

Notes for April 27, 2022
Southern California Dredged Material Management Team (SC-DMMT) Meeting
US Army Corps of Engineers - Los Angeles District (11 pages)

Attendance (WebEx):

Stephen Estes (Corps Regulatory)
Deanna Cummings (Corps Regulatory)
Crystal Huerta (Corps Regulatory)
Theresa Stevens (Corps Regulatory)
Toni Nino (Corps Regulatory)
Jerry Hidalgo (Corps Regulatory)
Miriam Yemane (Corps Regulatory)
Larry Smith (Corps Planning)
Kirk Brus (Corps Planning)
Chris Chabot (Corps Planning)
Gabriella Dodson (Corps Planning)
Joe Ryan (Corps Coastal)
John Goertz (Corps Coastal)
Luis Sepulveda (Corps Engineering)
Melissa Scianni (EPA)
Allan Ota (EPA)
Sandy Vissman (USFWS)
Carol Roberts (USFWS)
Chris Dellith (USFWS)
Jeremy Smith (CCC)
Walt Deppe (CCC)
Andrew Jirik (POLA)
Briella Matsumoto (POLA)
Taewon Kim (POLA)
Hugo Cisneros (POLA)
Kat Prickett (POLA)
Phong Ngo (POLA)
Todd Mitchell (Ventura Port District)
Chris Miller (City of Newport Beach)
Steve Cappellino (Anchor QEA)
Adam Gale (Anchor QEA)
Chris Osuch (Anchor QEA)
Jack Malone (Anchor QEA)
Chris Boucher (Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions)
Kimbrie Gobbi (Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions)
Barry Snyder (Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions)
Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)
Richard Parsons (Rincon Consultants)
Jacquelyn Chung (CPS Consulting)

Roll Call and Announcements: 10:00 – 10:10 AM

Larry Smith (Corps) – Newport Bay – *Caulerpa* found in China Cove, removal efforts done, some individual fragments still being removed. A smaller patch was found off Collins Island. Corps moving ahead with maintenance dredging and working with Caulerpa Action Team to establish protocols for the dredging project. Also, a grey whale found in Oceanside Harbor where active dredging is occurring. Monitoring initiated and consultation conducted with NMFS. No further sightings.

Project #1: 10:10 – 10:25 AM

- 1) Project name: Port of Hueneme Berth 3 Deepening
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation: K.J. May; Oxnard Harbor District
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Regulatory
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend: Crystal Huerta
- 5) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR): Update on Berths 1&2 high spots
- 6) Request for suitability determination? (y/n): No
- 7) Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link): None. Figures to be presented during meeting
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 15 minutes

Jack Malone (Anchor QEA)– Follow up to January SC-DMMT meeting. See figure, red areas on figures are where dredging occurred. Berths 1 and 2 were deepened in early 2020, next phase is Berth 3. Federal channels deepened in 2021. Berth 3 will be in late 2022, early 2023. High spots noted in 1 and 2 that are problematic. The question from January is where the high spots came from and what is the long-term plan. They looked at bathymetric surveys over time, post-berth deepening and post federal channel comparison is the most informative. See figure, yellow areas became shallower immediately adjacent to the federal deepening. Cross section A-A', the purple 2021 line displays the deepened federal channel adjacent to the berths; the berths accumulated more sediment. This figure also shows that no sloughing from under wharf is occurring. It seems that high spots are from incidental fallback from federal deepening. Since the federal channels have been deepened, they are the lowest they are going to be. There's limited sediment input so it's unlikely that additional high spots will occur at Berth 3.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Chemistry elevated in high spots, were the results from federal channel looked at to compare to high spot data?

Jack Malone (Anchor QEA): Area identified at corner of berth 1 and federal channel had higher concentrations – that material was dredged and placed in CAD. Think that may be source for adjacent high spot.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Why is there limited accumulation in Berth 3?

