

Southern California Dredged Material Management Team (SC-DMMT)  
November 28, 2012  
Draft Meeting Notes

**I. Participating Agencies /Attendees:**

- a. Dan Swenson (USACE-Regulatory)
  - b. Bonnie Rogers (USACE-Regulatory)
  - c. Brianne McGuffie (USACE-Regulatory)
  - d. John Markham<sup>†</sup> (USACE-Regulatory)
  - e. Antal Szijj<sup>†</sup> (USACE-Regulatory)
  - f. Allan Ota<sup>†</sup> (USEPA Region 9)
  - g. Susie Santilena<sup>†</sup> – Heal the Bay
  - h. Matt Arms<sup>†</sup> (POLB)
  - i. Steve Capellino<sup>†</sup> (Anchor QEA)
  - j. Larry Smith (USACE-Planning)
  - k. Jack Gregg<sup>†</sup> (CCC) [only present for first agenda item]
  - l. Bill Paznokas<sup>†</sup> (DFG)
  - m. Jana Watanabe (POLB)
  - n. James Vernon (POLB)
  - o. Joe Ryan (USACE-Engineering)
  - p. Alan Monji<sup>†</sup> (RWQCB-region?)
  - q. Jim Fields (USACE-Navigation)
  - r. Mo Chang (USACE-Navigation)
  - s. Paul Wong<sup>†</sup> (LAC Beaches and Harbors)
  - t. John Kelly<sup>†</sup> (LAC Beaches and Harbors)
  - u. John Jiles<sup>†</sup> (LAC Beaches and Harbors)
  - v. Charlotte Miamoto<sup>†</sup> (LAC Beaches and Harbors)
  - w. Andrew Hunt<sup>†</sup> (Dutra)
  - x. Ken Kurtis (Reef Seekers Dive Co.)
  - y. Rocqueford (Roc) Allen (LAC Sheriff's E&D)
  - z. Kathryn Kempton (NOAA-GC)
  - aa. Bryant Chesney (NOAA-NMFS)
  - bb. Adam Obaza (NOAA-NMFS)
  - cc. Alison Miles (Project Noah's Arc)
  - dd. Victor Alta (Project Noah's Arc)
  - ee. Blake Horita (USACE-Navigation)
- <sup>†</sup> participating via teleconference.

**II. Announcements:** none.

**III. Project Review and Determinations**

**a. Marina del Rey Maintenance Dredging:**

- i. NMFS expressed concern over trash and debris observed on the seafloor at the temporary offshore disposal site and Veteran's Park submarine canyon during and immediately following the Corps Marina del Rey Maintenance Dredging Project. Members of the Corps questioned the project contractor, Dutra, regarding the disposal. Contractors stated that during water quality monitoring and their observations of shoreline nourishment, the sand at the surf line appeared clean and they were not aware of debris being deposited there. During offshore disposal, sediment placement was not visible and debris presence is not a part of standard water quality monitoring, so no observation of the deposit was made below surface level. Sand for the beach nourishment at the surf line was passed through screens, but the offshore sand was not. During beach nourishment, the screens were clogged with plastic and other debris numerous times.
- ii. Ken Kurtis, a local diving instructor and dive business owner with several decades' experience with the site, described conditions at the site before and after disposal. Roc Allen, another local diver, discussed the nature and extent of trash observations and the cleanup operations the dive community has been undertaking. From August 10, 2012 through October 15, 2012, Roc dove the site bi-weekly. He set up two quadrants around the barge and found large debris fields from 40 to 75-80 feet partially covered in sediment. These observations contrast with the clean sand he saw prior to August. Samples of collected plastic and other trash were passed around to illustrate the types of debris collected by divers.
- iii. A map illustrating dive tracks made by NMFS personnel investigating reported impacts was provided to the Corps. This map accompanies two NMFS videos showing debris on both the temporary offshore site and the submarine canyon slope.
- iv. Larry Smith suggested that Veteran's Park may be a natural debris sink and that a combination of factors, including disposal, may have led to the debris.
- v. Bryant Chesney stated that proving a causative link between the sediment disposal and debris to the satisfaction of the team may be difficult given the absence of the establishment of a baseline or monitoring concurrent with the project, and that discussion might better be focused on whether or not this type of outcome is acceptable for beach nourishment activities. Members discussed protocol which may be employed to prevent any such occurrence in future projects.

