

**Agenda and Minutes for August 27, 2025 for**  
**Southern California Dredged Material Management Team (SC-DMMT) Meeting**  
**(SLO, Santa Barbara, Ventura, L.A., Orange, San Diego Counties)**  
**US Army Corps of Engineers - Los Angeles District**

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

**Project #1: 10:05-10:35 AM**

- 1) Project name:** Marina del Rey Harbor Sampling and Analysis Plan
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation:** Luis Sepulveda, CESPL EDG-G
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation):** Navigation
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend:** Victor Andreas
- 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):** Will email
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?):** 30 minutes

## **Project #2: 10:35 – 11:05 AM**

- 1) Project name:** Mandalay Generating Station Beneficial Reuse
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation:** Grant Gustafson; Mandalay Solvere, LLC
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation):** Beneficial Reuse
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend:** Antal Szijj
- 5) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR):** draft SAP
- 6) Request for suitability determination? (y/n):** n
- 7) Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link):** email draft SAP
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?):** 30 min

## **Project #3: 11:05 – 11:35 AM**

- 1) Project name:** Linda Isle Lagoon Maintenance Dredging
- 2) Applicant's name & affiliation:** Linda Isle Community Association represented by Keith Merkel, Merkel & Associates
- 3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation):** Regulatory
- 4) Corps project manager who will attend:** Geraldo Salas
- 5) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR):** Tier III bioaccumulation waiver request
- 6) Request for suitability determination? (y/n):** N
- 7) Documents provided (emailed, or FTP link):** email
- 8) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?):** 30 minutes

## **Wrap Up & General Discussion: 11:35- 11:45**

### **Minutes**

#### **Project #1: Marina del Rey Harbor Sampling and Analysis Plan**

#### **Persons in attendance included the following persons and the roll call:**

Corps of Engineers: Presenters Luis Sepulveda/Ken and Victor Andreas (Navigation), Genevieve Holdridge, Victoria Andreas, Caleb Lodge, Robert Smith, Darrell Buxton, Thomas Sentner, Andrew McLarty, Larry Smith, Victoria Gartman, Valaria Varanian, Bob Phan, Tiffany Bostwick, Tiffany Armenta, John Myers, Luis Sepulveda, Joe Ryan

Melissa Scianni from EPA

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): Andrea Dell" Apa

Cal. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife: Leslie Hart

CA Coastal Commission (CCC): Jeremy Smith, Jules Kelly  
USFWS: Sandy Vissman  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board: Emily Duncan

Others: Keith Merkel consultant, Ken Knosnabel Integrated Consultants, Derek Larma Rincon, Peter Arth Nautilus Environmental,

**Minutes of telcon DMMT meeting held on August 27, 2025 for Project 1:**

Genevieve Holdridge from the Corps opened the meeting as the person running the DMMT meeting and reminded everyone to place their name and affiliation in the Chat box. Robert Smith from Corps regulatory took notes of the DMMT meeting. Genevieve welcomed others to take notes for each of the actions shown in the agenda. Genevieve then asked if anybody had any agency announcements and there were no agency announcements, and she then took roll call.

Luis and Ken presented the project testing SAP with a project description that included maintenance dredging that is required in the Federal Entrance Channel to Marina del Rey (MDR) Harbor in Marina del Rey, California (Figure 1) to restore the channel to design depths. Further information from the SAP indicated that the sediments to be dredged require an environmental evaluation of sediment quality to support planning and permitting for dredging and reuse/disposal. As such, the testing Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) has been prepared on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Los Angeles District to detail procedures and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) requirements for the sampling and testing of sediments from Marina del Rey Harbor identified for placement/reuse.

Ken mentioned that the Corps maintains the channel in and out of MDR Harbor (Figure 1). The Entrance Channel has an authorized depth of -20 feet mean lower low water (MLLW). Sand trap areas outside the entrance jetties are dredged to -30 feet MLLW to trap sand deposited by longshore currents. Based on a May 2025 hydrographic survey, the estimated volume of sediments requiring dredging from the MDR Harbor Entrance Channel and Sand traps at the time of the survey is approximately 520,000 cubic yards, which includes a two-foot over depth allowance. Further shoaling is expected to occur prior to dredging. Figure 2 shows the channel areas to be dredged and shoaling in the Entrance Channel and sand traps. It is proposed to beneficially reuse all MDR dredge material for beach nourishment at Dockweiler State Beach and/or Redondo Beach and/or in a nearshore placement area offshore of each beach (Figure 1), provided that physical and chemical properties of the sediments are suitable for this purpose.

