



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

ANCHORAGE  
Regulatory Division (1145)  
CEPOA-RD  
Post Office Box 6898  
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:</b>	<b>March 7, 2025</b>
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	<b>April 7, 2025</b>
<b>REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>	<b>POA-2025-00095</b>
<b>WATERWAY:</b>	<b>Eastern Passage</b>

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Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this public notice should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the project manager's email as listed below or to [regpagemaster@usace.army.mil](mailto:regpagemaster@usace.army.mil). All comments should include the public notice reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this public notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Estrella Campellone at [Estrella.f.campellone@usace.army.mil](mailto:Estrella.f.campellone@usace.army.mil) or by phone at (907) 753-2518, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

**APPLICANT:** Mason Villarma, City and Borough of Wrangell, PO Box 531, Wrangell, Alaska 99926. Email: [mfvillarma@wrangell.com](mailto:mfvillarma@wrangell.com). Telephone: (360) 981-1010.

**AGENT:** Tyler Riberio, Tydi Creek Environmental, PO Box 2105, Wrangell, Alaska 99929. Email: [tydicreekenvironmental@gmail.com](mailto:tydicreekenvironmental@gmail.com). Telephone: (907) 957-4438.

**LOCATION:** The project site is located within Section 20, T. 62 S., R. 84 E., Copper River Meridian; USGS Quad Map Petersburg B-2; Latitude 56.4724° N., Longitude 132.3468° W.; one-mile from the intersection of Ishiyama Drive and Airport Road, in Wrangell, Alaska.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: The project is located at approximately 1,641 feet north of the Tongass National Forest boundary.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to construct a new monofill site to service the City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska. The existing monofill site, operated by the City and Borough of Wrangell, is reaching maximum capacity; the community is in need of a place to dispose of waste excavation from construction projects (concrete, etc.).

PROPOSED WORK: To construct a new monofill site to dispose of unclassified waste excavation from public and private construction projects in Wrangell, Alaska. The project would entail the mechanical clearing of approximately 8.9 acres of wetlands, constructing an access road to the site, and discharging unclassified fill material resulting from the site mechanical clearing. Once constructed, the site is planned to be in operations for approximately 30 years.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-3) dated January 2025.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The proposed monofill site would be located adjacent to the existing monofill site to have access to existing operation building facilities.

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: The proposed project would be in wetlands in its entirety. Due to the prevalence of wetlands throughout Southeast Alaska, it is not practicable to select an upland site of a suitable size to accommodate the proposed project. Minimization measures would be implemented to avoid impacts to surrounding wetlands.

b. Minimization: The proposed project design has incorporated vegetation buffers at the boundaries of the project site to minimize impacts associated with transport of sediment laden runoff from the waste excavation area. It would also follow the natural contours of the land, which would minimize the disturbance the project may have on the existing hydrologic regime. In addition, a 3:1 side slopes of finished surfaces would be maintained to minimize discharges of sediment outside project footprint. The proposed project would be phased, as practicable, to construct the site using only one side of the stream at a time. This measure would minimize impacts to Waters of the U.S. by limiting the area of exposed soil during construction and operations of the site. Culverts would be constructed along the proposed access roads to convey discrete drainages in addition to conveying stormwater. This measure would serve to maintain the hydrologic regime within the project area during construction and site operations. The applicant is open to incorporating practicable minimization measures into the project that are identified during the permitting process. After each phase is completed, a reclamation plan would be implemented to ensure that the permit area is graded to promote and maintain surface water runoff without causing ponding or erosion. This plan would include installing one foot of final cover over all filled area and at least six inches of topsoil to promote adequate water retention for successful re-vegetation. Within the first growing season following site

closure, the permit area would be revegetated using native plant species recommended by the Alaska Plant Materials Center. This on-site mitigation would eliminate the potential for impacts to Waters of the U.S. after the site is closed.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The area of impact represents a small percentage of wetlands contained in the watershed area. Given the relatively small level of impact that the project would have on waters of the U.S. within an already-disturbed portion of the watershed, the applicant is not proposing compensatory mitigation.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the project footprint and immediately adjacent areas. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at this time, and we are otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. The Corps has made a No Historic Properties Affected (No Effect) determination for the proposed project. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties. Any comments SHPO, Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work. The Corps is requesting the SHPO's concurrence with this determination.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and would have no effect on any designated or proposed critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required. However, any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

The project area is not within mapped EFH.

We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area. Although the applicant delineated a stream crossing the proposed project site, the Alaska Fish Resource Monitor (Anadromous Waters Catalog) did not indicate the presence of anadromous streams found within the proposed project area.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Corps fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Corps, Alaska District, on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This public notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal rights or resources. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander. This application is being coordinated with federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments federal recognized tribes and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by the work under the requested permit will be considered in the Corps final assessment of the described work.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps 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. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander  
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures