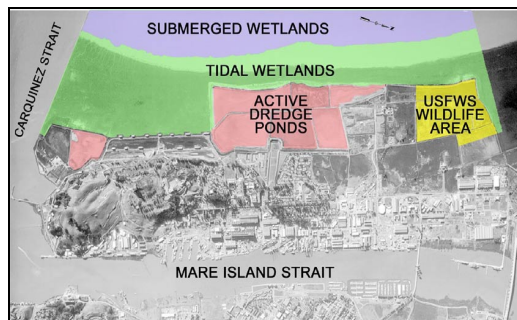




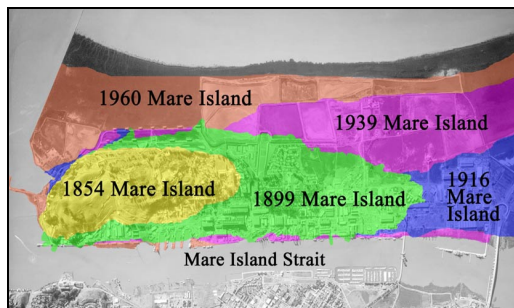
**NAVAL ORDNANCE  
AND THE MARE ISLAND  
WESTERN EARLY TRANSFER PARCEL**

The Mare Island Western Early Transfer Parcel (WETP) was transferred to the California State Lands Commission by the Navy in September 2002. The WETP includes the "Submerged Wetlands" (shown below in blue), the "Tidal Wetlands" (green), the historical dredge pond wildlife areas to be controlled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (yellow), and the active dredge spoils ponds to be commercially operated by Weston Solutions, Inc. (red).



Western Early Transfer Parcel

Mare Island Naval Shipyard was established by Admiral Farragut in 1854. The Mare Island of 1854 was much smaller than it is today. As the original Shipyard expanded to support the growing Naval fleet during the late 1800's and early 1900's, the island also grew. Much of the material used to expand the island was obtained from Mare Island Strait, which required continual dredging to maintain a sufficient depth of water for the Naval ships visiting the Shipyard. The growth of Mare Island is illustrated in the following figure.



Expansion of Mare Island

**Naval Ordnance  
and the Mare Island  
Western Early Transfer Parcel**

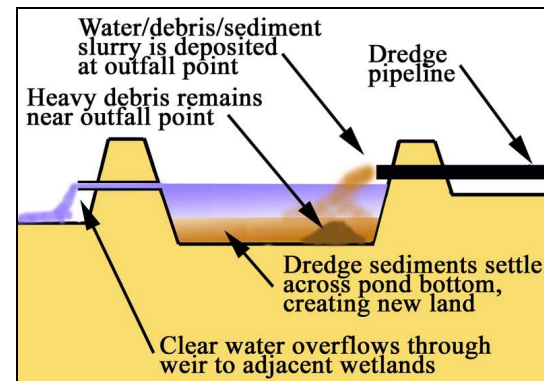
The yellow area represents the original footprint in 1854 while the other colors illustrate land that was later created by filling the surrounding wetlands.

A floating dredge was used to remove bottom sediments in a watery slurry and pump them through large pipelines to the dredge ponds.



Floating Suction Dredge

The dredge slurry was ejected from the dredge pipes into the dredge ponds at various slurry outfall points. Debris settled out quickly at the outfalls while the lighter sediments settled out of the water more slowly and was deposited across the pond bottoms. The clear water that resulted after settling of the sediment evaporated or was released through a series of weirs or gates into the surrounding wetlands.



Typical Dredge Pond Operation

The Mare Island Naval Ammunition Magazine was established in 1857 to supply ordnance to ships undergoing repairs at the Shipyard. During much of Mare Island's history, the accepted Navy

practice for disposing of unwanted ordnance was to throw it overboard from ships. Most of this discarded ordnance was eventually picked up during dredging operations and transported to dredge ponds where it quickly settled out and accumulated along with other discarded metal debris from the Strait into large masses at the outfall points.



Dredge Pond Slurry Outfall Location

The Navy conducted an extensive series of surveys and removal actions between 1995 and 2002 to remove ordnance material from the dredge pond outfalls and levees. However, a guarantee of 100% removal is not possible even with the state-of-the-art ordnance locating instrumentation used during the removal actions. Therefore, there is a possibility that a small number of items may remain buried.



Dredge Pond Outfall Debris Mass

The most common ordnance item recovered from the dredge ponds was the 20 millimeter (mm) ammunition used in anti-aircraft guns. The 20 mm guns were adopted by the U.S. Navy in 1942 and used aboard virtually every type of ship in the Navy during World War II.



20 mm Anti-Aircraft Gun

The ordnance items recovered from the dredge ponds were usually badly corroded and resembled harmless metallic objects such as rusty bolts and pipes.



Comparison of New and Weathered 20 mm Ammunition

It is very unlikely that a visitor or worker would encounter an ordnance item at the dredge ponds. To further reduce the extremely remote chance of coming in contact with an ordnance item, engineered

footpaths with a geotextile barrier will be provided on the levee tops for public use. When visiting the dredge ponds, please stay on the footpaths. If you should come across an unfamiliar object, **DON'T TOUCH IT!!** Although dredge pond ordnance items may look old and deteriorated, they could contain high explosive charges that may cause serious injury if mishandled. If you encounter a suspected ordnance item, mark the location with a hat or similar object and report it to the Vallejo Police Department.



If you find an object that you suspect to be ordnance --

**Don't Touch It**

**Mark the Location**

**Call the Vallejo Police**  
at 911 or (707) 552-3285