previous years, on an as-needed basis over a ten-year period commencing on or about January 1, 2008. The average annual volume of dredged material would be about 35,000 cubic yards, and no more than 100,000 cubic yards of material is likely to be dredged in any one year.

In accordance with a ten-year permit issued in 1997 by the Coastal Commission, the State Lands Commission, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, the City has performed, on an as-needed basis, the same periodic maintenance dredging in the Ventura Keys as is currently being proposed.

In July 1997, an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment was performed and a Mitigated Negative Declaration (Case Number EIR-2202) was recommended, and subsequently approved by the City Council on September 8, 1997. In August, 2007, City staff analyzed the conclusions made in the FMND and the subsequent determinations have been made as to whether the project scope and/or environmental conditions have changed:

Aesthetics – no change

Agriculture – no change

Air Quality – no change

Biological Resources – no change (the project is consistent with the project as approved with a Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND-2202) in 1997). However, the Mitigation Measure included in FMND-2202 in order to mitigate any potential impacts to Biological Resources shall continue to be required for the project as follows: Dredging and surf zone disposal plans shall be designed to carry out the activity in compliance with requirements of all regulatory agencies. In addition, the dredging and disposal is to occur only between September 1 and March 31, to avoid times critical to California least tern and snowy plover nesting and grunion spawning.

Cultural Resources – no change

Energy and Mineral Resources – no change

Geophysical – no change

Hazards – no change

Land Use / City and Regional Plans – no change

Noise – no change (the project is consistent with the project as approved with the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND-2202) in 1997). However, the Mitigation Measure included in FMND-2202 in order to mitigate any potential impacts relating to noise shall continue to be required for the project as follows: adjacent property owners shall be notified prior to commencing work, signs shall be posted in the project area, and all equipment shall have appropriate mufflers in good working conditions.

Population and Housing – no change

Public Services – no change

Utilities and Service System – no change

Transportation / Circulation – no change

Water – no change (the project is consistent with the project as approved with the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND-2202) in 1997). However, the Mitigation Measure included in FMND-2202 in order to mitigate any potential

impacts relating to Water Resources and or Water Quality shall continue to be required for the project as follows:

1. In order to mitigate potential significant impacts related to Water Resources, disposal of spoils in either the surf zone or near shore area at the mouth of the Santa Clara River shall not occur unless that water is flowing at 100 c.f.s. or greater.
2. In order to mitigate potential impacts related to water quality, periodic testing of the water shall occur during the dredge operation per standards set forth by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. If quality drops below accepted standards, dredging shall stop until impact is eliminated.
3. In order to mitigate potential significant impacts related to Water Resources, the contractor shall be required to implement the Best Management Practices as established by the National Discharge System Permit and/or as required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, as appropriate to prohibit entry of pollutants to the storm water runoff.

Based on the foregoing, there is no change in the proposed scope of work and/or in environmental conditions and therefore the project would not result in any new potentially significant impact, or in a substantial increase in the severity of the previously identified environmental impact as determined in the draft MND circulated for public comment in 1997.