Jack Malone (Anchor QEA): There was some, but more limited because less dredging.

Larry Smith (Corps): Berth 3 is much more of a confined area and experiences less tidal flow.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Would be interesting to see whether additional high spot accumulation occurs after Berth 3 deepening.

Jack Malone (Anchor QEA): Other cross-sections had same under wharf slopes. Wharf improvements at these berths will continue.

Allan Ota (EPA): Berth 3, will you be incorporating bioassays for future dredging for near-shore placement?

Jack Malone (Anchor QEA): Yes.

Project #2: 10:25 – 10:40 AM

1) Project name: Berth 136-139 Maintenance Dredging

2) Applicant's name & affiliation: Port of Los Angeles

3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Regulatory

4) Corps project manager who will attend: Theresa Stevens

5) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR): draft SAP

6) Request for suitability determination? (y/n): No

7) Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link): Documents provided via email on April 21st

8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 15 minutes

Theresa Stevens (Corps): SAP for TraPac terminal Berths 136-139 to use RGP-29.

Andrew Jirik (POLA): Proposal is for two areas of TraPac terminal.

Kimbrie Gobbi (Wood): Hoping to do both projects simultaneously 136-139 and 144-147. See figures. Container terminals, so no contaminant handling. Proposed dredging to -46 ft with +2 ft overdredge. Proposing LA-2 disposal with confined disposal facility at Berths 243-245 as backup. See slides for contaminants of concern.

Theresa Stevens (Corps): When was the sampling analysis done for deepening? 2003.

Kimbrie Gobbi (Wood): LA-2 necessitates full Tier 3. See slides for Sample Collection and Testing Approach. 2 cores, one composite, penetration to -49 ft to adequately retain an archive sample. Tier 3 on composite. Berth accessibility may limit sampling windows; if greater than holding times, second reference set of samples would be collected. Sample collection sites at the end of storm drains with alternative locations. Dredging proposed directly adjacent to berths.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Would like a third location at berth 139.

Allan Ota (EPA): Another possible place would be to move eastmost proposed to the west and then add the third at 139.

Kimbrie Gobbi (Wood): Could we provide a map?

Melissa Scianni (EPA): EPA is flexible based on accessibility, but still prefer adjacent to storm drain and third core. Wants sufficient sample coverage to ensure enough data to make a decision.

Kimbrie Gobbi (Wood): Will send map to EPA so EPA can provide locations.

Kat Pickett (POLA): Summarized discussion.

Kimbrie Gobbi (Wood): Summary slide discussion.

Theresa Stevens (Corps): Reiterated that map exercise will occur offline. When would sampling occur? Late May to early June. TraPac will be able to determine berth availability closer to proposed date. Any other questions?

Melissa Scianni (EPA): General comments – several amphipod species in SAP.

Kimbrie Gobbi (Wood): Prefer to run grain size first to be able to order appropriate amphipods in time.

Theresa Stevens (Corps): Does EPA want species preference if grain size can't be run?

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Only if there's a proposal outside the Green book or SAP.

Allan Ota (EPA): Boils down to timing and coordination when proposal is outside the typical process. There are multiple approaches to address grain-size issues that could be used but would need coordination.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Reminder that PCB congeners only are needed for ocean disposal.

Project #3: 10:40 – 10:55 AM

- 1) Project name: Berth 144-147 Maintenance Dredging
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation: Port of Los Angeles
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Regulatory
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend: Theresa Stevens
- 5) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR): draft SAP
- 6) Request for suitability determination? (y/n): No
- 7) Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link): Documents provided via email on April 21st
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 15 minutes

Theresa Stevens (Corps): East berthing area for TraPac. Port seeking to proceed under RGP 29.

Kimbrie Gobbi (Wood): Berths 144-147 SAP. Propose to dredge to -53 ft with +2 overdredge. Disposal at LA-2 with CDF as back up. Container terminal only. See slides for contaminants of concern.

