

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)

#### 1.1.1 Project Summary

As lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.), the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) has prepared this Revised Draft EIR (RDEIR) for the proposed San Francisco Bay and Delta Sand Mining Project (Project). This document replaces a Draft EIR for this Project that the CSLC released for public review and comment in July 2010.

The CSLC holds title to and manages tidelands and submerged lands and beds of navigable waterways for the benefit of all people of the State for statewide Public Trust purposes, which include waterborne commerce, navigation, fisheries, water-related recreation, habitat preservation, and open space. The CSLC may grant leases on these State lands for such purposes as, but not limited to, ports, marinas, docks and wharves, and dredging.

The CSLC received an application from Hanson Marine Operations (Hanson) and Jerico Products/Morris Tug and Barge (Jerico) for new 10-year mineral extraction leases to continue dredge mining of construction-grade sand from certain delineated areas (lease parcels) of Central San Francisco Bay (Central Bay), Suisun Bay (the easternmost of the four main basins that comprise San Francisco Bay), and the western Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta area (Delta). Hanson (acting on its own behalf and on behalf of Suisun Associates [a joint venture between Hanson and Jerico]) and Jerico, which are collectively the Applicants, propose to mine sand from the following areas (see Figure 1-1 below and Figures 2-1a, 2-1b, and 2-2 in Section 2.0, Project Description).

- Hanson proposes to lease the following lease parcels, all of which are sovereign lands under the CSLC's jurisdiction:
  - PRC 709 (Presidio, Alcatraz North, and Point Knox North Shoals);
  - PRC 2036 (Point Knox South);
  - PRC 7779 (Point Knox Shoal); and
  - PRC 7780 (Alcatraz South Shoal).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The numbering of the CSLC lease parcels sometimes includes a decimal designation, such as "PRC 709.1." Throughout this EIR, no decimal is used, unless the reference is to the lease document itself.

- 1 • Hanson, on behalf of Suisun Associates, also proposes to lease PRC 7781  
2 (Suisun Bay/Delta), which is also sovereign land under the jurisdiction of the  
3 CSLC, and which is located in Suisun Bay and the western Delta in the San  
4 Joaquin and Sacramento River channels upstream of Suisun Bay.
- 5 • Hanson and Jerico propose to continue sand mining of an additional, privately  
6 owned parcel in Suisun Bay (Middle Ground Shoal, owned by the Grossi Family,  
7 and referred to as TLS 39). This parcel is not under the jurisdiction of the CSLC.

8 The proposed new CSLC leases involve the same lease parcels currently mined by  
9 Hanson and Jerico, although, as discussed below, the boundaries of some of the Central  
10 Bay parcels were adjusted in 2011 to avoid overlapping Federal lands. The CSLC  
11 previously granted these mineral extraction leases to the Applicants for a 10-year period,  
12 with an option to apply for new leases for an additional 10 years. The initial 10-year period  
13 expired on July 30, 2008; however, pending completion of the environmental review and  
14 permitting process, the CSLC is allowing the continuation of sand mining on a month-to-  
15 month basis.

#### 16 **1.1.2 Summary of Revisions to the 2010 Draft EIR**

17 The CSLC staff determined that the following changes constitute significant new  
18 information and that recirculation of a full Revised Draft EIR (RDEIR) addressing the  
19 changes as appropriate is necessary.

- 20 • The CSLC staff, in consultation with the National Park Service (NPS) and  
21 U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), recently completed a review of historical data relevant  
22 to the Central Bay mining lease parcel boundaries and has determined that  
23 several lease boundaries must be revised to avoid encroaching on federally-held  
24 lands at Angel Island and Alcatraz Island. The revised boundaries are shown in  
25 Figure 2-1a in Section 2.0, Project Description. These boundary adjustments  
26 reduce the area of PRC 709 by roughly 5 percent (with the removal of about 42 out  
27 of 873 acres) and reduce the area of PRC 7779 by about 1 percent (with the  
28 removal of about 20 out of 1,357 acres). The land area removed from the parcels  
29 is proximate to the two islands and not where sand mining occurs.

- 30 • As noted in Section 1.1.6, Definition of Baseline and Future Conditions, the  
31 CSLC staff re-evaluated the baseline used in the 2010 Draft EIR (the volume of  
32 sand mined in 2007, the year the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for this EIR was  
33 published). Because sand mining activity levels can fluctuate substantially from  
34 year to year depending on market demand and other factors, the CSLC staff  
35 concluded that a baseline that accounts for mining levels over several years  
36 provides a more accurate measure of the current level of mining activity against  
37 which to evaluate Project impacts. Therefore, the baseline for the analysis in the  
38 RDEIR is the average annual volume of sand mined in the proposed Project area

39



SOURCE: ESRI 2008; California State Lands Commission 2008, 2011

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**Figure 1-1**  
Location of Lease Areas

1 per year from 2002 to 2007 (i.e., the average of the five years of mining that  
2 occurred prior to publication of the NOP). Additionally, sand mined from State  
3 Lease PRC 5871 in the Central Bay was added to the baseline volume because  
4 it was mined during this period and thus contributed to the physical conditions  
5 existing at the time the NOP was issued.

