

## Dredging begins at Ventura Harbor



Photo by Stephen Baack

A contractor surveys the area Feb. 17 before dredging operations start for the day in Ventura Harbor. Though parts of the beach adjacent to the project are available for recreation – such as surfing visible in this photo – large sections of the beach are strictly off-limits to ensure the safety of residents and visitors.

BY STEPHEN BAACK  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**V**ENTURA, Calif. – Annual dredging commenced Feb. 14 in Ventura Harbor to deepen the federal navigation channel and sand traps to their authorized levels, with a scheduled completion timeframe of mid-March.

The Los Angeles District is working with contractor Manson Construction Co., which is using a hydraulic dredge to place beach-quality dredged material from the entrance channel onto the nearby South Beach to replenish the beach and alleviate sand erosion.

Maintenance dredging of federal channels is a responsibility of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to ensure the waterways remain safe and navigable. This project is expected to remove about 350,000 cubic yards of sediment.

Though parts of the beach adjacent to the project are available for recreation during dredging operations, large sections of the beach are off limits to ensure public safety. The LA District is also working with the contractor and Ventura Harbor to identify vessels that might inadvertently pass too closely to the dredging equipment.

“The professional boaters know to avoid the dredge, but sometimes – especially on the weekend – novice boaters may not be as aware of the safety regulations in the harbor about when it’s safe to proceed near the dredging ship,” said Mark Daniels, safety and occupational health specialist with the LA District.

This is particularly important because dredging, which requires the movement of

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## SPD commander highlights National Engineer Week

National Engineer Week was formed in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers and Army



COL. ANTOINETTE GANT  
SPD COMMANDER

engineers to showcase the critical role of engineers in the growth and welfare of our nation. From fuel-efficient cars to life-saving vaccines, engineers have worked tirelessly to develop new technologies, products and opportunities that change how we live today.

Our nation’s first engineer, George Washington, whose birthday inspired the dates for Engineers Week – Feb. 20-26 – spoke to these engineering marvels when he said, “Perseverance and spirit have done wonders in all ages.”

It is this same level of perseverance and spirit that allows engineers to deliver on their imaginings – even when they seem impossible to the outside world. These sentiments are at the heart of Engineer Week as we usher in this year’s theme “Reimagining the Possible!”

As one of the largest recruiters of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math disciplines in the federal government, the Corps and its members must be in the habit of inspiring the next generation by celebrating the many ways engineers turn dreams into reality.

Please join me throughout the week as the South Pacific Division celebrates these once “impossible” engineering feats while promoting understanding and interest in engineering and technology careers for our future engineers!

Happy National Engineers Week!



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support vessels to relocate anchors, place dredging pipes, and move people and supplies, is a 24-hour operation. The main vessel, the Dredge HR Morris, uses day shapes and nighttime lights to communicate to boaters when it's safe to pass and when there is an obstruction. Learn more by clicking [here](#).

The harbor is one of 14 along the Southern California coast, from San Diego Harbor near the Mexican border to Morro Bay Harbor on California's central coast, that fall within the district's area of responsibility.

The purpose of the LA District's navigation mission is to provide safe, reliable, efficient, effective and environmentally sustainable channels, harbors and waterways for movement of commerce, national security needs and recreation. About 1,500 craft are moored in Ventura Harbor, including sport and commercial fishing vessels. The harbor is also home to a commercial fish-processing facility, an offshore oil-drilling support facility, two public boat-launching ramps and the Channel Islands National Park headquarters.



Photo by Stephen Baack

Jose Rocha, left, resident engineer with the LA District's San Andreas Office, talks with LA District safety and occupational specialist Mark Daniels during Feb. 17 dredging operations in Ventura Harbor.

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# The importance of celebrating Black History Month

*Hello, SPL Team!*

*I am so honored I have the opportunity to highlight Black History Month right here in the NewsCastle!*

*During Black History Month, the Los Angeles District joins the rest of the Corps of Engineers, the Army and the nation in recognizing the tremendous contributions and sacrifices African Americans have made throughout more than 246 years of service to our country.*

*African Americans have been serving the military in countless capacities since the Revolutionary War, and their part to shaping our great nation is truly incalculable. It would be impossible to put into words the true depth, breadth and impact of this service and sacrifice, but we don't need to search far to see stories that exemplify the U.S. Army's proudest traditions of selfless service, honor and professionalism.*

