

Agenda for February 25, 2026

Southern California Dredged Material Management Team (SC-DMMT) Meeting Minutes for February 25, 2026

(SLO, Santa Barbara, Ventura, L.A., Orange, San Diego Counties)

US Army Corps of Engineers - Los Angeles District

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Roll Call and Agency Announcements: 10:00 – 10:05 AM

Robert Smith from the Corps Regulatory Division hosted the SC-DMMT meeting instead of Genevieve Holdridge from the Corps who was out. Austin Williams from Corps Regulatory took notes for the entire SC-DMMT and so did Robert. Robert stated that the SC-DMMT notes would be posted on our website once reviewed by the DMMT staff/agencies and then Robert asked for a roll call of the attending agencies in attendance and received the following response:

Corps: Robert Smith (Regulatory), Brian Kim, Joe Ryan (Navigation), Eric Sweeney (Regulatory), Luis Sepulveda, Tiffany Armenta (Planning), Antal Szijj (Regulatory)

EPA: Melissa Scianni

CRWQCBs: Alan Monji, Chloe Seifert, Emily Duncan

NMFS: No NMFS POC was on this DMMT.

CA Coastal Commission (CCC): Jeremy Smith, Jules Kelly

Cal. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife: Leslie Hart

USFWS: Sandy Vissman and Katy Kughen

Project #1: 10:05 – 10:35 AM

- 1) Project name:** OCTA Coastal Rail Stabilization Priority Projects (Surfside/Sunset Offshore Sand Borrow Site)
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation:** Jason Lee, Program Manager, Capital Programs, OCTA
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation):** Regulatory
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend:** Eric Sweeney
- 5) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR):** SAPR
- 6) Request for suitability determination? (y/n):** Y
- 7) Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link):** Documents to be provided by Feb 18
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?):** 30 minutes

Jason Lee from OCTA and his team presented the results of their sampling and analysis of the Surfside/Sunset offshore sand borrow site. The project aims to provide up to 690,000 cubic yards of sand for beach nourishment in the San Clemente area. Greg Hearon of Coastal Frontiers presented the SAP results and the final SAPR had six cores, and the testing SAP was approved in May 2025. The Corps feasibility study for San Clemente was discussed. Greg stated that the dredged material passed chemical and grain size testing per the SAPR and that while arsenic levels were detected above ERL screening levels, they were noted to be naturally occurring and consistent with other nearshore sediments used for beach nourishment in Southern California. The primary concern was that the sand is physically compatible but finer than ideal for the receiver sites at Area 1 and 2 and Area 4. Eric Sweeney said he had no comments. Robert asked for approval of the SAPR and there were no objections from the attending agencies (EPA, CCC, CRWQCB, CDFW) and Robert said the Corps approved the SAPR.

Project #2: 10:35 – 11:05 AM

- 1) Project name:** Pier B, Berths B82-83 Maintenance Dredging
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation:** Port of Long Beach (with support from Anchor QEA)
- 3) Location (Lat/Long, City, County):** 33.774059, -118.218327, Long Beach, Los Angeles County
- 4) Project type (Regulatory/ Navigation):** Regulatory
- 5) Corps project manager(s) who will attend:** Robert Smith
- 6) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR):** draft SAP
- 7) Request for suitability determination? (y/n):** No
- 8) Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link):** Will email but may need FTP link depending on file size.

9) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 30 min

Amy Wong from the Port of Long Beach and Andy Martin from Anchor QEA presented the draft testing sampling and analysis plan for maintenance dredging at Pier B, Berths B82-83. The project involves dredging approximately 4,200 cubic yards of material (to a -38 to -41 ft. depth plus 2 ft. overdepth) to be placed in the Pier G South Slip confined disposal facility (CDF). The plan was noted to be consistent with previous projects and sediment sampling in the area that were approved as suitable for placement in the CDF. Previous testing at the same location indicated in 2014 that analytes tested were less than ERM values, except total DDX and 74 % silt and clay. Testing starts next week (March 1-6) and 4 cores will be collected.

Status: The testing SAP approval had no objections by the attending agencies, with the Regional Board indicating they would follow up if they had any concerns. The attending agencies also did not have any objections to a request by the Port for an out-of-cycle review of the SAPR in early April. The Corps is not aware of any CRWQCB concerns from Chloe Seifert or Emily Duncan received by 27 February 2026.

Update from the Port of Long Beach: POLB staff emailed the PowerPoint presentation on the draft SAP to Water Board staff after the DMMT meeting. Water Board staff approved the SAP on February 26, 2026

Project #3: 11:05 – 11:35 AM

10)Project name: Oceanside Harbor O&M dredging

11)Applicant's name & affiliation: USACE – Los Angeles District

12)Location (Lat/Long, City, County): 33.207141, -117.401197; Oceanside, San Diego County

13)Project type (Regulatory/ Navigation): Navigation

14)Corps project manager(s) who will attend: Brian Kim

15)Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR): Tier 1 assessment

16)Request for suitability determination? (y/n): Y

17)Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link): Emailed; 2023 SAPR, 2025 Dredge Sediment Test Results, Placement Area Map, City email indicating no spill/contamination incidents since November 2022 (last sampling/testing event).