- 6 • The RDEIR evaluates a revised Reduced Project Alternative than that  
7 considered in the 2010 Draft EIR alternatives analysis (see discussion of  
8 alternatives in Section 3.0, Alternatives and Cumulative Projects).
- 9 • The RDEIR considers other new information that has come to light since  
10 publication of the 2010 Draft EIR, including information on sediment transport  
11 and deposition in San Francisco Bay and the regulatory status of threatened and  
12 endangered species that could be affected by sand mining.

### 13 1.1.3 Project Objective

14 This EIR has been prepared in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines  
15 (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.). Consistent with State CEQA Guidelines  
16 section 15126.6(a), the EIR describes both the proposed Project and a range of  
17 reasonable alternatives to the Project that would feasibly attain most of the basic  
18 objectives of the Project but avoid or substantially lessen any of the Project's significant  
19 effects. Therefore, in order to explain the need for the Project, and to guide in  
20 development and evaluation of alternatives, the Applicants identified the following  
21 Project objective:

- 22 • To obtain renewal of all necessary permits and approvals to continue mining  
23 sand at an economically viable level in San Francisco Bay for the next 10 years.

24 For the purpose of this EIR, the new leases and the issuance of other permits and  
25 entitlements necessary to continue sand mining for 10 more years are considered the  
26 "Project."

### 27 1.1.4 Purpose and Intended Uses of the EIR

28 State CEQA Guidelines section 15124(d) requires that an EIR contain a statement  
29 within the project description briefly describing the intended uses of the EIR. The State  
30 CEQA Guidelines also indicate that the EIR should identify the ways in which the lead  
31 agency and any responsible agencies would use this document in their approval or  
32 permitting processes. The following discussion summarizes the roles of the agencies  
33 and the intended uses of the EIR.

1 This EIR provides detailed information about the effect that the proposed Project is likely  
2 to have on the environment, lists ways in which the Project's significant effects might be  
3 minimized (e.g., through implementation of recommended mitigation measures), and  
4 indicates alternatives to the Project. The document is intended to provide the CSLC with  
5 the information required to exercise its jurisdictional responsibilities with respect to the  
6 proposed Project, which would be considered at a separate noticed public meeting of the  
7 CSLC. For example, the EIR will be used by the CSLC in determining whether or not to  
8 grant new 10-year leases of California sovereign lands to the Applicants for the purpose  
9 of mining sand.

10 This document is also intended to provide information needed by other State and local  
11 agencies that issue permits associated with the Project to exercise their responsibilities in  
12 issuing those permits (see Section 1.3, Permits, Approvals, and Regulatory  
13 Requirements). In order to continue sand mining from the lease parcels and privately  
14 owned TLS 39 site, the Applicants also require discretionary approvals of responsible  
15 agencies, including the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission  
16 (BCDC), San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFBRWQCB), State  
17 Mining and Geology Board (SMGB), and California Department of Fish and Game  
18 (CDFG). In addition, approval of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), in  
19 conjunction with required consultation and coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
20 Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS),<sup>2</sup> would be necessary.

21 CEQA requires that the lead agency shall neither approve nor implement a project for  
22 which an EIR has been prepared unless the significant environmental impacts have been  
23 eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level where feasible, and the agency has  
24 determined that any remaining significant environmental effects are acceptable due to  
25 overriding considerations. An acceptable level is defined as eliminating, avoiding, or  
26 substantially lessening the significant environmental effects to below a level of  
27 significance. If the certified EIR for a project identifies one or more significant  
28 environmental effects, the lead agency is required to make written Findings for each of  
29 the significant effects. If the lead agency approves the project even though significant  
30 impacts identified in the Final EIR cannot be avoided or substantially lessened with  
31 feasible measures, the lead agency must state in writing the reasons for its action based  
32 on the EIR and/or other information in the record. Findings and, if there are unavoidable  
33 significant impacts, a Statement of Overriding Considerations (SOC), must be included in

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<sup>2</sup> Subsequently renamed National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, the agency continues to be referred to as NMFS or NOAA Fisheries; it is referred to herein as NMFS.

1 the record of project approval and mentioned in the Notice of Determination (NOD) to  
2 carry out the project.

### 3 **1.1.5 Scope of the EIR**

4 This EIR is presented in several sections as shown in Table 1-1. Section 4.0,  
5 Environmental Analysis, of the EIR analyzes potential impacts related to the following  
6 environmental issue areas:

- 7 • Biological Resources;
- 8 • Mineral Resources;
- 9 • Hydrology and Water Quality;
- 10 • Hazards and Hazardous Materials;
- 11 • Air Quality;
- 12 • Cultural Resources; and
- 13 • Land Use and Recreation.

14 The study area of this EIR extends beyond the proposed sand mining boundaries. For  
15 example, the analysis of potential impacts on sediment supply considers whether the  
16 Project could adversely affect natural sand replenishment occurring at such locations as  
17 Ocean Beach and Crissy Field in San Francisco, while the air quality impact analysis  
18 focuses primarily on the Bay Area Air Basin, but also considers the Project's contribution  
19 to global warming effects.

20 Based upon preliminary review and for the reasons stated below, CSLC staff has  
21 determined that the proposed Project would have a less-than-significant impact or no  
22 impact on the following issue areas that are typically considered in an EIR.