Same sampling approach as 136-139. Very busy berths require coordination with TraPac for access. See slide for core proposal. One composite at this site, with two cores and three alternative locations.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): EPA wants third core at 147. Can be flexible about sliding the cores around both to access deepest shoals and storm drain outlets.

Allan Ota (EPA): Alternate location at 147 is where EPA prefers third core.

Theresa Stevens (Corps): Would like to see both 136-139 and 144-147 on the same map for location proposal.

Kimbrie Gobbi (Wood): Will send out existing maps for comment, then an additional map for comment, then final SAP.

Theresa Stevens (Corps): May not need entire revised SAP.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Approval after exhibits revision is fine. Prefer the single map now.

Kimbrie Gobbi (Wood): Will provide single map. Summarized 144-147 SAP. See slides for detail. Note one composite, not two.

Carol Roberts (USFWS): Did not receive 136-139 presentation – please provide.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Discussion on amphipods applies here, as well.

Allan Ota (EPA): Holding time for projects is 8 weeks. Please get analysis done within two weeks of each other.

Break: 10:55 – 11:00 AM

Project #4: 11:00 – 11:30 AM

- 1) Project name: Berth 401-406 Maintenance Dredging - Tier I Assessment
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation: Port of Los Angeles
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Regulatory
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend: Theresa Stevens (Corps) Stevens
- 5) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR): Tier I Assessment (follow up to DMMT suitability determination in 2017)
- 6) Request for suitability determination? (y/n): Yes
- 7) Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link): Documents provided via email on April 21st
Presentation slides will be distributed before the meeting
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 30 minutes

Theresa Stevens (Corps): Tier 1 exemption request for 401-406. Pier 400 constructed some years ago. Has only been three years since last work. Restoring back to design depths.

Kat Prickett (POLA): With this Tier 1 exemption request would like to conduct work as soon as possible.

Kimbrie Gobbi (Wood): Prior approval and maintenance in 2017. Propose 404-405 to begin May 9, and the rest to be determined. Accessibility is an issue. Summarized prior testing and approvals, see slides. Few notable events have occurred within project area. Only three spills within project area, mostly isolated, transient, or contained. Proposed 0.51 acre increase in dredge area proposed and 1,090 cy volume increase. Location is relatively isolated within Port in terms of storm drains and other activities such that sediment characteristics are not substantially different from 2017 results.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): We need to see the total volume increase for entire project. Trying to get a one-to-one comparison. So, either provide the berth 404-405 dredge volume for 2017 and now or provide the total dredged volumes from 2017 and now for whole project. Would like the percentage increase.

Kat Prickett (POLA): 404-405 difference is 1000.

Theresa Stevens (Corps): If there is a grain size difference is there still flexibility?

Melissa Scianni (EPA): There is flexibility, not a firm number.

Allan Ota (EPA): Would have preferred a different map. 10% is a rule of thumb and depends where and how much accumulation has occurred.

Kimbrie Gobbi (Wood): Will check with CAD to see if shoaling and depth data is available.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Add the percent difference and explain the extrapolation better. Add more explanation of what happened with toxicity testing in 2017.

Theresa Stevens (Corps): Please provide tracked changes version. Would EPA be able to prioritize this project?

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Can turn revisions review around quickly including approval as appropriate.

Kimbrie Gobbi (Wood): Will try to turn around request this week. Refer reviewers to the 2017 Tier 1 results in attachments.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Please add toxicity discussion in main text so future readers are clear why Tier 1 is done here.

Allan Ota (EPA): The ocean dumping regulations at 40 CFR 227.5 says material needs to be fully characterized for ocean disposal - want to ensure that project is covered. Clarified that the concern is the potential uncharacterized material is limited enough to have a basis for approval.

Kat Prickett (POLA): Will have revisions out no later than beginning of next week. Will conduct bathymetry at rest of site and will provide.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Might be able to approve 404-405 and then approve rest later with additional maps, data.

