

**SUBJECT:** DMMP TIER 1 EVALUATION OF THE CITY OF CASTLE ROCK — BOAT LAUNCH AND FLOATING DOCK MAINTENANCE DREDGING, COWLITZ RIVER, WITH UPLAND AND/OR FLOWLANE DISPOSAL.

- 1. Introduction.** This memorandum documents the Tier 1 evaluation by the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Departments of Ecology and Natural Resources, and the Environmental Protection Agency) of the City of Castle Rock's boat ramp and floating dock maintenance dredging (Figure 1). This evaluation resulted in a no-test determination.
- 2. Project.** The City of Castle Rock (City) Al Helenberg Memorial boat launch and floating dock were constructed in 2010 to provide safe and reliable access to the Cowlitz River. The structures are located on the west bank of the Cowlitz River, approximately 2.5 miles downstream of the confluence of the Toutle River and the Cowlitz River. During some high water/high flow events, the launch and dock accumulate significant sediment and woody debris. The sediment and debris must be removed to prevent structural damage to the launch and ramp, and allow their continued use.

In August 2015, the DMMP agencies provided a no-test determination for the removal of sediment from the project site with adjacent upland disposal (DMMP, 2015). The USACE permit associated with that JARPA was not issued and no work was performed.

Subsequently, the City has submitted a new JARPA with a proposed 10-year maintenance plan to remove up to 500 cubic yards (CY) of sediment per event from the boat launch and floating dock. Up to 6 events per year are anticipated. The sediment above the water line will be removed and placed in the adjacent uplands through the use of a vacuum truck, mechanical methods, and/or manual labor. Removal of sediment from below the water line, if needed, will be performed using a curtain to isolate the area of removal. The silt curtain would only be used during times of low flow and low turbidity. In-water sediment removal will be limited to the ramps and 20 feet around the floats' perimeter. During periods of high water and associated high turbidity, the City proposes to flush accumulated sediment back into the river; a silt curtain would not be used during high flows and high turbidity.

The City proposes to relocate natural large woody debris within the river or remove it, if necessary, using mechanical methods. Small debris will be swept off if possible or washed off with river water.

- 3. Evaluation.** Under DMMP guidelines, projects for which upland disposal is planned do not ordinarily require testing of the dredged material, but do require evaluation under the Department of Ecology's antidegradation standard. Much of the sediment load carried by the Cowlitz River is of volcanic origin, emanating from the Mount St. Helens impact area. Chemical testing of Cowlitz River sediment by Portland District has shown it to be of low concern for chemical contamination (USACE, 2007). An EIM query shows that no sediment data have been collected from within or near the project area, which may be an indication that there are no sediment contaminant issues in the vicinity of the project. A review of EPA's Cleanups in My Community database and Ecology's Integrated Site Information System did not reveal any cleanup sites within or near the project area.

4. **Debris Management.** Large woody debris is the main concern at this project site, as documented by historical photographs and information provided by the City. Although uncommon, anthropogenic debris, if encountered, must be removed and disposed at an appropriate upland location.
5. **Tier 1 Determination.** This project is located in an area of low concern, with proposed upland disposal as the primary method of sediment placement. The DMMP agencies have determined that the sediment that accumulates at the site is of low concern for contamination, and that the sediment exposed by dredging will meet the State of Washington antidegradation standard. Therefore, no DMMP testing is required for this project.

This determination does *not* constitute final agency approval of the project. During the public comment period that follows a public notice, resource agencies will provide input on the overall project. A final decision will be made after full consideration of agency input, and after an alternatives analysis is done under section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

5. **References.**

DMMP, 2015. *DMMP Tier 1 Evaluation of the City of Castle Rock – Boat Launch and Floating Dock Maintenance Dredging (NWS-2015-816), Cowlitz River, with Upland Disposal.* August 26, 2015.

USACE 2007. *Cowlitz River Federal Project – Sediment Quality Evaluation Report.* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District. March 2007.