- 23 • **Aesthetics.** The Project is not anticipated to involve any changes to current  
24 operations that would have an adverse effect on a scenic vista, substantially  
25 damage scenic resources, degrade the existing visual character or quality of the  
26 area, or create new sources of light and glare. Therefore, no impact on the visual  
27 quality of the Project area would occur.
- 28 • **Agricultural Resources.** No agricultural resources lie within the area of potential  
29 effect of the Project; therefore, no impact on agricultural resources would occur.
- 30 • **Geology and Soils.** The Project would continue to remove and disturb the Bay  
31 substrate within the proposed lease areas, but is not anticipated to involve any  
32 changes to current operations. Current operations have no significant impact  
33 related to geology or soils, such as the loss of topsoil or the exposure of people  
34 and structures to seismic hazards, landslides, or other geologic hazards.  
35 Therefore, no new impacts would occur. Effects on the geomorphology of the  
36

1 **Table 1-1. Organization of This EIR**

<b>Section Number and Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
1.0. Introduction	Introduces the proposed Project and Project EIR.
2.0. Project Description	Describes the proposed Project, including its location, layout, and facilities, and presents an overview of Project operations.
3.0. Alternatives and Cumulative Projects	Describes the alternatives to the proposed Project that were carried forward for analysis, the alternatives that were considered but eliminated from detailed evaluation, and also identifies the cumulative projects that are considered in the cumulative impact analyses.
4.0. Environmental Analysis	Describes existing environmental conditions, Project-specific impacts and mitigation measures, and analyzes the impacts of the Project alternatives for each issue area. This section also evaluates the impacts of the Project in conjunction with the cumulative projects identified in Section 3.0, Alternatives and Cumulative Projects.
5.0. Socioeconomic Effects and Environmental Justice	Evaluates the Project's socioeconomic effects and the potential of the Project to disproportionately affect minority or lower-income communities.
6.0. Other Required CEQA Sections and Environmentally Superior Alternative	Addresses other required CEQA elements, including the consideration of any significant irreversible environmental changes that the Project would cause and the Project's growth-inducing impacts, and identifies the environmentally superior alternative.
7.0. Mitigation Monitoring Program	Describes the Mitigation Monitoring Program that the CSLC, as lead agency, will adopt to ensure that measures required to mitigate or avoid significant impacts are implemented.
8.0. Report Preparation Sources	Presents information on the report preparers and sources consulted.
9.0. References	Lists reference materials used to prepare the EIR.
Appendices (see attached CD)	Appendix A to this EIR contains the mailing list of the persons and entities notified of the availability of this document. Appendix B contains the NOP and comments received on the NOP, and identifies where the comments are addressed. Other technical appendices are also included in this EIR; see the Table of Contents for the complete listing.

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1 Bay floor, on sediment supply and transport, and on the hydrodynamics of Bay  
2 waters are considered in Section 4.3, Hydrology and Water Quality.

- 3 • **Noise.** The Project is not anticipated to involve operational noise greater than  
4 that presently resulting from current operations, and therefore is not expected to  
5 expose people to higher levels of noise than are currently experienced, or to  
6 cause new sources of noise or vibration. Therefore, no noise impact would occur.  
7 Potential impacts of noise and vibration on aquatic wildlife are considered in  
8 Section 4.1, Biological Resources.
- 9 • **Population and Housing.** The Project would not result in direct construction of  
10 new housing or infrastructure nor displace people from existing housing.  
11 Therefore, the Project would not have an impact on population and housing.
- 12 • **Public Services.** The Project would not directly increase demands on or require  
13 the construction of additional fire or police facilities, school facilities, parks, or any  
14 other public service. Therefore, no impact on public services would occur.
- 15 • **Transportation.** The Project is not anticipated to involve any changes to current  
16 operations that would affect land or water transportation, including possible  
17 effects on roadways, parking, and navigational channels. Therefore, no new  
18 impact on transportation would occur.
- 19 • **Utilities and Service Systems.** The Project would not require the expansion of  
20 existing utilities, including water supply, wastewater treatment, and power. Thus,  
21 no impact on utilities and service systems would occur.

### 22 1.1.6 Definition of Baseline and Future Conditions

23 The principal purpose of an EIR is to inform the public and decision-makers of the  
24 potential effects of a proposed project on the physical environment. With an existing,  
25 ongoing operation for which the applicant is seeking entitlements to continue activities,  
26 (rather than to initiate new activities), both the project and the baseline condition against  
27 which impacts are to be measured must be defined carefully to ensure that the  
28 environmental analysis focuses on any proposed changes that constitute the project.  
29 With respect to the environmental setting assumed for the impact analysis, State CEQA  
30 Guidelines section 15125(a) states, in part, the following:

31 An EIR must include a description of the physical environmental conditions in the  
32 vicinity of the project, as they exist at the time the notice of preparation is  
33 published, or if no notice of preparation is published, at the time environmental  
34 analysis is commenced, from both a local and regional perspective. This  
35 environmental setting will normally constitute the baseline physical conditions by  
36 which a Lead Agency determines whether an impact is significant.

37 The California Supreme Court confirmed that, while conditions at the time of the NOP  
38 “normally” constitute the baseline for the environmental analysis under CEQA, the lead

1 agency has flexibility in defining the appropriate baseline (*Communities for a Better*  
2 *Environment v. South Coast Air Quality Mgmt. Dist.* (2010) 48 Cal.4<sup>th</sup> 310, 328).