- vi. No conclusion regarding causation, mitigation or alterations to project planning in the future were reached. The Corps thanked the dive community for their contributions to both cleaning the site and awareness of a potential impact. All parties agreed this project would require further discussion.

**b. POLB Main Channel Deepening Project:**

- i. Between 5,700 (no overdepth) and 40,000 (2-foot overdepth) cubic yards of material is proposed to be removed from the previously-deepened main channel. Two areas were not dredged to full depth during the deepening project.
- ii. Material would be placed in Middle Harbor CDF, if suitable.
- iii. Previous testing occurred on-site in 1994. Sediments in the Turning Basin sediments were tested in 2001.
- iv. Corps asked if any additional testing was necessary now.
- v. Issues raised:
  - 1. Is it certain material would go to Middle Harbor CDF?  
Corps: uncertain, but if not, they would revisit the testing requirement with agencies.
  - 2. What is the state of the z-layer?  
Corps: should be native material as the upper 20-feet had been removed previously.
  - 3. Would turbidity testing be done?  
Corps: yes, will be described in SEA that will be prepared.
- vi. The group expressed no objections to proceeding as described above (assuming disposal at Middle Harbor CDF) with no additional testing required.

**c. Pier T Access Channel Maintenance Dredging (continuation):**

- i. Corps comments (POC: John Markham):**
  - 1. SC-DMMT approved the SAPR (June 15, 2012, Anchor QEA) and the use of Middle Harbor phase 1 fill site for proposed Pier T and Pier J Maintenance Dredging following June 25, 2012 “out-of-cycle” CSTF/DMMT meeting.
  - 2. With respect to chemical characterization of Pier T Dredge Unit 2 (“west basin approach”) sediments, the SAPR found the majority of detectable concentrations of metals, PAHs, pesticides, and PCBs measured in sediment down to a 1.5-foot overdredge limit to be below the effects range low (ERL) values, with the remainder being well below the effects range median (ERM) values. The latter included copper, nickel, 4, 4’ DDE, and total DDTs.

3. A portion of the Pier T/Pier J dredging was performed in July and August 2012 (including all of Pier T Dredge Unit 1), but could not be completed due to the annual maintenance dredging limit of 40,000 cubic yards (pursuant to Regional General Permit (RGP) No. 28).
4. The CSTF/DMMT reauthorized maintenance dredging of the remaining sediments at Pier J Dredge Unit 1 (~9,000 cubic yards) following the October 23, 2012 CSTF/DMMT meeting, including the following changes:
  - a. Revised maintenance dredging schedule (to early 2013);
  - b. Revised allowable overdredge depth (from 1 foot to 2 feet); and,
  - c. Disposal at the Middle Harbor phase 1 fill site (north end of slip 1), and if necessary, the Middle Harbor phase 2 “east basin borrow pit” fill site (from southern border of slip 1 to the south past Pier F).
5. The Port now seeks CSTF/DMMT reauthorization for maintenance dredging of a portion of the remaining sediments at Pier T Dredge Unit 2 (up to 31,000 cubic yards), including the same changes referenced above in 4.a.-4.c.
6. Determination: No objections from CSTF/DMMT members present regarding the above requests, based upon relatively low levels of contaminants and use of confined fill sites [Note: RWQCB and CCC not present for this project discussion].

ii. **USFWS comments** (Carol Roberts via email to Dan Swenson dated November 26, 2012):

1. No issues with SAPR report results or proposed placement of material.

**IV. Other issues:** None.