Project #5: 11:30 – 12:00 PM

- 1) Project name: Frieden Dredge Project
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation: Jacquelyn Chung, CPS Consulting
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Regulatory
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend: Miriam Yemane
- 5) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR): draft SAP
- 6) Request for suitability determination? (y/n): No
- 7) Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link): Documents provided via email on April 21st
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 30 minutes

Jacquelyn Chung (CPS Consulting): Would like approval for Frieden Dredge SAP.

Miriam Yemane (Corps): Please go over plan, unclear on DDT results.

Jacquelyn Chung (CPS Consulting): Sampling has not been conducted, as we still need approval for SAP. Would like to conduct sampling.

Carol Roberts (USFWS): Please utilize proper sample containers, no plastic bags for organic chemistry.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): EPA has provided previous comments.

Miriam Yemane (Corps): Looks ok to move forward.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Concur with Carol. Wants to know if lab will refrigerate or freeze samples – affects holding times.

Jacquelyn Chung (CPS Consulting): Frozen.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Testing of Z layer? Bottom six inches of each core for DDT? Please clarify.

Allan Ota (EPA): If you're not certain of the final depth it should read +6 inches, such as -15.5'.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Be clear on over depth and z layer. To dredge to -15, sediment would need to be fully tested to -15'+2' (i.e., the dredged depth plus 2 feet of over depth) and the z-layer would be from -17 to -17.5'. Add a table that includes each core, the dredge depth, over depth and z layer.

Allan Ota (EPA): Still reviewing. Can get back to everyone this week once review is complete. Will add additional comments and clarification to sampling methods.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Is ok with core locations. Analyze the rest of core once clean z layer found.

Jacquelyn Chung (CPS Consulting): Will incorporate comments into report and provide to DMMT.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Should be able to proceed to approval without presentation at another meeting.

Project #6: 12:00 – 12:30 PM

- 1) Project name: Ventura Harbor and Ventura Key Maintenance Dredging
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation: Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants) Lerma, Rincon Consultants Inc. representing the Ventura Port District and City of Ventura
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Regulatory
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend: Jerry Hidalgo
- 5) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR): Discussion of proposed changes to permit project descriptions and special conditions
- 6) Request for suitability determination? (y/n): No
- 7) Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link): Documents provided via email on April 21st
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 30 minutes

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants): Overview presentation. See slides.

Chris Dellith (USFWS): Right now the thing that stands out to me is the beach berm at the lagoon/estuary and expanding the beach. I'm curious to how the proposed berm action relates to the berm building process of the lagoon. There is critical habitat for tidewater goby, and any effects to the berm building process at the lagoon could be an effect to tidewater goby and its critical habitat. In an email to me and the Corps, NMFS also provided similar concerns, in relation to steelhead, and I just want to echo their concerns too.

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants): The berm is about 2000 feet from the bank of the river mouth, and in the last 15 years actions have not occurred south of the boundary at McGrath State Beach. State Parks said they didn't want deposition to occur there, all deposition has and are planned to occur near the ponds. The sandy material that is placed by the Corps is discharged in that same area – reports and studies have demonstrated that this placement has not affected the habitat and water quality in the near shore. The majority of the material deposited here is all course grain sand and along a highly dynamic coast. We'd be happy to discuss potential concerns.

Chris Dellith (USFWS): How does that sediment settle down coast, will that modify the breaching regime which is critical to tidewater goby and steelhead. That information is not in the provided materials.

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants): The Corps deposits material where the beach is widening, all that material is the same material found in the nearshore, it is pretty much an alluvial plain in the nearshore of the Santa Clara River. The placement of fine grain material is minimal compared to

the material placed by the Corps. Studies have shown that the Corps material ends up in the ocean and isn't seen in the shoaling of the berm at the Santa Clara. In the wintertime, when this would occur, the wave energy is distributing outwards.