3 The NOP for this Project EIR was issued on July 10, 2007, at which time the initial  
4 10-year leases were in effect, and 2007 mining volumes were selected as a part of the  
5 baseline for the Draft EIR analysis. After evaluating comments received on the 2010  
6 Draft EIR, the CSLC staff concluded that an average over several years of mining in the  
7 Central Bay, Suisun Bay, and the western Delta more accurately represented year-to-  
8 year fluctuations, and thus existing conditions, in terms of annual sand mining activity  
9 than did a single year of sand mining. The annual quantity of sand mined fluctuates  
10 substantially due to changes in demand, economic conditions, capacity, and other  
11 factors. The quantity of sand mined in the 2007 mining year was in the low range  
12 compared with previous years, depressing the baseline. Therefore, consistent with the  
13 State CEQA Guidelines and case law, the baseline condition for the analysis of Project  
14 impacts in this EIR is defined as the existing physical effects of mining operations  
15 occurring at a level equal to the average of the five years preceding issuance of the  
16 NOP and the physical effects of past sand mining operations. Because Central Bay  
17 lease parcel PRC 5871 was being mined during this period, and thus contributed to the  
18 physical conditions existing at the time the NOP was issued, it is included in the revised  
19 baseline even though a new mining lease is not proposed as part of the Project.

20 Using this baseline, the impact analysis examines the differences between the  
21 proposed sand mining operations and the sand mining that occurred, on average, under  
22 the original lease agreements in the five years before the NOP was issued (see  
23 Table 1-2). Overall, the Applicants propose a net increase of about 613,350 cubic yards  
24 per year (cy/yr) over the baseline volume of 1,426,650 cy/yr. This represents an overall  
25 decrease of 200,000 cy/yr in the mining volume allowed under the previous leases (see  
26 Section 2.3, Proposed Project). Specific baseline assumptions for each environmental  
27 issue area include the following.

- 28       • **Biological Resources.** Impacts on biological resources are assumed to have  
29 occurred since sand mining in the Project areas first started, and the ongoing  
30 disturbance that occurred during this time is considered part of the baseline  
31 condition. The EIR examines the effects of any changes in mining practices or  
32 methods, locations, and level of intensity relative to the average level of operations  
33 occurring from 2002 to 2007, and also examines the potential for cumulative  
34 effects of future sand mining in combination with past sand mining.

1 **Table 1-2. Sand Mining Volumes 2002-2007 Compared with Currently Permitted and Proposed Volumes**  
 2 **(cubic yards)**

Location/Parcel Name and Number	7/1/2002 - 6/30/2003	7/1/2003 - 6/30/2004	7/1/2004 - 6/30/2005	7/1/2005 - 6/30/2006	7/1/2006 - 6/30/2007	Average Mining Volume 2002 - 2007 ("Baseline")	Currently Permitted Volume	Applicant Proposed Volume
<b>State Lands Commission, Central Bay Lease Parcels (and Current Leaseholder)</b>								
PRC 709: Presidio, Alcatraz, and Point Knox Shoals (Hanson)	353,498	126,364	334,418	432,009	205,366	290,331	540,000	340,000
PRC 2036: Point Knox South (Hanson)	257,831	300,000	266,948	183,781	254,626	252,637	300,000	450,000
PRC 7779: Point Knox Shoal (Hanson)	397,647	393,918	400,000	363,977	396,656	390,440	400,000	550,000
PRC 7780: Alcatraz South Shoal (Hanson)	127,420	143,576	123,795	133,129	108,318	127,248	150,000	200,000
PRC 5871: Alcatraz Shoal (Cemex)	87,970	51,663	98,887	80,391	83,005	80,383	0	0
<i>Subtotal: State Lands Central Bay Leases</i>	<b>1,224,366</b>	<b>1,015,521</b>	<b>1,224,048</b>	<b>1,193,287</b>	<b>1,047,971</b>	<b>1,141,039</b>	<b>1,390,000</b>	<b>1,540,000</b>
<b>State Lands Commission, Suisun Bay/Delta Lease Parcel (and Current Leaseholder)</b>								
PRC 7781 Suisun Bay/Western Delta (Suisun Associates)	98,269	96,989	80,855	67,210	85,407	85,746	100,000	300,000
<i>State Lands Lease Totals: Central Bay &amp; Suisun Bay/Delta</i>	<b>1,322,635</b>	<b>1,112,510</b>	<b>1,304,903</b>	<b>1,260,497</b>	<b>1,133,378</b>	<b>1,226,785</b>	<b>1,490,000</b>	<b>1,840,000</b>
<b>Private Parcel, Middle Ground Shoal</b>								
Grossi Middle Ground Shoal TLS 39 <sup>1</sup>	161,189	230,305	195,005	217,884	194,945	199,866	750,000	200,000
<b>All Lease Totals</b>	<b>1,483,824</b>	<b>1,342,815</b>	<b>1,499,908</b>	<b>1,478,381</b>	<b>1,328,323</b>	<b>1,426,650</b>	<b>2,240,000</b>	<b>2,040,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> While both Applicants have BCDC permits to mine at Middle Ground Shoal (TLS 39), all mining during the baseline period was conducted by Jerico.

