

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



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Eleventh District

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**MAR 19 2015**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Sacramento District  
Attn: Mr. William Guthrie  
1325 J Street, Room 1350  
Sacramento CA 95814-2922

Dear Mr. Guthrie,

The Coast Guard has reviewed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice SPK-2014-00187. We recognize the importance of the proposed California Department of Water Resources Rock Barrier Project for emergency drought management purposes, and concur with the actions proposed to mitigate the impact on waterway users. Conducting outreach to the recreational boating community to increase awareness of the project will be essential. There are thousands of recreational boaters in the Delta that might not be aware of this proposal.

Each rock barrier should be marked in accordance with the U.S. Aids to Navigation System, like the other rock barrier projects in place in Old River, Grant Line Canal, and Middle River. We agree with the Department of Water Resources plan for marking the rock barriers and posting signs at upstream and downstream entrances to each waterway and other key locations to inform boaters of the restricted access. We request the department contact the Aid to Navigation Section Chief, Mr. Mike Van Houten, concerning specific requirements for the buoys marking the barriers and the signs. His contact information is provided below.

We will publish information concerning the project in the Coast Guard Local Notice to Mariners. We request the department send information for the notice to: [D11LNM@uscg.mil](mailto:D11LNM@uscg.mil) at least two weeks in advance of the start date for installing the barriers.

The Coast Guard recommends the Department of Water Resources coordinate with the California Department of Boating and Waterways while conducting outreach to the recreational boating community. Local marinas and recreational boating magazines should be notified in advance of the project.

The proposed project will also present challenges for the local Coast Guard Station at Rio Vista whose boat crews may need to use alternate routes when responding to cases in the vicinity of the rock barriers. This will increase response time for Search and Rescue cases. We request that the proposed boat lift at Steamboat Slough be able to accommodate a vessel of 29 feet and 8,500 pounds. These are the dimensions of the emergency response boats at Coast Guard Station Rio Vista.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. Mike Van Houten at (510) 437-2968, (e-mail: [Mike.L.Vanhouten@uscg.mil](mailto:Mike.L.Vanhouten@uscg.mil)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. J. Salas", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

M. J. Salas  
Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Coast Guard  
Chief, Waterways Management Branch  
By direction

Copy: Commander, Coast Guard Sector San Francisco  
California Department of Water Resources