Chris Dellith (USFWS): Add that information you described into the project information submitted to the Corps to evaluate effects to goby.

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants): We would be happy to add that information for consultation with the permit renewal and amendment.

Allan Ota (EPA): To address Chris Dellith's concerns, the whole reason for the berm is to address how you can place fine grain material along the beach, which is typically disposal and not beneficial for the beach. We wanted to address how placement of the fine material can be used for beach nourishment, by this idea to mix the existing fine grain with the existing sand. The fine grain material is very small compared to the sandy material placed. Project was engineered to find a legal solution.

Chris Dellith (USFWS): Looking to see how the project would be in compliance with ESA. We need to address ESA.

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants): If the lagoon is closed there would be no effect to goby?

Chris Dellith (USFWS): I'm asking that the documentation looks to see if there is an effect to the beach berm building and/or breaching and the effects that would have to goby.

Todd Mitchell (Ventura Port District): What I hear you saying is that the material placement would make it more difficult for water coming down the river for the natural process of the berm breaching process to occur.

Chris Dellith (USFWS): That's correct. A question of jurisdiction - does the EPA have jurisdiction?

Allan Ota (EPA): We primarily look at the suitability of the sediments to be placed as part of the dredging. During a suitability determination we pointed out that the mechanism which was the placement of sediment was incorrect.

Chris Dellith (USFWS): So you just provide technical assistance?

Allan Ota (EPA): For the berm, yes.

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants): For the tidewater goby, would you like us to prepare a statement on how it will not affect the goby?

Chris Dellith (USFWS): Yes, and to provide a biological assessment for the agencies which have jurisdiction, and we can consult with them, formally or informally. If there is no federal nexus, we then would work with you directly.

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants): Currently how it has been done for the past several years has been to just place the fine grain material in the same current location. The only new part of the action is the berm will be used when not open or flowing at 100 cfs.

Chris Dellith (USFWS): I understand the permits are in place but an amendment to me means there is going to be a change to the project and we just haven't seen what the effects of that change will be to listed species.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Chris to address your jurisdiction question - how this berm is being presented, this would only involve the Corps.

Jerry Hidalgo (Corps): I just want to also echo Chris' request for an evaluation to species and that it be included in the upcoming permit renewal and amendment requests.

Todd Mitchell (Ventura Port District): It is my understanding that the City water project will affect the natural breaching process at the river. Do you want that incorporated into the analysis?

Chris Dellith (USFWS): The city has done a good analysis on that. I'm currently engaged in consultation with them, and in light of the City water project, it should be included in your analysis.

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants): We work with the City and we will coordinate with them to include some of the work we have done into the analysis.

Walt Deppe (CCC): As an update to the group, we recently reached out to the City and Port District to discuss technical questions on the CCC permit and special conditions. We have some outstanding concerns for water quality, listed species, and public access. We have asked that they meet with our technical staff to develop some alternatives analysis for the berm and potential different disposal sites.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): I had a question on the December 2020 memo. Will you still be pursuing the fine grain cubic yard limitations outlined in that memo?

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants): The intention of that was for placement when the mouth isn't open. I think the berm concept didn't come about until subsequent discussions following that memo between the Corps and EPA. We would prefer that this berm method be the primary disposal option.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): We, EPA, just wanted to confirm that the berm alternative supersedes the options outlined in the 2020 memo.

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants): Correct, right now based on the current permits we are permitted to do the beach placement. However, the intention of this meeting is to make sure the new berm alternative is a collaborative process with all agencies.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Also, Allan and I talked about the chlordane levels and we can have that discussion after comments on the berm.

Jerry Hidalgo (Corps): NMFS couldn't attend today's meeting and we will work offline with them.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Before we go offline would you like me to address the chlordane or I can do it by email too.

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants): We can do it offline.

Melissa Scianni (EPA): Will do, thanks.