Source: CSLC 2011, BCDC 2009a, Hanson Marine Operations 2008

- 1       • **Mineral Resources.** The effects of past sand mining on the availability of sand  
2 resources are considered part of the baseline condition. The EIR examines the  
3 potential for continued sand mining to result in loss of access to other mineral  
4 resources, as well as long-term or permanent depletion of sand resources.
- 5       • **Hydrology and Water Quality.** The effects of past sand mining on Bay and  
6 Delta water quality, bathymetry, geomorphology, and hydrodynamics are  
7 considered part of the baseline condition. The impact analysis is limited to the  
8 consideration of future effects of this kind relative to the level of mining  
9 operations that occurred, on average, from 2002 to 2007, as well as the  
10 cumulative effects of proposed future mining in combination with past mining.
- 11       • **Hazardous Materials and Hazards.** Past sand mining effects that are  
12 considered part of the Project baseline condition include any past accidents or  
13 upsets associated with mining operations that resulted in the release of, or  
14 exposure to, hazardous substances. The EIR considers the potential for new  
15 impacts of this kind (see also the discussion of human health risks in Section 4.5,  
16 Air Quality).
- 17       • **Air Quality.** The annual level of emissions of criteria air pollutants and toxic air  
18 contaminants from mining operations occurring, on average, between 2002 and  
19 2007 is considered the baseline for the air quality analysis. The EIR examines if  
20 air emissions would increase due to the proposed changes in mining level  
21 intensity or duration relative to baseline operations. The analysis also considers  
22 the potential for increased human health risk associated with 10 additional years  
23 of exposure to toxic air contaminants and increased global warming effects  
24 associated with 10 more years of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- 25       • **Cultural Resources.** Impacts on submerged cultural resources could have  
26 occurred during past sand mining events. Such past disturbance is considered  
27 part of the baseline condition. This EIR considers the potential for future  
28 disturbance of submerged cultural resources.
- 29       • **Land Use and Recreation.** The EIR examines whether the proposed sand  
30 mining operations would conflict with current plans and policies of the various  
31 agencies with land use and similar authority over Bay and Delta resources and  
32 evaluates potential Project conflicts with recreational uses in the Central Bay and  
33 Delta. This section also considers the potential for residual impacts at down-  
34 current beaches resulting from Project impacts on sediment supply and transport  
35 within the Bay-Delta system. (Potential changes to sediment supply and transport  
36 are examined in more detail in Section 4.3, Hydrology and Water Quality.)
- 37       • **Socioeconomic Effects and Environmental Justice.** While the social and  
38 economic effects of the Project and the potential for the Project to  
39 disproportionately impact low income and/or minority communities are not  
40 considered part of the environmental impact analysis, Section 5.0 of this EIR  
41 addresses the Project's impacts with respect to socioeconomic effects and  
42 environmental justice issues. Regional socioeconomic conditions are based on  
43 2007 population and employment data. The socioeconomic effects of mining

1 operations occurring at the average level of operations between 2002 and 2007  
 2 are considered the baseline condition for the evaluation of the Project's  
 3 socioeconomic impacts. Any environmental impacts of past sand mining  
 4 operations that disproportionately affected environmental justice communities  
 5 (including predominantly minority and low-income communities) are considered  
 6 part of the baseline condition for the analysis of potential Project impacts that  
 7 would disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income communities.  
 8 Section 5.0 examines the potential for future sand mining under the proposed  
 9 Project, as well as the cumulative effects of sand mining combined with other  
 10 industrial activities in the area, to affect environmental justice communities.

## 11 1.2 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

### 12 1.2.1 Repository Sites

13 Placing CEQA documents in "repository" sites can be an effective way of providing  
 14 ongoing information about a project to a large number of people. Four repository sites in  
 15 or near the proposed Project area have been established, and documents are also  
 16 posted online on the CSLC website ([www.slc.ca.gov](http://www.slc.ca.gov)). The EIR is available to the public  
 17 at the following locations:

Berkeley Central Library 2090 Kittredge Street Berkeley, CA 94704 (510) 981-6119	San Francisco Main Library 100 Larkin Street San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 557-4400
CSLC, Attn: Christopher Huitt 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South Sacramento, CA 95825 (916) 574-1938 huittc@slc.ca.gov	CSLC, Marine Facilities Division Northern California Field Office 750 Alfred Nobel Drive, Suite 201 Hercules, CA 94547 (510) 741-4950

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### 19 1.2.2 Scoping

20 The CSLC, as the CEQA lead agency, determined that the proposed Project could  
 21 result in potentially significant adverse environmental impacts and therefore required  
 22 preparation of an EIR pursuant to and in accordance with CEQA, the State CEQA  
 23 Guidelines, and CSLC regulations for implementing CEQA.

24 On July 10, 2007, the CSLC provided the NOP for the proposed Project to responsible  
 25 and trustee agencies and the public, requested written and verbal comments on the  
 26 EIR's scope during a 30-day comment period, and announced two forthcoming public  
 27 scoping meetings. On July 30, 2007, the CSLC held two public scoping meetings in

1 Oakland, California, to solicit verbal comments on the EIR. In response to the NOP,  
2 written comments were received from the staffs of three agencies:

- 3 • Patrick L. Barnard, Research Geologist, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS);
- 4 • Brenda Goeden, Dredging Program Manager, BCDC; and
- 5 • Tony Warrington, Regional Manager, CDFG, Marine Region.