6. Signatures.

signed copy on file in DMMO - Seattle District office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Heather Whitney Fourie - Seattle District Corps of Engineers

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Date Justine Barton - Environmental Protection Agency

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Date Laura Inouye, Ph.D. - Washington Department of Ecology

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Date Celia Barton - Washington Department of Natural Resources

**Copies Furnished:**

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DMMO File

## Al Helenberg Memorial Boat Launch Project Phase 2

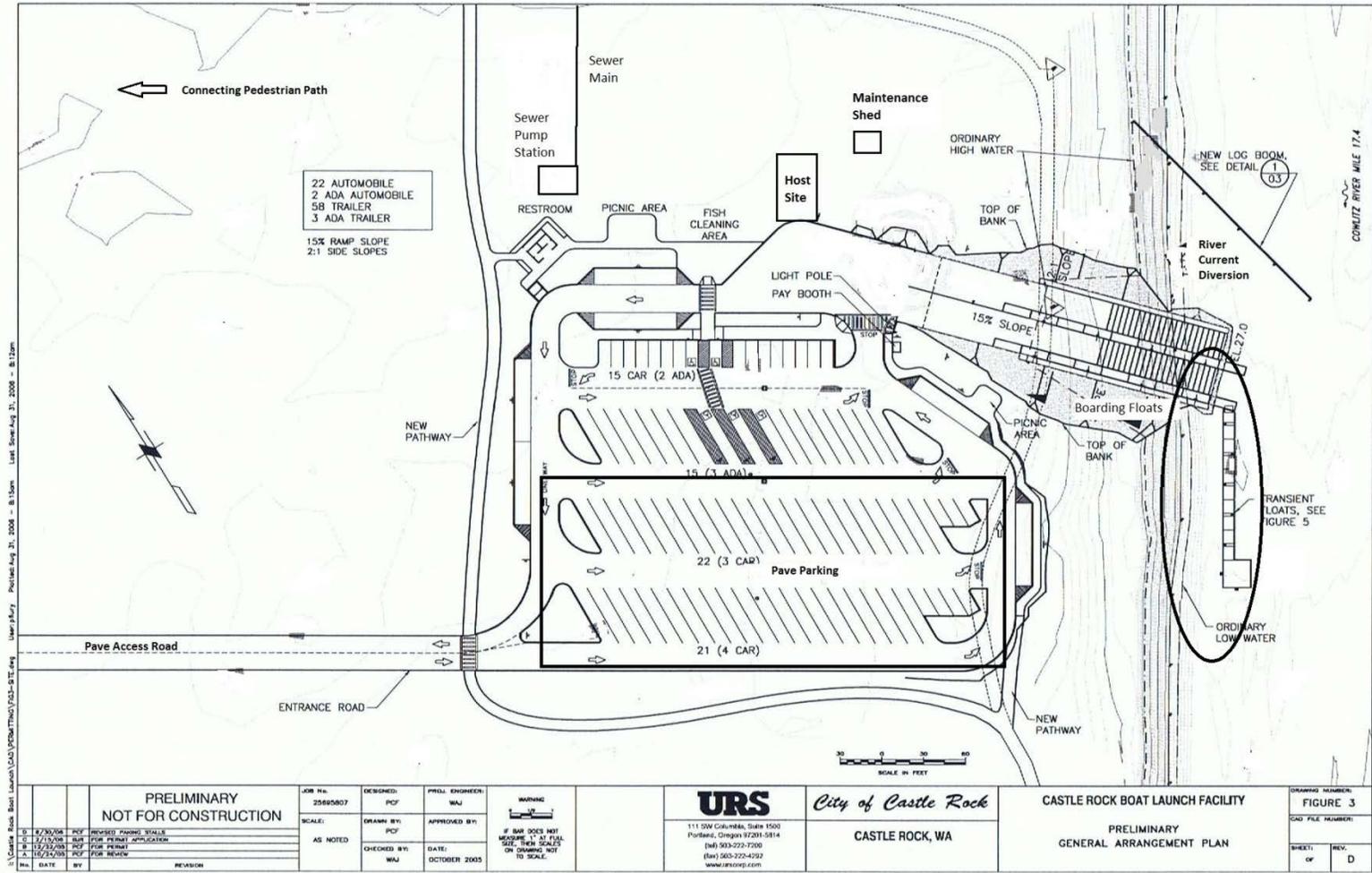


Figure 1. City of Castle Rock Boat Launch Maintenance.

Approximate dredge area shown in oval circle.