

Notes for February 28, 2024
Southern California Dredged Material Management Team (SC-DMMT) Meeting
US Army Corps of Engineers - Los Angeles District (9 pages)

Attendance (WebEx):

Stephen Estes (Corps Regulatory)
Crystal Huerta (Corps Regulatory)
Lisa Mangione (Corps Regulatory)
Robert Smith (Corps Regulatory)
Kirk Brus (Corps Planning)
Tiffany Armenta (Corps Planning)
Larry Smith (Corps Planning)
Doland Cheung (Corps Planning)
Lily Schaffer (Corps Engineering)
Melissa Scianni (USEPA)
Carol Roberts (USFWS)
Chris Dellith (USFWS)
Sandy Vissman (USFWS)
Jules Kelly (CCC)
Jeremy Smith (CCC)
April Woods (Central Coast RWQCB)
Emily Duncan (Los Angeles RWQCB)
Alan Monji (San Diego RWQCB)
Amanda Canepa (CDFW)
Leslie Hart (CDFW)
Beth Anna Cornett (City of Santa Barbara)
Kaitlin Mamulski (City of Santa Barbara)
Peter Casellini (SANDAG)
Janna Morimoto (Port of Long Beach)
Dylan Porter (Port of Long Beach)
Jorine Campopiano (Moffatt and Nichol)
Chris Webb (Moffatt and Nichol)
Christopher O'Day (Moffatt and Nichol)
Weixia Jin (Moffatt and Nichol)
Shelly Anghera (Moffatt and Nichol)
Tonia McMahon (Moffatt and Nichol)
Ken Kronschnabl (Kinnetic Environmental)
Jorge Tomas (Watercoast Engineering)
Brent Mardian (Pi Environmental)
Lorenzo Garrido (HDR)
Ryan Boley (HDR)
Kim Magee (HDR)
Aaron Rubio (HDR)
Kimbrie Gobbi (Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions)
Paul Allen (ITS)
Brian Leslie (GHD)
Mike Widmann (TYLin)

Jeff Goodling (TYLin)

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

Larry Smith (Corps)- The Surfside-Sunset Dredging Project is ongoing. The Solana Beach Dredging Project will be completed within the next week or so. The San Clemente Dredging Project should begin soon.

Project #1: 10:10 – 10:40 AM

- 1) Project name: USACE Ventura Harbor Maintenance Dredging Project Navigation Program
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation: Lily Schaffer/Kirk Brus (co-presenter) USACE/Ken Kronschnabel (co-presenter) Kinnetic Environmental
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Navigation
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend: Victor Andreas
- 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 and appendices emailed to the SC-DMMT distribution list on February 21, 2024
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 30 minutes

Jeremy Smith (CCC)- I was surprised by how fine-grained the samples were at the receiver site compared to 2018.

Ken Kronschnabl (Kinnetic Environmental)- Yes, there were double or more fines compared to 2018. My guess is it was due to the recent storms.

Jeremy Smith (CCC)- I am concerned that the -30-foot MLLW grab samples were significantly fine. Question whether that is an appropriate grab sample to use for the compatibility envelope. It is close to the river so that material may have deposited everywhere, including the harbor. It may make more sense to place the material in the nearshore or offshore instead of directly on the beach to prevent hardpans on the beach.

Lily Schaffer (Corps)- Area A is relatively coarse material. Area B is somewhat fine-grained—if you look at the composite, it is in the 30% range. But yes, some areas like B and C are relatively fine-grained, so maybe we place the material in these two areas in the nearshore.

Jeremy Smith (CCC)- I would be comfortable placing sediment from areas that are not B and C directly on the beach, but B and C should probably be placed in the nearshore or offshore.

Lily Schaffer (Corps)- The B and C areas will be mixed with other areas, so will be courser than what is shown here. When you look at the composites, the material is suitable for beach or nearshore placement.

Larry Smith (Corps)- Given the concerns, we should look at placing part of the material in the nearshore. We will need to consider that.