6 Appendix B includes a copy of the NOP, the letters received, and an index of where the  
7 scoping comments are addressed in the EIR. In addition, the CSLC has consulted on a  
8 continuous basis with the responsible agencies, both before and since the issuance of  
9 the NOP and in preparing the Draft EIR and the RDEIR, to ensure that the EIR  
10 addresses the concerns of these agencies.

### 11 **1.2.3 Public Review of the Previous Draft EIR**

12 In July 2010, a Notice of Completion/Notice of Availability was distributed announcing  
13 the release of the Draft EIR. The Notice summarized the conclusions of the Draft EIR  
14 and included information on how to access the Draft EIR. It also presented the date,  
15 times, and location of the public hearings on the Draft EIR.

16 The Draft EIR that was released for public review on July 27, 2010, included a detailed  
17 analysis of impacts in the seven environmental resource areas discussed above.  
18 Copies of the Draft EIR were delivered to the California State Clearinghouse for  
19 distribution to governmental agencies, to other agencies, and to individuals and  
20 community organizations that expressed interest in the proposed Project. In compliance  
21 with CEQA procedures, the CSLC provided a public review period of 60 days for the  
22 Draft EIR. The public review period extended from July 27, 2010, through September  
23 27, 2010. The Lead Agency allowed comments on the Draft EIR to be submitted by  
24 mail, verbally at the public hearings, via e-mail, and in person to the CSLC office in  
25 Sacramento.

26 Pursuant to Section 15087 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the CSLC also scheduled two  
27 public meetings for receiving oral and written comments on the Draft EIR at the  
28 Berkeley Central Library Meeting Room in Berkeley, on August 23, 2010, at 3:00 p.m.  
29 and 6:00 p.m. At those hearings, the public had opportunities to ask questions about the  
30 Draft EIR and present verbal and/or written testimony on the Draft EIR and its contents.  
31 The decision-making process of the CSLC was also explained at the public hearings.

32 The CSLC received 10 sets of comments on the original Draft EIR from the following  
33 agencies, organizations, and individuals:

- 1 • Brenda Goeden, BCDC
- 2 • Charles Armor, CDFG
- 3 • Victor J. Izzo, Central Valley RWQCB
- 4 • Stephen M. Testa, California State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB)
- 5 • Arthur Feinstein, Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge
- 6 • Barbara Salzman, Marin Audubon Society
- 7 • Jason F. Wren, San Francisco Baykeeper
- 8 • David Lewis, Save the Bay
- 9 • Orville Magoon
- 10 • William H. Butler, Hanson Aggregates/Hanson Marine (Project Applicant)

11 Where relevant, responses to these comments have been incorporated into the text,  
12 analysis, and mitigation measures of the RDEIR. However, it should be noted that  
13 changes to the Project Description and circumstances surrounding the Project may  
14 have rendered portions of comments received on the previous Draft EIR inapplicable to  
15 the RDEIR.

#### 16 **1.2.4 Public Comment on the RDEIR**

17 Section 15088.5(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines provides for the recirculation of an  
18 EIR “when significant new information is added to the EIR after public notice is given of  
19 the availability of the Draft EIR for public review under Section 15087 but before  
20 certification.” New information can include “changes in the project or environmental  
21 setting as well as additional data or other information.”

22 The RDEIR is being circulated to local and State agencies and interested individuals for  
23 review and comment for 45 days. Written comments may be submitted to the CSLC  
24 during this period. All comments received will be addressed in a Response to  
25 Comments document, which, together with the RDEIR, will constitute the Final EIR for  
26 the proposed Project. As provided by State CEQA Guidelines section 15088.5(f)(1):

27       When an EIR is substantially revised and the entire document is recirculated, the  
28       lead agency may require reviewers to submit new comments and, in such cases,  
29       need not respond to those comments received during the earlier circulation  
30       period. The lead agency shall advise reviewers, either in the text of the revised  
31       EIR or by an attachment to the revised EIR, that although part of the  
32       administrative record, the previous comments do not require a written response  
33       in the final EIR, and that new comments must be submitted for the revised EIR.  
34       The lead agency need only respond to those comments submitted in response to  
35       the recirculated revised EIR.

36 Because the entire Draft EIR is being recirculated, written responses to comments  
37 received on the 2010 Draft EIR are not provided. The Final EIR will provide written

1 responses to comments on this RDEIR that are submitted during the RDEIR public  
2 review period, as provided by State CEQA Guidelines section 15088.5(f).

### 3 **1.3 PERMITS, APPROVALS, AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS**

#### 4 **1.3.1 Agencies**

5 Sand mining in the Bay and Delta is a highly regulated activity. Agencies other than the  
6 CSLC that have regulatory or oversight authority over the proposed Project include, but  
7 may not be limited to, the following:

##### 8 State Agencies

- 9 • *California State Lands Commission.* The CSLC has jurisdiction and management  
10 authority over all ungranted tidelands, submerged lands, and the beds of  
11 navigable lakes and waterways. All tidelands and submerged lands, as well as  
12 navigable lakes and waterways, are subject to the protections of the Common  
13 Law Public Trust. Public Trust purposes include, but are not limited to,  
14 waterborne commerce, navigation, fisheries, water-related recreation, habitat  
15 preservation, and open space. On tidal waterways, the State's sovereign fee  
16 ownership extends landward to the mean high tide line, except for areas of fill or  
17 artificial accretion or where the boundary has been fixed by agreement or a court.  
18 Because the proposed Project involves the use of State sovereign lands under  
19 the CSLC's jurisdiction, it is subject to the CSLC's leasing requirements.
  