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

Brian Kim and Luis Sepulveda from the Corps presented a Tier 1 assessment request for the Oceanside Harbor Operations and Maintenance dredging project with beach nourishment. Sandy Vissman and Katy Kughen from the USFWS was present for this meeting and mentioned impacts to the Snowy Plover. The last approved SAPR for the Oceanside Harbor Dredging project was approved in 2023 and SAPR's are generally

lasting 3 years. The project involves dredging approximately 350,000-450,000 cubic yards of material from Oceanside Harbor to be placed on Oceanside beaches. Robert asked if the harbor was within imminent threat for closure and Joe Ryan said the current shoaling from November was monitored by the Harbor District. The discussion centered on the timing of dredging, with a potential shift from a spring to a fall cycle for testing, and the frequency of future sediment testing.

Status: There were no objections to the Tier 1 assessment for 2026, with the understanding that the frequency of future testing would be revisited.

Project #4: 11:35 AM – 12:05 PM

- 1) **Project name:** Port of Long Beach Deep Draft Navigation
- 2) **Applicant's name & affiliation:** Tiffany Armenta, CESPL (Planning Division)
- 3) **Location (Lat/Long, City, County):** Port of Long Beach, Los Angeles County
- 4) **Project type (Regulatory/ Navigation):** Navigation
- 5) **Corps project manager(s) who will attend:** Doland Cheung
- 6) **Purpose/topic:** Expanded nearshore placement site
- 7) **Request for suitability determination? (y/n):** yes
- 8) **Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link):** FTP link
- 9) **Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?):** 30 min

Tiffany Armenta from the Corps provided an update on the Port of Long Beach Deep Draft Navigation project. The key change is the expansion of the nearshore placement site at Surfside to accommodate an additional 933,000 cubic yards of material, as the initially planned Western Anchorage Sediment Storage Site (WASSS) may not be available. Concerns were raised about potential impacts to snowy plovers and the movement of sand into Anaheim Bay.

Status: Approved. The revised placement plan was approved, with a commitment to survey the expanded site for sensitive habitats.

Project 5: Ventura Harbor Dredge Management

Derek Lerma from Rincon Consultants, representing the City of Ventura, presented the sampling and analysis plan for the Ventura Keys maintenance dredging program. The plan includes creating a deeper "advanced maintenance dredging area" (AMDA) within the connecting channel to temporarily store finer material from the narrow Keys channels. This material would later be removed and combined with coarser sand from the main channel for placement on South Beach. Concerns were raised about historically elevated levels of chlordane and DDT, though previous bioassay tests showed no adverse effects.

There was also discussion about the difficulty of sampling the deeper native sand beneath a clay layer in the proposed AMDA.

Status: The sampling plan was reviewed, and the agencies provided feedback for revisions. Key requests included adding historical data from adjacent projects to the plan, ensuring some characterization of the material below the clay layer, and clarifying the compositing scheme. The overall project has existing permits.

Derek sent an email on March 4, 2026, with the testing SAP revised to address the specific questions from: **EPA:** Included full results from previous SAPs in Ventura Harbor including Bioassay Testing results. **CCC:** Adjusted Table 4 to show appropriate core lengths for AMDA, updated Hg testing method to USEPA 7471A, and the target reporting limits for cadmium target reporting limit to 0.5 mg/kg, Chromium is 2, Copper is 3, Lead is 3. Added USACE permit (Appendix D) and asked the DMMT to please review and provide SAP approval or provide comments as necessary. Derek then sent another email dated March 9, 2026, to the DMMT staff stating that sampling is underway for mid-April 2026. On April 1, 2026, after the EPA, CCC, and CRWQCB met and approved the revised testing SAP the Corps approved the revised testing SAP on 4-1-26 via an email on 4-1-26.

Project #6: Marina Del Rey Harbor Investigation

Ken Kronschnabl from Integral presented the results of a sediment investigation for the Marina Del Rey Harbor federal channel on behalf of the US Army Corps of Engineers. The project requires maintenance dredging of approximately 522,000 cubic yards of material to remove shoaling. The final SAPR was presented by Ken and Luis Sepulveda and consisted of Tier II and Tier III testing for Dredging/Composite Areas 1-7 and note that Areas 7N and 7S constituted Area 7.

The investigation found that material from two of the eight sampled dredge units was not suitable for beach placement (Area 7S and Area 1) but could go to LA-2 ocean disposal site. Therefore, these two areas (Area 7S and Area 1) were also evaluated for potential disposal at the LA-2 ocean disposal site.

Status: Final SAPR approved but note that EPA, CCC, and Water Board have concerns over potential contaminants of concern in Areas 7S and Area 1 for near-shore or direct placement on Redondo beach. Corps to follow-up with EPA. Robert left a message with Melissa Scianni from EPA on 3-4-26 after discussing issue with Joe Ryan and Luis Sepulveda from Corps staff on 3-3-26.

After the SD DMMT in February 2026 EPA, CCC, and CRWQCB held a mtg. on March 6, 2026, to follow up on the suitability determination for the Marina Del Rey Area 7S sediment. The Water Board, Coastal Commission, and EPA met to review and discuss the sediment testing results and reached consensus that material from Area 7S should be directed to LA-2. The PCB concentrations and chlordanes levels in Area 7S are elevated compared to other areas and this dredge unit also has a higher fines content, making it less suitable for beach placement. Given the relatively small volume of sediment to be dredged from Area 7S, directing it to LA-2 is our suggested approach, especially since ocean disposal is already necessary for the Area 1 material.