

**Notes for December 9, 2020**  
**Southern California Dredged Material Management Team (SC-DMMT) Meeting**  
US Army Corps of Engineers - Los Angeles District (5 pages)

**Attendance (WebEx):**

Stephen Estes (Corps Regulatory)  
Theresa Stevens (Corps Regulatory)  
Amanda Wagner (Corps Regulatory)  
Toni Nino (Corps Regulatory)  
Antal Szijj (Corps Regulatory)  
Jerry Hidalgo (Corps Regulatory)  
Kayla Toy (Corps Regulatory)  
Lia Protopapadakis (Corps Regulatory)  
Nickie Cammisa (Corps Regulatory)  
Larry Smith (Corps Planning)  
Kirk Brus (Corps Planning)  
Kym Howo (Corps Planning)  
Natalie Martinez-Takeshita (Corps Planning)  
Joe Ryan (Corps Coastal)  
Chris Hayward (Corps Engineering)  
Susie Ming (Corps Navigation)  
Blake Horita (Corps Navigation)  
Allan Ota (USEPA Region 9)  
Melissa Scianni (USEPA Region 9)  
Juliette Chausson (USEPA Region 9)  
Carol Roberts (USFWS)  
Jon Avery (USFWS)  
Kathleen Hicks (RWQCB Region 3)  
Mark Cassady (RWQCB Region 3)  
Emily Duncan (RWQCB Region 4)  
Darren Bradford (RWQCB Region 9)  
Alan Monji (RWQCB Region 9)  
Kat Prickett (POLA)  
Todd Mitchell (Ventura Port District)  
Keith Merkel (Merkel & Associates)  
Jorge Tomas (Pacific Maritime Group)  
Brent Mardian (Pi Environmental)  
Theresa Richards (Moffatt and Nichol)  
Chris Webb (Moffatt and Nichol)  
Ed Pongracz (Moffatt and Nichol)  
Tom Conti (Moffatt and Nichol)  
Richard Parsons (Rincon Consultants)  
Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)  
Stephen Comley (Vopak)  
Gerald Comati (BEACON)

**Announcements:**

Larry Smith (Corps Planning): Dredging at Port Hueneme will commence in January and dredging in Newport Bay has been delayed.

Allan Ota (EPA, Region 9): EPA recently hired Juliette Chausson, who is assigned to their Wetlands Section in San Francisco.

Theresa Stevens (Corps Regulatory): Theresa is working on finalizing the SAPR Guidelines.

**Rincon Trail**

- Terrestrial material would be excavated and disposed at either Ash Avenue Beach (Carpinteria) or Goleta Beach.
- Goal is beach nourishment.
- Soil cores indicate quarternary sand material.
- Bulk chemistry and grain size are proposed tests.
- Approximately 29,000 cubic yards would be excavated and disposed.
- The Ash Avenue site was approved under old BEACON permit, same for Goleta Beach but that permit expired.
- There are two sediment layers; A is old fill, B is quarternary sand. Tests will composite the A layer and the B layer and do the bulk chemistry and grain size on each composite. But, if the grain size results for the upper layer show significant variation, then the compositing for chemistry may have to be subdivided for the upper layer.
- EPA asked if surface layer is vegetated and whether there are differences that warrant more than a single composite.
- Consultants indicated iceplant is the majority vegetation type and fill is thickest at location B1.
- EPA recommended doing grain size before bulk chemistry and suggested nearshore in the surf zone is better than beach placement.
- Corps requested updated grain size information for Goleta Beach in light of numerous recent disposals.
- A revised SAP will be submitted for email distribution and review.

## **Ventura Harbor Maintenance Dredging Permit Amendment**

- EPA: When would the discharge take place?  
Ventura: After federal dredging is complete.
- EPA: Is the material predominately fine-grained or sand?  
Ventura: The material within the harbor and keys is fine-grained.
- EPA: Fine-grained material below the high tide line is considered waste rather than fill. The placement of fine material would fall under MPRSA rather than CWA. Can this material mix in with the material from the federal channel? Could the material be placed before or after the federal dredging and disposal is complete?  
Corps: We can look into special conditions on the permits to allow disposal of fines when sands have been predominately disposed. To allow a “mix” to be placed rather than solely fines.  
EPA: That may be justifiable. Total amount of sand dispersed must be greater than 51%.  
EPA will have an internal discussion on what that timeframe might need to be.
- Corps: Re-send physical and biological studies to EPA and plan to discuss appropriate special conditions with EPA.
- No other comments from other agencies.