*I'd first like to amplify the story of the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion – also known as the "Six-Triple-Eight" – an all-black Army unit of women who are still being recognized to this day for their service during World War II and their crucial role in ensuring loved ones back home stayed in touch with more than 7 million American troops serving overseas. These women, some of whom are still with us today, are part of the approximately 1 million African Americans who served in the military during World War II.*

*Their stories are included in the "Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences During World War II" exhibit at Heroes Hall in Costa Mesa, California. Learn more about the exhibit here: <https://ocfair.com/heroes-hall/exhibitions/fighting-for-the-right-to-fight>.*



**COL. JULIE A. BALTEN  
LA DISTRICT COMMANDER**

*I would also like to draw your attention to Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn C. Cashe, who paid the ultimate sacrifice as a result of his selfless and heroic actions in Iraq on Oct. 17, 2005, in saving the lives his fellow Soldiers. His heroism earned him the Medal of Honor, which was presented posthumously during a ceremony at the White House this past December. Learn more about his incredible story at <https://youtu.be/8XdHdktTkNQ>.*

*More recently, I'd be remiss if I didn't highlight how African Americans continue to exemplify the very best of the Corps of Engineers, including three employees of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center at Vicksburg, Mississippi, who are being recognized this week at the Black Engineer of the Year Awards in Washington D.C. Learn more about them here: <https://www.army.mil/article/254027>.*

*These are but a few stories among countless others, including many that never see the spotlight. Instead, the results of the actions reverberate through our lives in untold ways and will undoubtedly continue to have a lasting impact.*

*Today, with approximately 19 percent of Soldiers and 15 percent of the Department of the Army civilian workforce, African Americans are a vital part of the diverse makeup of the U.S. Army and our nation.*

*Recognizing the vital role black Americans play in the fabric of our nation need not stop at the end of February. Black history is not just a month; it is an inseparable part of the history of this country.*

*I challenge all of you to reflect on this legacy of courage, service and sacrifice throughout the year and just how important our diverse workforce is to the success of our mission.*


*I encourage you to take a few minutes to watch this video about the importance of Black History Month, featuring our Corps of Engineers command team Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon and Command Sgt. Maj. Patrickson Toussaint: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbYLD6gDDnQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbYLD6gDDnQ)*

*Every member of our team is critical in ensuring the Corps of Engineers stays true to its mission of delivering vital engineering solutions, in collaboration with our partners, to secure our nation, energize our economy and reduce disaster risk. It is my sincere belief that our willingness and ability to incorporate the unique perspectives of every member of our diverse team is a force multiplier.*


*Sincerely,  
Col. Julie A. Balten*







“There are so many different projects you get the chance to work with and all of the different emergency missions.”



**Jose Rocha**  
Acting Resident Engineer  
Los Angeles District  
South Pacific Division


## BUILDING STRONG

Name: Jose Rocha  
Title: Acting Resident Engineer





My Job:

“I enjoy working for the Corps because I get to work on so many different types of projects like channels, basins, levees, dredging, beach nourishment and rock work projects like jetty and breakwater repair.”

“I enjoy getting to work with different kinds of people.”



find us online:  
[www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil)



Courtesy graphic

According to EM 385-1-1, Activity Hazard Analyses are intended to be developed and used by the field crews/workers performing the work, with the assistance of others (SSHO, QC, superintendent, etc.) as needed. The initial, accepted AHA shall be provided to and used by the field crews/workers who are performing that activity. AHAs are to be considered living documents and are intended to be created in the field and updated by the workers as needed.

## Activity Hazard Analysis: AHA! The first step in jobsite safety

Los Angeles District Safety Office

Risk management is the process of identification, analysis and acceptance or mitigation of uncertainty — or risks. For U.S. Army Corps of Engineers processes, risk management begins with an assessment of any activity to identify those risks. That process is recorded onto paper in the form of the Activity Hazard Analysis, or as it's known, the AHA.

The AHA is not only critical to safe project execution, but it's a mandatory requirement before anyone starts work. In the Los

Angeles District commander's memorandum, *Risk Management (Position, Activity, Pre-Purchase/Pre-Use) & Risk Acceptance*, (published Feb. 7, 2021), the AHA is essentially the “final opportunity to inform employees of the hazards inherent in the tasks they are about to perform, and it must be afforded due consideration.”

Why is the AHA so important? Consider the roots of the business process of risk management that originated in the financial industry as the mechanism to assure investors that they wouldn't lose their money in

a particular investment. Risk management is all about preventing loss, and when it's your money you would definitely want a plan to reduce your risk of losing it. The next question is “who conducts the risk management process” for the activity? Almost anyone can author it. Everyone involved should have input, but it would be best to have the most competent person in the activity to do the analysis. “A-HA!”

