

Notes for April 26, 2023
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)
Antal Szijj (Corps Regulatory)
Miriam Yemane (Corps Regulatory)
Gerardo Salas (Corps Regulatory)
Larry Smith (Corps Planning)
Tiffany Armenta (Corps Planning)
Kymberly Howo (Corps Planning)
Natalie Martinez-Takeshita (Corps Planning)
John Goertz (Corps Engineering)
Melissa Scianni (USEPA)
Allan Ota (USEPA)
Carol Roberts (USFWS)
Jeremy Smith (CCC)
Jules Kelly (CCC)
Walt Deppe (CCC)
Claudia Tenorio (Santa Ana RWQCB)
Hossein Shahrokhnia (Santa Ana RWQCB)
Leslie Hart (CDFW)
Cody Stults (City of Ventura)
Richard Parsons (Ventura Port District)
Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)
Adam Gale (Anchor QEA)
Chris Osuch (Anchor QEA)
Jorge Tomas (Pacific Maritime Group)

Roll Call and Announcements: 11:00 – 11:10 AM

Theresa Stevens (Corps)- We are still working on the DMMO conditions from Corps ERDC and adding those conditions to our letter templates. There is a website and phone number to contact to assist with compliance. This is a standard procedure.

Project #1: 11:10 – 11:40 AM

- 1) Project name: Ventura Keys Maintenance Dredging Project – Advanced Maintenance Dredge Area Concept
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation: Derek Lerma, Rincon Consultants on behalf of the City of Ventura
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Regulatory
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend: Antal Szijj

5) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR): Concept presentation for evaluation and feedback prior to the concept being integrated into the City's dredge permit renewal/amendment application

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

7) Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link): PowerPoint presentation to be provided prior to the meeting

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

Walt Deppe (CCC)- I recall some previous discussions about the availability to use the inner harbor depressions and that the hydraulic dredge has too much power to make it into the depressions. Would that be possible here?

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)- The depressions were too small of a volume and a much smaller dredge would be used here.

Richard Parsons (Ventura Port District)- We use an 8-inch to 12-inch dredge in the inner harbor. The scale is different.

Allan Ota (USEPA)- Nearshore areas were shown on an earlier slide. We initially had some concerns about fine-grained sediment here that could not be beneficially reused. I was happy to see a berm on the higher beach. Is the berm meant to be used for areas that are not currently sand?

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)- Some finer-grained material will be placed behind the berm and some of it will flow around it.

Allan Ota (USEPA)- Will you just be testing chemistry or is there an option for bioassays if the chemistry is above ERLs?

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)- There is no ODMDS available nor suitable upland disposal sites. In the past, the chemistry has been below ERLs. The City is willing to conduct bioassay testing.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- There was one constituent that was too high.

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)- The Port and City are planning for that contingency.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- Have you used the berm yet?

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)- No, the permits for that have not been received yet.

Allan Ota (USEPA)- Has the Advance Maintenance Dredge Area been dredged past -15 feet MLLW in the past?

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)- No, it may have been dredged to -12 feet MLLW at one time.

Allan Ota (USEPA)- You may want to consider separating the Advance Maintenance Dredge Area for sampling.

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)- So make that area its own DMMU? Yes, we can characterize that separately.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- Yes, we recommend testing that separately. You can take cores at the same places and split them.

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)- We will need to bring in a vessel that will be able to sample deep enough.

Allan Ota (USEPA)- If it turns out that this is good sand, it could be placed in the nearshore, high beach, or could be used to build up the berm again.

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)- Yes, we wanted to include that alternative in our permit application packages.

Allan Ota (USEPA)- Will the Advance Maintenance Dredging Area hold sediment that will be dredged and pumped there?

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)- It will be moved from Channels 1, 2, and 3 into that area.

Allan Ota (USEPA)- Will the sediment be characterized first?

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)- Yes.

Allan Ota (USEPA)- When this sediment is to be moved further out, please do confirmatory chemistry.

Derek Lerma (Rincon Consultants)- Yes, we will.

Project #2: 11:40 AM – 12:30 PM

- 1) Project name: City of Newport Beach Regional General Permit (RGP) 54
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation: Chris Miller, Public Works Manager, City of Newport Beach
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Regulatory
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend: Gerry Salas
- 5) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR): SAPR
- 6) Request for suitability determination? (y/n): Yes
- 7) Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link): SAPR emailed to the SC-DMMT distribution list on 4/20/2023
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 45 minutes

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- I noticed in Areas 2 and 3, many of the cores were short. The document mentioned that you were hitting refusal. Have we characterized that consolidated sand layer?

Chris Osuch (Anchor QEA)- We would need to go back and look at the deep borings that were done for the CAD. We did get to the z-layer on some of them. It was consistent throughout the cores. With the CAD, we sampled a couple of feet deeper, but it was not representative of the full depth of the CAD.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- For that consolidated sand layer, please draft a supplemental report with what we know about it so far so that we have something to support the ocean suitability determination on.

Adam Gale (Anchor QEA)- In addition, dredging to the z-layer in these areas would receive confirmatory testing of DDT and grain size.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- With that supplemental information, there are only a couple of areas to resolve. At Balboa Island, the green area should be light blue.

Chris Osuch (Anchor QEA)- Yes, that was the area we mentioned had an error.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- We would like confirmatory testing south of West Lido Channel. If we get z-layer data back particularly for Areas 2 and 3, if there is much higher DDT than the composite, we may have issues with that going to the ODMDS. Approximately 100 ppb higher is a good benchmark for concern.

Jules Kelly (CCC)- I have a question about Table 11. It states that bolded values are significantly less than reference, but the paragraph states it is within 20 percent.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- For both the OTM and ITM, they need to be significantly different and more than 20 percent to fail for amphipods.

Jules Kelly (CCC)- Appendix A has figures of planned area adjustments. Is there a proposal to change the dredging footprints or testing requirements?

Adam Gale (Anchor QEA)- Yes, both (the RGP 54 map was shown to describe boundary adjustments).

Jules Kelly (CCC)- Are these covered by existing CCC authorizations?

Adam Gale (Anchor QEA)- The next step would be ensuring those areas are authorized by the CCC.

Claudia Tenorio (RWQCB)- Please ensure the areas in orange are covered by the 401 certification.

Carol Roberts (USFWS)- Please ensure Caulerpa is addressed in the RGP.

Hossein Shahrokhnia (RWQCB)- DDT is high in Subarea 1E.

Adam Gale (Anchor QEA)- The only areas proposed for confirmatory testing are Areas 2 and 3.

Hossein Shahrokhnia (RWQCB)- DDT is high in 1E and you are not proposing confirmatory testing there? In the future, I recommend confirmatory testing in this area.

Adam Gale (Anchor QEA)- We can follow up on that request. Are you asking it to be changed for future iterations of RGP 54?

Hossein Shahrokhnia (RWQCB)- Yes.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- Do you plan to submit a final document or memo?

Adam Gale (Anchor QEA)- We are updating the sediment suitability maps, will attach Tier I results, and send to the SC-DMMT.

Jules Kelly (CCC)- The SAPR mentions a new z-layer threshold for DDT.

Adam Gale (Anchor QEA)- In prior sediment suitability determinations, there was no DDT threshold leading up to 2018. Then there was a threshold of 18 ppb. It restricted many projects from using RGP 54. If applicants are not able to use RGP 54 because of a lower threshold, it leaves few options. We don't have a good answer yet, but we are working on it with the agencies.

Carol Roberts (USFWS)- Please include the USFWS in the discussions on reconsidering the 18-ppb threshold.