## **Berth 187-190 MOTEMS Moorings & Seismic Upgrades**

- POLA is doing the testing, Vopak would do the work. The Confined Disposal Facility would be the disposal site.
- USFWS: What is the alternative disposal site if the material is not suitable? Answer: Uplands.
- EPA: Are there storm drain outfalls in the sample area? Answer: Yes. POLA indicated sampling locations were not organized around storm drains and EPA said they should not skew the sample locations away from storm drains, and the drains need to be shown on the map. They suggested moving sample locations to shoals.
- POLA asked agencies if a revised map could be emailed to the DMMT for review, rather than attend another meeting? Answer: Yes.

## **San Clemente Shoreline Protection Project**

- Corps: A Tier 1 review of the Geotechnical Appendix from the San Clemente Shoreline Final EIS/EIR provides sufficient information in determining sediments in the Oceanside Borrow Area are suitable for beach placement on San Clemente Beach. From the Geotechnical summary:
  - Corps sampled a total of fifty-three (53) vibratory boreholes within Borrow Area No.2 in 2003. The sediment within Borrow Area No.2 consists of beach compatible fine-grained sands and with local silty intervals and minor amounts of shell fragments. Significant gravel/cobble beds and lenses were encountered throughout the area, with thicknesses generally averaging 0.65 meters (2 feet) or less.
  - The smaller sub-borrow material area within Borrow Area 2 has been identified and marked on plate 2. This area represents materials that are expected to be composed mostly of fine sands and lesser percentages of coarser materials, such as gravels and cobbles.
  - A preliminary estimate of the volume of beach-compatible material was computed for Borrow Area No.2. Approximately 1,650,000 m<sup>3</sup> (20,500,000 yd<sup>3</sup>) of near-shore beach-compatible material was calculated using a 4.5 m (15 ft) dredge depth. This material is suitable for near-shore placement at San Clemente Beach.
- USFWS: Requests the Corps re-examine the need and appropriateness of placement of material at San Clemente Beach, particularly due to areas like North Beach and beaches of northern San Diego County, which need sand.
- EPA: In a follow-up email after the meeting, EPA stated that because the sand content of the proposed borrow area (Area 2A) is greater than 80%, they do not object to a “Tier 1” for this project and will not be requesting additional testing.

## **Channel Islands Harbor Detached Breakwater Dredging Project**

- Due to unforeseen project conditions, the removal of a shoal in the lee of the breakwater was not included in the initial project planning phase. The Corps, as part of its Operations and Maintenance Program, is proposing to perform excavation of shoaled sediments in the lee of the Channel Islands Detached Breakwater. This work provides access for contractor’s equipment to perform maintenance and repair work of the detached breakwater. Approximately 25,000 cubic yards will be excavated to a depth of -15 feet MLLW with a 2-foot allowable over-depth and side-cast. Excavation of the shoal would be performed by a clamshell dredge, over a period of approximately 1 – 2 weeks. The excavated material will be side-cast into Area C of the existing Channel Islands Harbor Operations and Maintenance dredge template.

- Construction is expected to take place between February 2021 and May 2021. The proposed action has been preliminarily coordinated with the EPA, California Coastal Commission, USFWS, NMFS, and the Los Angeles RWQCB. Analysis of the proposed action and the 2017-2018 Channel Islands Harbor Sediment Analysis Plan Report confirms the sandy material is suitable for side-cast placement.
- EPA did not have any concerns about the proposal and the RWQCB is processing the section 401 application.

### **Port San Luis Harbor Breakwater Operations and Maintenance Repair Project**

- Larry Smith (Corps) stated the excavated sediment to be used to create an engineered eelgrass mitigation site is basically considered side casting, as the material would be placed approximately 1,000 feet on the leeward side of the breakwater and within the vicinity of the breakwater, and therefore, would be considered like-for-like sidecasting similar to what was proposed for the excavated sediment in the December 2017 SC-DMMT meeting. Kirk Brus (Corps) stated the excavated sediment to provide access for construction equipment to perform work on the breakwater would not be dredging, maintenance dredging, or trenching work.
- In response to Kirk Brus' discussion regarding the approximate depth to support eelgrass in the engineered eelgrass mitigation site, Keith Merkel (Corps contractor, Merkel and Associates) verified an optimal excavation depth of -12 ft MLLW with a 2-foot overdepth to support eelgrass.
- Melissa Scianni (EPA) stated that EPA had no objection to the Corps' request for no additional (exclusion or exemption) sampling for the project based on the results that there is greater than 80% sand, closer to 90% sand. The RWQCB had no comment. Based on these responses from the SC-DMMT, the Corps' requests on the proposed project minor modification to use the excavated sediment to create an engineered eelgrass mitigation site and no additional sampling for the project were concurred by the SC-DMMT.