To learn more, contact Chris Rainwater for the Construction Division or Tony McCoy for the Operations Division.

Click the links below to find the Los Angeles District on social media!

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter

YouTube

Flickr



Photo by Stephen Baack

Col. Julie A. Balten, Los Angeles District commander, greets Los Angeles County District 4 Supervisor Janice Hahn near the San Gabriel side of Whittier Narrows Dam during an onsite meeting Feb. 18 that included representatives from the City of Pico Rivera to discuss the progress and effects of the forthcoming Whittier Narrows Dam safety project. The group included Pico Rivera Mayor Pro Tem Erik Lutz, City Manager Steven Carmona, and city council members Gustavo V. Camacho and Andrew C. Lara.



# South Pacific Border District cases colors during historic inactivation ceremony

BY ROBERT DEDEAUX  
SOUTH PACIFIC  
BORDER DISTRICT

PHOENIX – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Border District cased its colors Feb. 25 during an inactivation ceremony in Phoenix.

Division leadership gathered virtually and in person to reflect on the district's historic accomplishments.

“Today is about celebrating this incredible team and acknowledging the district's contributions to the history of the nation,” said Col. Antoinette R. Gant, South Pacific Division commander and one of the former commanders of the district. “When the need was there, we rose to the occasion – and now it's time to apply what we have learned to other missions.”

The district completed its duties and responsibilities as a project-executing agency to help secure the nation's southern border. During its tenure, the district awarded 22 contracts valued at \$7.5 billion and installed 345 miles of barrier across four states along the U.S. border with Mexico.

“The work we have accomplished improved our national security and built upon our capabilities and capacity to respond to future emergencies,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey M. Beeman, the final commander of the district.

Through cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Protection, the District provided technical expertise in contractual and design construction services, and project management.

“In the midst of executing this mission, we also supported the federal emergency response to COVID-19, supported recovery from California wildfires, and assisted



Col. Antoinette R. Gant commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, South Pacific Division, right, and Lt. Col. Jeffrey M. Beeman, former commander of the South Pacific Border District, case the colors Feb. 25 during the South Pacific Border District's inactivation ceremony in Phoenix. Gant served as the third commander of the former District before assuming the role as division commander.

Coconino County's flood response,” listed Beeman.

On Feb. 15, 2019, the President declared a national emergency on the U.S. southern border enabling U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' emergency-related construction authorities.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Border District was established Dec. 6, 2019, to provide leadership, management, oversight, and support of infrastructure con-

struction operations along the U.S. southern border.

“I'm extremely proud of the accomplishments of our team over the past three years,” said Beeman. “I am both honored and grateful to have served as the commander of this dynamic organization. Our actions show others that, while this unit may be gone, the principles we established and the professional expertise we developed live on. Army Strong!”

## Regional Governance Board meeting



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division Commander Col. Antoinette “Toni” Gant, center, welcomed the division's district commanders during a recent Regional Governance Board meeting in San Francisco. Pictured, from left to right, are Lt. Col. Kevin Arnett, San Francisco District; Col. Julie Balten, Los Angeles District; Col. James Handura, Sacramento District; Gant; Lt. Col. Patrick Stevens V, Albuquerque District; and Lt. Col. Jeffrey Beeman, South Pacific Border District. Alongside their division counterparts, the commanders dedicated five days to a myriad of topics, including workload and workforce analysis, partnering best practices and lessons, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which supports the Corps' critical mission in the region.

# WHERE'S YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE?

**NATIONAL PARK TRUST  
PARKPASSPORT**

**National Public Land & Water Badges**

Park	Completed
Yosemite National Park	9/26/19
Olympic National Park	12/22/2021
Bryce Canyon National Park	7/26/19

**NATIONAL PARK TRUST  
TREASURE FOREVER**

Download the ParkPassport App

## Updated ParkPassport App

In case you missed it, the Los Angeles District has partnered with the National Park Trust and its newly updated ParkPassport App. In addition to more than 400 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sites added to the app, new features and enhancements include:

- Updated Park Finder
- New park and activity badges in the Digital Passport
- Offline functionality
- New fishing and accessibility information, and resources
- Thousands of updated digital resources and experiences

Download the app today to find a USACE lake or river project the whole family will enjoy: <https://parktrust.org/parkpassport>



