

**Notes for February 24, 2021**  
**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)  
Toni Nino (Corps Regulatory)  
Theresa Stevens (Corps Regulatory)  
Jerry Hidalgo (Corps Regulatory)  
Larry Smith (Corps Planning)  
Kirk Brus (Corps Planning)  
Chris Hayward (Corps Engineering)  
Joe Ryan (Corps Coastal)  
Natalie Martinez-Takeshita (Corps Planning)  
Susie Ming (Corps Navigation)  
Tiffany Armenta (Corps Navigation)  
Allan Ota (USEPA Region 9)  
Melissa Scianni (USEPA Region 9)  
Juliette Chausson (USEPA Region 9)  
Carol Roberts (USFWS)  
Emily Duncan (RWQCB Region 4)  
Jason Freshwater (RWQCB Region 8)  
Larry Simon (CCC)  
Chris Miller (City of Newport Beach)  
Kat Prickett (POLA)  
Andrew Jirik (POLA)  
Chris Brown (POLA)  
Cristian Centeno (POLA)  
Adam Gale (Anchor QEA)  
Erik Larsen (AECOM)  
Brent Mardian (Pi Environmental)  
Kim Garvey (Moffatt and Nichol)  
Stephen Comley (Vopak)  
Ken Kronschnabl (Kinnetic Labs)

**Announcements:**

Larry Smith (Corps Planning): Dredging operations at Port Hueneme encountered timber pile debris. Three- to 10-foot sections were caught on a grizzly screen over the dredge barge and disposed of at a landfill suitable for treated timber piles. A total of 10 tons of this debris was removed. There was no evidence of floating remnants either at the dredge or nearshore placement site. Dredging in this area has been completed. Dredging is expected to be completed the last part of March with the dredge moving down to perform maintenance dredging at the POLB Entrance Channel and the Los Angeles River Estuary.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA, Region 9): The USEPA recently hired Juliette Chausson, who is assigned to their Wetlands Section in San Francisco. Juliette should be included in future DMMT-related emails to the USEPA.

### **Lower Newport Bay Maintenance Dredging Project**

The project is maintenance dredging in the federal channels located within Lower Newport Bay. Construction funds were only available for a portion of the federal channels that will be dredged in 2021. Additional funds have been received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Corps is evaluating additional dredging in the remaining areas. Sediment sampling for the project was conducted in January 2018. Policies implemented jointly by the Corps and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) generally limit use of sediment quality data to a period of three years between sampling and dredging. This period can be lengthened by agreement between the two agencies on a case-by-case basis. Justification for lengthening this period includes minimal sedimentation in the dredge area and no known spill events that could alter the contaminant levels within the proposed dredged sediments above trace levels.

The Corps is requesting that the period used for the Lower Newport Bay sediment sampling and analysis program be extended to a period of five years. Sedimentation in the federal channels has been minimal (as reported by Anchor QEA). In addition, the Corps has conducted a records search and was unable to locate any spills in the federal channels or adjacent area that could alter the contaminant levels within the proposed dredged sediments. This request is limited to the composite areas where the USEPA concurred with the Corps suitability determination for ocean disposal at the LA-3 ODMDS. This will allow the Corps to dredge those remaining federal channels as funding is received over the next two years. Additional dredging will require preparation of an Environmental Assessment in accordance with the NEPA as well as new Water Quality Certification and Coastal Consistency Determination.

This request was discussed separately by the Corps and USEPA prior to the February 2021 meeting of the SC-DMMT. During that conversation, the USEPA agreed to the extension provided there were no contaminant spills or sudden influx of sediments and that dredging was restricted to the composite areas where the USEPA concurred with the Corps' suitability determination. The Corps decided to include the SC-DMMT in the discussion by including it on the agenda to allow other agencies to comment and/or ask questions.

The USEPA repeated its agreement to the extension but asked that a memorandum be prepared detailing the conditions of the request for record purposes. They added that any future dredging in composite areas where the Corps and USEPA differed in its suitability determination would require sediment sampling and testing. The Corps agreed and will also share the memorandum with the SC-DMMT and separately with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and California Coastal Commission (CCC).

Representatives of the Santa Ana RWQCB and CCC agreed to the extension request as well. There were no objections from other members of the SC-DMMT.

## **Surfside-Sunset Beach Stage 13 Project**

The project is a coastal storm damage reduction project that is an ongoing periodic widening of area beaches to protect infrastructure located adjacent to the beaches. Sand is dredged from a nearby borrow area and piped onto the beaches with mechanical spreading. The project has been delayed due to a lack of construction funding. Once funding is received, the proposed volume of sediments proposed for beach nourishment may be increased from 1.2 mcy to 1.75 mcy to provide a sufficiently wide beach to provide protection from coastal storms to infrastructure located behind the beach. The additional dredging would be evaluated under NEPA by preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Assessment. This would require amending certifications under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and the Coastal Zone Management Act by responsible state agencies (the Santa Ana RWQCB for the Section 401 Water Quality Certification and the CCC for the Coastal Consistency Determination).