- 20 • *Bay Conservation and Development Commission:* BCDC is charged with the  
21 protection and enhancement of San Francisco Bay. The McAteer-Petris Act  
22 (California Gov. Code, § 66632, subd. (a)) requires the issuance of a BCDC  
23 permit for any activity that extracts materials from San Francisco or Suisun Bays.  
24 The BCDC makes a determination of consistency with applicable BCDC policies,  
25 including the Subtidal Areas policy and the Fish, Aquatic Organisms and Wildlife  
26 policy, as part of authorizing permits that regulate sand mining within the estuary.
  
- 27 • *California Department of Fish and Game:* The California Endangered Species  
28 Act (ESA) allows the CDFG to authorize project proponents to take state-listed  
29 threatened, endangered, or candidate species if certain conditions are met. The  
30 permitting program administers the incidental take provisions of the California  
31 ESA to ensure regulatory compliance and statewide consistency. The CDFG  
32 consults with lead and responsible agencies and provides the requisite biological  
33 expertise to review and comment on environmental documents and potential  
34 project-related impacts on fish, wildlife, and their habitats. In addition, CDFG's  
35 Lake and Streambed Alteration Program determines whether an agreement is  
36 needed for an activity that will substantially modify a river, stream or lake. If  
37 CDFG determines that the activity may substantially adversely affect fish and  
38 wildlife resources, a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement that includes  
39 reasonable conditions necessary to protect those resources will be prepared.

- 1 • *San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board*: Under the Porter-  
 2 Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Pub. Resources Code, § 13000 et seq.), the  
 3 SFBRWQCB has jurisdiction over sand mining activities for the purpose of  
 4 protecting water quality in San Francisco Bay and the western Delta, and would  
 5 issue waste discharge requirements covering Project operations. In its comments  
 6 on the 2010 Draft EIR, the Central Valley RWQCB requested more detail on the  
 7 location of CSLC Lease PRC 7781 to determine if it had any jurisdiction over  
 8 sand mining within the lease parcel, which is located in Suisun Bay and the  
 9 western Delta in the San Joaquin and Sacramento River channels upstream of  
 10 Suisun Bay; the boundaries of that parcel are shown below.

Corner	Latitude	Longitude	Corner	Latitude	Longitude
1	38° 02' 47.0" N	121° 55' 10.0" W	7	38° 02' 08.0" N	121° 50' 02.0" W
2	38° 02' 55.0" N	121° 55' 06.0" W	8	38° 01' 59.0" N	121° 50' 12.0" W
3	38° 03' 00.0" N	121° 53' 38.0" W	9	38° 03' 54.0" N	121° 51' 05.0" W
4	38° 03' 38.0" N	121° 52' 10.0" W	10	38° 03' 49.0" N	121° 51' 32.0" W
5	38° 04' 01.0" N	121° 51' 23.0" W	11	38° 02' 52.0" N	121° 53' 04.0" W
6	38° 04' 06.0" N	121° 50' 56.0" W			

- 11 • *State Mining and Geology Board and Office of Mine Reclamation (California*  
 12 *Department of Conservation)*: Pursuant to the Surface Mining and Reclamation  
 13 Act (SMARA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 2710 et seq.), the Department of  
 14 Conservation Office of Mine Reclamation and SMGB are responsible for  
 15 reviewing reclamation plans, and SMGB has approval authority over the  
 16 reclamation plans prepared for the sand mining sites, pursuant to SMARA.

#### 17 Federal Agencies

- 18 • *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*: The ACOE has jurisdiction over sand mining  
 19 under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The ACOE issues permits  
 20 regulating sand mining within the Bay-Delta estuary.
- 21 • *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service*: USFWS  
 22 and NMFS consult on proposed Federal actions, including approval of ACOE  
 23 permits for sand mining, to ensure that these activities do not jeopardize federally  
 24 listed endangered or threatened species under their respective jurisdictions or  
 25 adversely modify designated critical habitat for such species within the estuary.  
 26 NMFS also consults on activities that could affect Essential Fish Habitat  
 27 designated under the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

#### 28 Regional Agencies

- 29 • *Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)* The BAAQMD is  
 30 responsible for attaining and maintaining Federal and State air quality standards  
 31 within the Bay Area Air Basin. Specifically, the BAAQMD has the responsibility to  
 32 monitor ambient air pollutant levels throughout the Basin and to develop and  
 33 implement strategies to attain the applicable Federal and State standards.

1 **1.3.2 Current Permits and Permit Conditions**

2 In addition to the CSLC leases, which contain numerous conditions and requirements,  
 3 sand mining is regulated by the BCDC, SFBRWQCB, SMGB, and ACOE. Current  
 4 permits issued by these agencies, shown in Table 1-3, contain numerous conditions,  
 5 limitations, and restrictions, as well as various monitoring and reporting requirements.  
 6 Conditions relevant to the environmental analysis of the Project are summarized below.