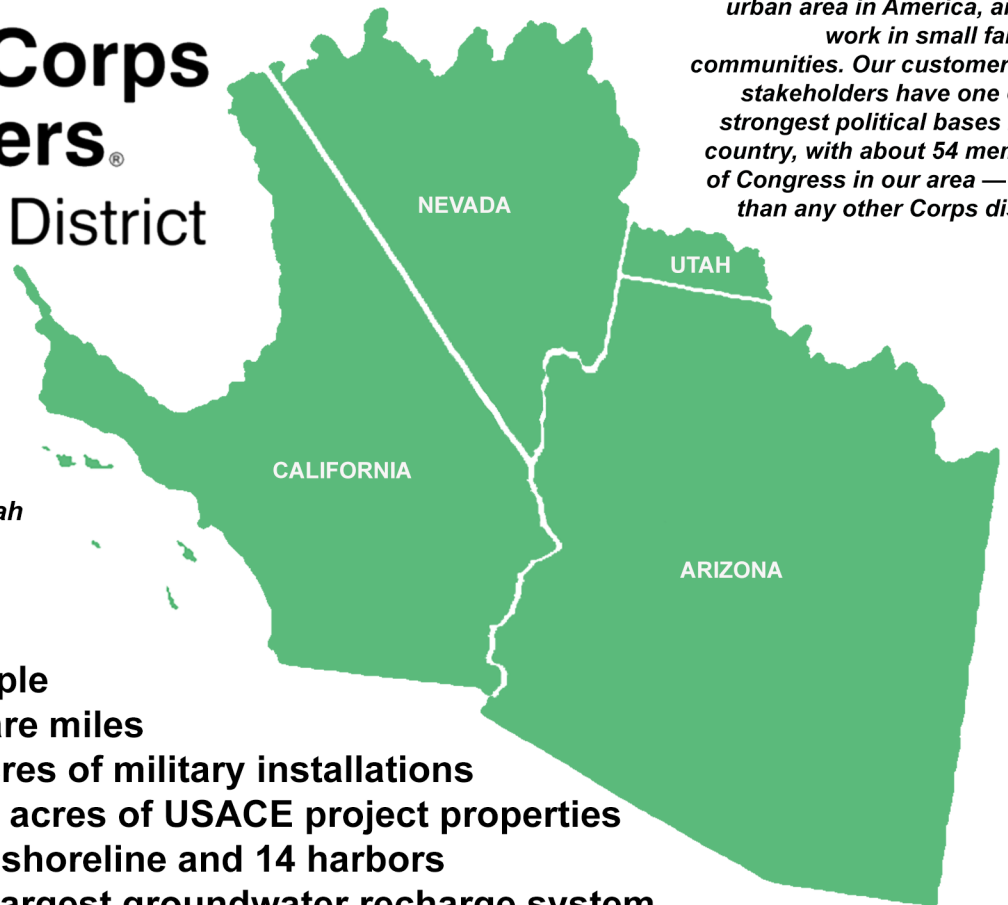


*A results-driven organization that values its people and partners and delivers world class infrastructure to the Nation for generations to come.*

# US Army Corps of Engineers®

## Los Angeles District

*The Los Angeles District is one of the largest in the U.S. covering southern California, southern Nevada, a slice of Utah and all of Arizona.*



*We operate in the second-largest urban area in America, and we work in small farming communities. Our customers and stakeholders have one of the strongest political bases in the country, with about 54 members of Congress in our area — more than any other Corps district.*

**Serving** 33 million people  
**Covering** 226,000 square miles  
**Support** to 8 million acres of military installations  
**Emcompassing** 80,000 acres of USACE project properties  
**Reaching** 420 miles of shoreline and 14 harbors  
**Incorporating** world's largest groundwater recharge system  
**Managing** 14 navigation projects and 13 miles of breakwaters

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The Los Angeles District provides civil works and military engineering support to Southern California, Nevada, Arizona and parts of Utah. The scope of missions in the district vary from supporting the world's largest groundwater recharge system in Orange County, California, to our involvement in one of the nation's most significant transportation projects, the California High-Speed Rail.

Among the 14 navigation projects and 13 miles of breakwaters maintained by the district are the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which account for a majority of West Coast trade and shipping.

Major flood-control projects include improvements to Prado Dam and the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project in Southern California.

The district is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 16 dams and 54 miles of flood control channels. The dams and recreation areas host more than 7 million visitors a year.

Military missions at nine installations include construction of a hospital at Fort Irwin, California, and F-35 fighter jet facilities at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.