Sediments in the proposed borrow area were sampled in April 2018. Policies implemented jointly by the USEPA and Corps generally limit use of sediment quality data to a period of three years between sampling and dredging. This period can be lengthened by agreement between the two agencies on a case by case basis. Justification for lengthening this period include minimal sedimentation in the dredge area and no known spill events that could alter the contaminant levels within the proposed dredged sediments above trace levels.

The Corps is requesting that the period use for the Surfside-Sunset Beach Nourishment Project, Stage 13 borrow area sampling and analysis program be extended to a period of five years. Sedimentation in the borrow area has been minimal as evidenced by the continued existence of pits in the borrow area from previous stages. In addition, the Corps has performed a records search and was unable to locate any spills in or adjacent to the borrow area that could alter the contaminant levels within the proposed dredged sediments.

The USEPA concurred with the extension request but asked that a memorandum be prepared detailing the conditions of the request for record purposes. The Corps agreed and will also share the memorandum with the SC-DMMT and separately with the RWQCB and CCC.

Representatives of the Santa Ana RWQCB and CCC agreed to the extension request as well. There were no objections from other members of the SC-DMMT.

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

- The SAPR summarizes that there was no exceedance of the Total Threshold Limit Concentration (TTLC) or Suitable Threshold Limit Concentration (STLC).
- There were limited criterion continuous concentration (CCC), criteria maximum concentration (CMC), Effects-Range Low (ERL), and Effects-Range Median (ERM) exceedances.
- Grain size analysis indicates the sediment would not be suitable for beach disposal.

- The report indicates the sediment is suitable for CDF disposal.
- A low amount of dredged material is anticipated, but the quantity will not be known until after construction.
- The USEPA had no concerns about CDF disposal based on the test report but will defer to the RWQCB because of CDF disposal.
- The USEPA asked how material is placed in this CDF and the remaining capacity of the CDF. The capacity information was not available during the meeting, but POLA indicated the material is placed in the CDF via clamshell dredge. The remaining capacity is reserved for POLA projects (maintenance and possibly capital dredging).
- Larry Smith (Corps) asked how the bottom of the scow was emptied. The answer is pending.
- The RWQCB agreed the sediment is suitable for disposal at the CDF.
- The USFWS agreed the sediment is suitable for disposal at the CDF.
- The CCC agreed the sediment is suitable for disposal at the CDF.
- The Corps agreed the sediment is suitable for disposal at the CDF.

### **Newport Bay Bridge Pump Station and Force Mains Replacement Project**

The proposed project would replace the current Bay Bridge Pump Station and two force mains crossing the Newport Bay Channel adjacent to the Pacific Coast Highway bridge. Crossing the Channel would involve dredging an approximately 600-foot-long by 15-foot-wide by 19-foot-deep trench across the Channel leading up to Upper Newport Bay (approximately 4,450 cy of dredge material and overdepth). The project is currently in the design phase and construction is a few years out.

At this time, they have not determined where the material from the trench would go. The options are:

- Side cast and reuse the material to backfill the trench (preferred option)
- Use the material for beach nourishment
- Dispose of material at the LA-3 ODMDS
- Landfill disposal

Jason Freshwater (RWQCB) mentioned there are large amounts of shell hash in the project area under the Pacific Coast Highway bridge and asked whether the project proponent had contingencies in place in case this material is encountered. Allan Ota (USEPA) stated that material containing shell hash is not likely compatible with the LA-3 ODMDS or beach nourishment as it would be difficult to conduct a toxicity and bioassay test.

Larry Smith (Corps): Do you plan to trench and then backfill with the side cast material?

- Ken Kronschnabl (Kinnetic Labs): Yes, that would minimize the amount material to dispose.

Allan Ota (USEPA): What is the depth requirement for that area?

- Answer: 10 feet MLLW.

Carol Roberts (USFWS): How do you plan to contain material and not have the sediment distributed to surrounding areas, which contain eelgrass? This area has a lot of sediment transport and eelgrass is sensitive to turbidity and sedimentation.

- Ken Kronschnabl (Kinnetic Labs): They plan to install silt curtains, but currently do not have specific plans for installing other BMPs.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA): Requested an additional figure showing the footprint, bathymetry, and dredge location, including the lateral extent of the project within the channel. With the current figures, it is difficult to determine whether the sampling locations are adequate for characterization. In addition, upland material cannot be disposed at the LA-3 ODMDS.

Allan Ota (USEPA): Project proponent should consider whether ocean disposal can be avoided, which would also avoid the added cost of bioassays. With side casting of material, they can conduct sediment grain size and chemical analyses instead. Also, a vertical profile of the project area that shows extended mudline and elevation on either side can help give a better perspective of the project.

- Ken Kronschnabl (Kinnetic Labs): Agreed a vertical profile would be helpful.

Larry Smith (Corps): This location may present potentially hazardous conditions during dredging operations due to the currents, bridge piles, boat traffic, etc. The project proponent should consider limiting the amount of time it takes to conduct the operation.

Carol Roberts (USFWS): Did drilling under the Channel as opposed to trenching get considered as an alternative?

- Erik Larsen (AECOM): Yes, directional boring was considered but the project engineers decided it was not a viable alternative.

A revised SAP will be submitted for email distribution and review.