Kirk Brus (Corps)- Looking at the surf zone and nearshore, can we consider the surf zone?

Jeremy Smith (CCC)- It would be better characterized as the swash zone rather than surf zone.

Larry Smith (Corps)- We have placed material in the swash zone before.

Kirk Brus (Corps)- I can confirm that we predominately conduct hydraulic pipeline dredging and can consider it here.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- What will the volume of B and C be compared to the rest of the areas?

Ken Kronschnabl (Kinnetic Environmental)- We did not calculate that as it is usually done later in the process. I don't have that information right now.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- In a follow-up, even if you don't have specifics, the proportion of the dredged material that came out of B and C will be helpful. I agree with Jeremy, it may be best to pipe sediment from B and C into the swash zone or nearshore.

Jeremy Smith (CCC)- Agree, and I can see Lily's point about the material being mixed. Just worried that if there is significant amount of material with high fines such that it's placed unmixed in a large geographic area, it increases the chances of hardpan forming.

Lily Schaffer (Corps)- Seems like the easiest thing to do is to place B and C into the swash zone or nearshore and the rest of the sediment for direct beach placement.

Tiffany Armenta (Corps)- I think what Lily proposed would work for our Environmental Assessment. There is a lot of erosion on these beaches and our partners will want some material placed on the beach, so I agree with Lily's proposal.

Jeremy Smith (CCC)- That works for the CCC with the caveat that this conforms with the Corps' Negative Determination.

Kirk Brus (Corps)- It does conform with the Corps' Negative Determination and we would coordinate with the CCC on that. We would also coordinate with the Los Angeles RWQCB on a Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification application.

Emily Duncan (RWQCB)- Have we had a pre-filing meeting yet?

Kirk Brus (Corps)- No, but the Corps will be coordinating with the Los Angeles RWQCB to schedule a pre-filing meeting in the near future.

Emily Duncan (RWQCB)- It would be good information to include in the meeting.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- We concur with the suitability determination, as discussed.

Jeremy Smith (CCC)- We concur with the suitability determination, as discussed.

Emily Duncan (RWQCB)- We concur with the suitability determination, as discussed.

Larry Smith (Corps)- We will need to look at overall volumes to determine placement methods and locations.

In response to the USEPA request for dredge volume data on Areas B and C during the meeting, on February 29, 2024, the Corps sent an email to the SC-DMMT (USEPA; CCC; Los Angeles RWQCB) on the past four years (2020; 2021; 2022; 2023) of dredge quantities (amount of material within Areas B and C; quantity dredged; total quantity dredged; and percentage of dredge material from Areas B and C compared to Total Amount dredged) for Areas B & C and requested a suitability determination of Areas B & C material for beach placement. On March 11, 2024, the USEPA concurred with the Corps' suitability determination of Areas B & C material for beach placement. On March 13, 2024, the Los Angeles RWQCB concurred with the Corps' suitability determination of Areas B & C material for beach placement.

Project #2: 10:40 – 11:10 AM

- 1) Project name: Santa Barbara Harbor Dredging Project
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation: City of Santa Barbara
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Regulatory
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend: Crystal Huerta
- 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 and presentation emailed to the SC-DMMT distribution list on February 21, 2024
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 30 minutes

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- We reviewed the SAP and it listed cores but grab samples were taken.

Brent Mardian (Pi Environmental)- There seems to be a lot of organic debris that made it very difficult to sample in the corner, so we ended up going with the grab sampler. Vibracoring is a challenge as well because of the slope.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- We typically do not authorize grab samples for that amount of material (approximately 30,000 cubic yards with a 10-foot cut). What is the history of accumulation here?

Brent Mardian (Pi Environmental)- The City did not have much data on this and we don't know how much came from the recent storms. Not a lot of sources there and no storm drains. We are not opposed to going out and getting a core there given the different season we are in now.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- Has that area ever been dredged before?