7 **Table 1-3. Permits Associated with Project Sand Mining Sites**

Agency	Parcels							
	Presidio Shoals <sup>1</sup>	Point Knox South <sup>2</sup>	Point Knox Shoal <sup>2</sup>	Alcatraz South Shoal <sup>3</sup>	Suisun Associates	Private Leases Grossi Middle Ground		
CSLC	709.1	2036.1	7779.1	7780.1	7781.1			
ACOE	24305S	2441N	24997N	23573S	25041N	24996N (Hanson)	25653N (Hanson)	24913N (Jerico)
BCDC	4-77.17	5-80	12-94.5	M98-19.4	M99-7.4	10-90(M)	10-90(M)	16-78
SMGB <sup>4</sup>	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
RWQCB	Regional Board Order No. 95-177, as Amended by Order No. 00-048 (applies to all parcels)							

<sup>1</sup> Lease covers Alcatraz North Shoal, Point Knox North, and Presidio Shoals.

<sup>2</sup> Referred to in the Notice of Preparation as Point Knox.

<sup>3</sup> Referred to in the Notice of Preparation as Alcatraz.

<sup>4</sup> The SMGB has approval authority over the reclamation plans prepared pursuant to SMARA for the sand mining sites. SMGB adopted resolution 2005-02 in February 2005, approving the reclamation plans for 10 marine sand mining leases in the Central Bay, Suisun Bay and western Delta. The SMGB approval of the reclamation plans for the current Central Bay, Suisun Bay and Delta sites is limited to the term of the leases that expired in 2008.

Source: CSLC 1998; ACOE 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, BCDC 2008, 2009b; NOAA 2004; SFBRWQCB 2000

8 CSLC Lease Terms

- 9 • Each lease limits annual mining volumes (see Table 2-1 in Section 2.0, Project  
 10 Description) and contains various monitoring and reporting requirements. For  
 11 example, the lessee:
- 12 ○ must implement the mitigation measures contained in the relevant  
 13 environmental document prepared pursuant to CEQA;
  - 14 ○ cannot impair waters or interfere with navigation, nor deposit refuse into  
 15 the water;
  - 16 ○ must prevent waste of or damage to minerals, fisheries, or wildlife on  
 17 property; operations may be suspended if there is an immediate or serious  
 18 threat to these resources; and
  - 19 ○ must adhere to the relevant reclamation plan for each lease area prepared  
 20 pursuant to the SMARA.

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1 BCDC Permit Conditions

- 2 • Limits annual mining volumes;
- 3 • Must follow monitoring and reporting requirements;
- 4 • Prohibits dredging within 200 feet of shoreline or within 250 feet of any water  
5 4 feet or under mean lower low water (MLLW) for Middle Ground Shoal, and  
6 mining within 100 feet of Alcatraz Island or in waters shallower than 30 feet  
7 MLLW in the Central Bay;
- 8 • Must use potholing method for Middle Ground Shoal (see Section 2.3.2,  
9 Description of Sand Mining Methods, Equipment, and Locations);
- 10 • Priming the pump must occur at no more than 3 feet off the bottom;
- 11 • Must mitigate for take of listed species;
- 12 • Must complete entrainment study (study was completed in 2006);
- 13 • Must allow for inspections;
- 14 • Operations may be suspended or limited if there is substantial depletion of sand  
15 or significant adverse impacts;
- 16 • Must adhere to an approved Reclamation Plan; and
- 17 • At offloading sites, must minimize muddying of waters, dikes must be waterproof,  
18 and any seepage back to the Bay is subject to RWQCB regulations.

19 SFBRWQCB Permit Conditions

- 20 • Sediment collected must be largely sand;
- 21 • Cannot discharge into waters with “beneficial uses” anywhere in San Francisco  
22 Bay, where dilution ratio is not at least 10:1, or in any non-tidal water, dead-end  
23 slough, or confined water;
- 24 • For Middle Ground Shoal, no dredging within 200 feet of shoreline and 250 feet  
25 of any water 4 feet or less at MLLW;
- 26 • Cannot degrade water supply or cause a nuisance;
- 27 • Cannot operate in areas less than 10 feet MLLW;
- 28 • Must minimize wasteful dredging and discharges;
- 29 • Must not result in exceeding set limits for dissolved oxygen, dissolved sulfide,  
30 pH, or toxic substances in downstream water; and
- 31 • Must follow monitoring and reporting requirements and allow for inspections.

1 SMGB Resolution 2005-02 (February 2005)

- 2 • Approval of operators' reclamation plans and financial assurances that sufficient  
3 funds would be available to accomplish reclamation in accordance with SMARA  
4 (<http://www.consrv.ca.gov/smgb/staffreports2005/FEB/0210b-4.pdf>).
- 5 • The approved reclamation plans for the current mining operations state that plan  
6 approval is limited to the term of the leases.

7 ACOE Permit Conditions

- 8 • Limits annual mining volumes;
- 9 • Must not mine within 200 feet of shoreline or within 250 feet of water less than 4  
10 feet MLLW, and in 7780 prohibits dredging under 30 feet MLLW;
- 11 • Must allow inspections;
- 12 • Can suspend operations if there are adverse impacts to aquatic resources;
- 13 • Must avoid underground utility lines;
- 14 • Must follow monitoring and reporting requirements; and
- 15 • Must implement recommendations of sand mining study.