

**MEDIA RELEASE
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**Harbor District Joins in Welcoming New US Army Corps of Engineers
Vessel to Humboldt Bay**

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Humboldt Bay is experiencing a unique opportunity by hosting three different US Army vessels at the same time. The first is a regular visitor to Humboldt Bay, the *Essayons*. At 350' long, the *Essayons* is the largest of the US Army Corps of Engineers west coast dredge fleet and capable of holding 6,423 cubic yards of dredge material. The *Essayons* visits Humboldt Bay each year at this time to maintain Humboldt Bay's entrance by "street sweeping" any sediment that has accumulated in the channels thus keeping the bay's entrance safe. The second Army vessel presently in Humboldt Bay is the 170' long landing craft *Monterey* that entered Humboldt Bay for repairs on May 4. The most recent Army vessel to visit Humboldt Bay arrived today and is the brand new high tech debris removal vessel *John A. B. Dillard*. The *Dillard* joins the Corps of Engineers San Francisco District's existing cadre of debris removal vessels. Tasked with keeping the navigation and shipping channels of San Francisco Bay free of floating hazards, the Corps presently removes more than 1,200 tons of debris every year. At 87' in length, the *Dillard* is designed with two powerful double propeller bow thrusters and a large crane for lifting heavy objects such as large trees from the water. As Humboldt Bay is within the San Francisco District of the US Army Corps of Engineers, the *Dillard* is in Humboldt Bay to assist the Harbor District in removal of some large floating debris that is too large for the District's workboat fleet. The Harbor District enjoys a great working relationship with the Corps of Engineers and is grateful to have the *Dillard* working in Humboldt Bay on its maiden voyage. The *Dillard* will be docked at Woodley Island Marina's D-Dock until Saturday evening.

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