Brent Mardian (Pi Environmental)- I don't know the exact dates but we can find that out.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- Is the plan to dredge the entire area?

Brent Mardian (Pi Environmental)- The intent is to work from the channel inward to buffer themselves from more material that comes in, but not to dredge the whole area.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- Would they need to amend their permits to include that area?

Brent Mardian (Pi Environmental)- I believe so.

Beth Anna Cornett (City of Santa Barbara)- We have been updating our permits so this area is included in the current permits.

Crystal Huerta (Corps)- Is it correct that a permit modification request will be submitted soon?

Beth Anna Cornett (City of Santa Barbara)- Yes, but it does not involve this area.

Brent Mardian (Pi Environmental)- When was the last time West Beach was dredged?

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- I am not comfortable providing a suitability determination for the entire area without cores or a Tier I evaluation that documents why the grab sample is representative. I am not sure what to recommend you do without a better understanding of what is permitted and what will actually be dredged.

Brent Mardian (Pi Environmental)- We can go back and obtain cores in these areas. Also, we can ask the surveyors to conduct bathymetric surveys again.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)-Yes because these results will only be valid for 3-5 years. I do prefer a few cores to ensure there are no fine-grained layers in there. You can take the samples from the same spots.

Crystal Huerta (Corps)- What does the next round of work refer to?

Brent Mardian (Pi Environmental)- The federal dredging project by the Corps.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- When you go out there and if it does not go as planned, you can call us while you are still out there so that it may be possible to course-correct while still on site.

Jeremy Smith (CCC)- We agree with USEPA. On the SAPR, for the receiving beach envelope, we want to use a range of grain size distributions for all the grab samples. Separate out transects and put all distributions on the figure then outline the most coarse edge of the distribution and the finest edge of the distribution for the envelope.

Brent Mardian (Pi Environmental)- We will do that.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- We would want that core sample to match the grab sample before giving out a concurrence on suitability.

Project #3: 11:10 – 11:40 AM

- 1) Project name: Pier G South Slip Fill Sediment: Updated Characterization
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation: Port of Long Beach
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Regulatory
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend: Lisa Mangione
- 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 February 21, 2024
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 30 minutes

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- There is a chemical labelled TCMX that I don't recognize.

Shelly Anghera (Moffatt and Nichol)- Yes, that is a lab control that we need to remove from the report.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- The surcharge is what you will be removing and is going back to the WASSS?

Shelly Anghera (Moffatt and Nichol)- There will be flexibility built in for when the sequences will be placed in at elevation. No specific order. We are requesting that any order is eligible for placement at the WASSS.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- Are these all sand?

Shelly Anghera (Moffatt and Nichol)- MC1, MC2, and MC3 have the highest sand content.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- Does clean sand or any clean material get placed at the WASSS?

Shelly Anghera (Moffatt and Nichol)- It is any clean material now that may be beneficially reused in the future. We want the group to confirm that sediment suitable for ocean disposal is suitable for placement at the WASSS.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- I agree with the suitability determination in your report. Some areas were suitable for placement at the LA-2 ODMS and others were not because they did not get tested to that standard. No concern with moving material suitable for ocean disposal to the WASSS with the caveat that the material will need to be examined before being beneficially reused.

Carol Roberts (USFWS)- I agree with Melissa. No toxicological concerns, but in terms of future beneficial reuse, we don't want to degrade the material's usefulness. Otherwise, we are good with what is proposed.

Shelly Anghera (Moffatt and Nichol)- When the WASSS was developed, grain size was not considered. It was a way of saving material for future fill needs. I don't think there is a dedicated sand area that this material would degrade. I don't see an issue with your request.

Janna Morimoto (Port of Long Beach)- These are good questions that were raised. If we get material from the WASSS and need a specific grain size, we do additional testing.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- Will the surcharge material need to be sandy?

