



PORT OF REDWOOD CITY

The Scoop on Dredging

Dredging is the removal of sediment and debris from the Port's waterways and the San Francisco Bay Channel. Dredging is a routine necessity to keep Redwood Creek Channel navigable to water traffic.

Dredging maintains and improves the width, depth and length of the channel so the Port continues to bring in large vessels. Left undone, the channel would eventually fill up and close to boaters.

Dredging removes sediment from the creek bed that has been washed downstream where it gathers and begins to fill the channel. This sediment is called silt - fine-grained sand and clay that runs downstream, then gets re-deposited where it can block the flow of water and decrease the depth of the water.

Keeping our channel navigable for business has far and wide-reaching benefits for the entire region.

Who dredges the channel?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for the channel depth and in 2019 invested \$8 million to dredge it to 30-feet deep. In 2018 the Port invested \$2 million to dredge its berths to 34-feet deep, allowing larger vessels to berth.

How is dredging completed?

A machine, called a clamshell dredge, scoops sediment and silt from the creek bed. A dredge has the ability to reach the depths of the creek bed, lift out the silt, and put it onto a barge. The barge takes the dredged materials to other locations in the bay to be reused for shoreline resiliency.





Maritime Commerce Benefits

Brings Cargo for Construction Projects

Dredging keeps Redwood Creek Channel navigable for large cargo ships that import materials needed for regional construction projects. The Port of Redwood City's tenants bring in aggregates and raw construction materials used in building our region. The cargo flow supports our regional economy.

Reduces Ship Stops

Dredging reduces the need for lightering - the process of removing some cargo in a deeper water location, then shipping the remaining cargo to the final destination, to ensure ships do not exceed more shallow depth limits. This process can be expensive for shippers who need to make multiple stops. Dredging the channel keeps our water deep enough to meet cargo shippers' full capacities, as often as possible.



Waterfront Recreation Benefits

Supports In Water Activities

By maintaining dredging efforts, the channel remains navigable and clear for the public to enjoy recreational uses of the channel like canoeing, kayaking and sailing.

Supports Waterfront Atmosphere

The public can also enjoy fishing from the Port's public fishing pier or enjoy the rich flora and fauna that thrive on our local waterfront. Dredging ensures this living ecosystem can continue.

Allows Investment in Waterfront Amenities

Dredging supports the economic activity at the Port, which helps fund investments in public amenities like art and green space around the Port of Redwood City's waterfront.



Serving Silicon Valley

Reduces Environmental Impact

Having a wider, deeper and longer channel allows larger cargo vessels to visit the Port. Just one full cargo ship alone can reduce up to 2,500 local truck trips on nearby roads and highways, alleviating congestion and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Increases Regional Economic Impact

Dredging allows the Port to better support existing customers, grow operations to serve larger cargo vessels and move more imports and exports by ship. Dredging is significant to the economic health of the Silicon Valley region and supports the local construction industry with materials to fuel building needs.

Ensures Public Safety

The Port is a designated FEMA Federal Staging Area and could be activated during an emergency to move people and supplies. A clear channel ensures the Port is always ready to answer the call in the wake of an earthquake or other disaster.

Port of Redwood City

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