

**Notes for October 27, 2021**  
**Southern California Dredged Material Management Team (SC-DMMT) Meeting**  
US Army Corps of Engineers - Los Angeles District (4 pages)

**Attendance** (WebEx):

Stephen Estes (Corps Regulatory)  
Theresa Stevens (Corps Regulatory)  
Eric Sweeney (Corps Regulatory)  
Lia Protopapadakis F. (Corps Regulatory)  
Robert Smith (Corps Regulatory)  
Larry Smith (Corps Planning)  
Kirk Brus (Corps Planning)  
Kym Howo (Corps Planning)  
Susie Ming (Corps Coastal)  
Chris Hayward (Corps Coastal)  
Victoria Jurado (Corps Engineering)  
Lily Schaffer (Corps Engineering)  
Allan Ota (USEPA)  
Melissa Scianni (USEPA)  
Carol Roberts (USFWS)  
Emily Duncan (RWQCB)  
Peter Von Langen (RWQCB)  
Loni Adams (CDFW)  
Eric Wilkins (CDFW)  
Cassidy Teufel (CCC)  
Jeremy Smith (CCC)  
Kat Prickett (POLA)  
Barry Snyder (Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions)  
Ken Kronschnabl (Kinnetic Laboratories)  
Ken Kurtis (Representing SoCal Diving Community)

**Announcements:** None.

**Discussion: Recent Oil Spill off Huntington Beach**

Larry Smith (Corps)- Provided details on oil spill and cleanup efforts and requested a discussion on whether there may have been effects on planned or ongoing dredging projects.

1. Comment from Larry Smith (Corps)- Regarding Corps Civil Works projects (a) the Surfside-Sunset Beach Nourishment Project has a borrow site offshore that does not appear to have been impacted based on available maps; (b) Talbert Marsh did receive some oil; (c) the Santa Ana River does not appear to have been affected because there was a sand plug that prevented oil from travelling upstream; (d) the San Clemente borrow site does not appear to have been affected; and (e) Newport Bay does not appear to have been affected. It seems the remaining oil has dispersed or dissipated. We want to ensure we have concurrence from the USEPA and RWQCB that our sites will not require additional testing.

Response from Allan Ota (USEPA)- For projects that have already been approved, unless there are visual indicators, we can continue to use the suitability determinations that have already been approved. We recommend observers to notify someone if oil slicks are seen at the borrow sites. We are also curious about offshore maps of the plumes. As soon as the USEPA became aware of the spill, I was concerned about impacts to the seabed because plankton will expel mucus that binds the oil and causes it to sink. We will continue coordinating with NOAA to determine if there are any impacts to the LA-3 ODMDS or LA-3 reference site.

Response from Larry Smith (Corps)- I am not aware of any plans to survey the benthic area for oil. Oil may sink on its own as well.

Response from Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- If the LA-3 reference site was impacted, then we would need to move it. I am not aware of any oil that went north of Huntington Beach or south of Camp Pendleton. If the opportunity exists, the Corps may want to consider grab samples for sand that would be placed on a beach for at least visual inspection or perhaps chemical testing.

Response from Susie Ming (Corps)- This can be considered at Surfside (maybe September 2022) and San Clemente (maybe September 2023), but these are dependent of federal funding.

Response from Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- This might help prevent delays in case oil is found at these sites.

Response from Emily Duncan (RWQCB)- These projects are outside of my geographic area of responsibility, but what the USEPA recommended is a good practice.

Response from Cassidy Teufel (CCC)- Yes, this was a good suggestion.

2. Comment from Ken Kurtis (SoCal Diving Community)- On the figure showing the pipeline, is the arrow an accurate location for the break?

Response from Larry Smith (Corps)- It is most likely an accurate location, but the U.S. Coast Guard may have a more accurate location.

3. Comment from Ken Kurtis (SoCal Diving Community)- Could the oil that sank affect abalone? Also, if the rigs get removed, could oil be brought up from the bottom?

Response from Theresa Stevens (Corps)- The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management studies potential effects from the decommissioning of oil rigs so there should be studies available.

4. Comment from Larry Smith (Corps)- Were any Corps Regulatory projects affected?

Response from Theresa Stevens (Corps)- One aquaculture site was potentially affected, but they had already removed all shellfish before the spill.

Response from Robert Smith (Corps)- The Edison SONGS Project off San Clemente is in the compliance phase and I am not sure whether it was affected.

Response from Eric Sweeney (Corps)- We have not received a lot of information on whether Regulatory projects have been affected offshore of Orange County. Nationwide Permit 20 was used to permit oil cleanup operations.

5. Comment from Carol Roberts (USFWS)- A SCAT Team is surveying beaches all the way to the border to determine which may have been impacted.
6. Comment from Kym Howo (Corps)- There was a sand plug at the Santa Ana River mouth, so the Santa Ana River wetlands did not get impacted. However, Talbert Marsh has another opening, so it was impacted. After the recent storms removed the plug, it reformed relatively quickly. The booms were removed last week and dissolved oxygen in the marshes is improving.
7. Comment from Loni Adams (CDFW)- When will the Oceanside Harbor Project start and will we get notified?

Response from Larry Smith (Corps)- It is scheduled to begin in the Spring of 2022 and we will notify you.

Response from Loni Adams (CDFW)- Will you have a beach monitor?

Response from Larry Smith (Corps)- There will be beach crews processing the sand as it flows out of the pipeline. We will ask them to look for any signs of oil.

8. Comment from Allen Ota (USEPA)- The figure provided states that oil is still spilling from the pipeline. Is that still the case?

Response from Larry Smith (Corps)- No, oil as stopped flowing from the pipeline.

9. Comment from Allan Ota (USEPA)- I am curious whether the U.S. Coast Guard has considered changing the location of the nearby anchorage area.

Response from Larry Smith (Corps)- I have not heard about that. There are a few anchorages that are relatively close to the break. Right now, all of the anchorages may be occupied.

Response from Carol Roberts (USFWS)- The anchorages were completely occupied when we responded to the area. The issue is being investigated.

Response from Theresa Stevens (Corps)- There is a contingency anchorage that is not represented on maps and we are coordinating with a potential offshore aquaculture applicant regarding this area. The U.S. Coast Guard is considering whether to map this area.

Response from Cassidy Teufel (CCC)- The pipeline was installed decades ago and the current charts may not be accurate, so a follow-up action could be to ensure all maps accurately reflect the location of the pipelines.

Response from Larry Smith (Corps)- The maps are re-surveyed periodically, but the pipeline may have moved in this area.

Response from Theresa Stevens (Corps)- FYI, the pipeline right-of-way is 200 feet wide.

Response from Allan Ota (USEPA)- The scope of an anchor from a large ship can be 100-150 feet wide, so this is concerning.

Response from Cassidy Teufel (CCC)- We are in a rather unique situation now with all anchorages being occupied.

Response from Eric Sweeney (Corps)- Pipeline repair work will need to be permitted under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.