Shelly Anghera (Moffatt and Nichol)- No, but the higher the sand content, the easier the dredging. From a geotechnical standpoint, sand does not need to be on top.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- I want to go back and look at the data to determine WASSS suitability. WASSS suitability can be provided via email but the material designated for the LA-2 ODMDS is suitable.

Project #4: 11:40 – 11:55 AM

- 1) Project name: San Clemente Shoreline Protection Project
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation: USACE
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Civil Works
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend: Doland Cheung
- 5) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR): Memorandum for Record (MFR)
- 6) Request for suitability determination? (y/n): Yes
- 7) Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link): MFR with attachments distributed to the SC-DMMT distribution list on February 21, 2024
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 15 minutes

Larry Smith (Corps)- Both SO5 and the borrow site were examined as possibilities for sand sources.

Carol Roberts (USFWS)- How far offshore is the borrow site at Surfside?

Larry Smith (Corps)- About a mile offshore but I cannot remember the exact distance. It is the same borrow area that was used for the recently completed Surfside-Sunset Beach Nourishment Project Stage 13.

Jeremy Smith (CCC)- Why was Surfside selected over SO5?

Larry Smith (Corps)- The grain size was a little finer, the transit route and travel duration is a little smaller (reduced cost), and the SC-DMMT agencies preferred to use this site over SO5 during the SC-DMMT meeting on January 24, 2024.

Project A: 2:10 – 2:40 PM

- 1) Project name: San Dieguito to Sorrento Valley Double Track (SDSVDT) Project
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation: San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Regulatory

- 4) Corps project manager who will attend: Robert Smith or Kyle Dahl
- 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): Draft SAP emailed to the SC-DMMT distribution list on 2/21/2024
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 30 minutes

Carol Roberts (USFWS)- On the slide with the cross-section of multiple alignments, the grain size sample would be taken at various locations. Is it the same for each boring?

Christopher O'Day (Moffatt and Nichol)- There is some variability with each boring depending on a few factors.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- What is the height of the tunnel boring?

Christopher O'Day (Moffatt and Nichol)- The single bore would be 47 feet in diameter. The twin bore would be 28 feet in diameter.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- It would be good to come back to the SC-DMMT once you select an alignment. Hopefully we will have the sediment fully characterized with the number of samples proposed. If this was a dredging project or was a shallower cut, we would want the entire diameter profile characterized. Not sure if that would be necessary in this case. The various layers would probably not have been exposed to anthropogenic contaminants. I would be interested in knowing whether the whole profile is 80-90% sand or if there is variability.

Carol Roberts (USFWS)- If it is at least documented that all 47 feet is like material, that will assist us in the determination.

Jeremy Smith (CCC)- This is probably on the conservative side of Phase I analysis, which is good if the desire is to be on the safe side. How heterogeneous do you expect the grain sizes to be?

Christopher O'Day (Moffatt and Nichol)- We will need to identify areas with more homogeneous grain sizes, and with more samples, we will get more resolution of which areas would be good for beneficial reuse.

Jeremy Smith (CCC)- My sense of boring is that it is not a super quick process, so maybe the material can be tested as it is excavated.

Christopher O'Day (Moffatt and Nichol)- That would be great, but logistically it would be helpful to know beforehand. Maybe a phased approach could be taken.

Alan Monji (RWQCB)- We have no comments for now.

Robert Smith (Corps)- Have we completed a Tier I analysis for a tunneling project before?

Christopher O'Day (Moffatt and Nichol)- I am not aware of one, but it would provide great information.

Lorenzo Garrido (HDR)- We will follow up on that after looking into it.

Robert Smith (Corps)- Where would you find contaminants there? From the groundwater?

Christopher O'Day (Moffatt and Nichol)- We would need to defer that question but can follow up with you about it.

Melissa Scianni (USEPA)- Since you will be sending a revised SAP, you can share that via email.

Larry Smith (Corps)- With Phase 2, we will see if any of the material can be utilized for beneficial reuse.

Jeremy Smith (CCC)- The CCC is okay with email coordination of the revised SAP.