Ken went on to explain that testing from 2010, 2011, 2016, and 2022 showed that there are elevated DDTs, chlordane, PCBs, and heavy metals with 27 cores and compositing. Comments were then made and Melissa Scianni from EPA said she had no questions, Jeremy from CCC asked would the bioassay testing determination be done. Luis indicated the Corps would send out the results of the testing to the CRWQC, CCC, and EPA for review. Joe Ryan discussed how the MDR, the Redondo and Dockweiler sites had been used in recent dredging events. Emily and Jeremy stated that they would be okay with the testing SAP and a Tier 1 exemption as long as the Corps would provide a document that describes how the project would meet the Tier 1 exemption criteria. Jeremy also stated that the number of grab samples could be reduced in the nearshore areas to assist the project and Tiffany said she was good with 5-6 samples. EPA and CCC were also ok with 3-4 samples. Melissa then explained the Tier 1 exemption with an appendix to the testing SAP to the group. Luis and Ken agreed to notate their presentation with the above comments.

Genevieve then asked for an agency roll call for the approvals of the testing SAP and received the following responses:

Melissa from the EPA approved the testing SAP as long as the Corps resubmitted a revised testing SAP and she would follow up with an email approval of the Tier 1 exemption. Jeremy from CCC said he was ok with the testing SAP and EPA's response. Emily said she would approve with a review of the Tier 1 exemption report. NMFS and CDFW had no comments.

#### **Project #2: Mandalay Generating Station Beneficial Reuse**

#### **Persons in attendance included the following persons:**

Corps of Engineers: Genevieve Holdridge, Victoria Andreas, Caleb Lodge, Robert Smith, Antal Szijj

Melissa Scianni from EPA

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): Andrea Dell" Apa

Cal. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife: Leslie Hart

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

USFWS: Sandy Vissman

California Regional Water Quality Control Board: Emily Duncan

Others: Chris O'Day (Moffat & Nichol); Grant Gustafson (Mandala Solve, LLC)  
Applicant

**Minutes of telcon DMMT meeting held on August 27, 2025 for Project 2:**

Genevieve restarted the second project at 1035 hours

Chris O'Day presented the second project which was the Mandalay Generating Station Beneficial Reuse testing SAP project which is the Mandalay Generating Station (Project Site) a 61-acre decommissioned power plant owned by Mandalay Solve, LLC (Applicant) in the City of Oxnard, located in Ventura County, California. The Project Site is located on a coastal property at 393 North Harbor Boulevard to the north of Oxnard Shores and south of McGrath State Beach and includes a cooling channel previously used by the power plant that is connected to the Channel Islands Harbor.

Project will create wetland habitat at the Project Site, existing on-site infrastructure from the decommissioned power plant will be removed and the existing grade will be lowered to create tidally influenced wetland habitat that is hydraulically connected to the cooling channel and thus Channel Islands Harbor. Existing grades must be lowered by up to 20 feet (ft) in order to achieve the desired grading for the habitat restoration. The project is still in the conceptual design phase and exact grading plans show an excavation of 400,000 cy. over 47 acres with 8 borings to be tested for both grain size and bulk sediment chemistry. Excavated sediment from the project is being considered for beneficial reuse at four nearby beach locations to nourish the littoral cell. The project is also being considered as a Corps mitigation bank and is slated for the IRT mitigation bank process. Chris stated the 4 disposal sites would total to 1,150,000 cy and the dredged material would be truck hauled to the disposal site.

Genevieve then asked for an agency roll call for the approvals of the testing SAP and received the following responses:

Melissa from the EPA said they maybe could process the testing SAP but they need to revise the testing SAP and do some more preliminary testing and resubmit with revised core locations with more cores more south but has also requested that the project go thru the IRT mitigation banking process and design process first so that any testing would not have to be redone later if the IRT or DMMT group had issues. She would follow up with an email approval of the number of sample points (she said they may need two more core samples) which she said were too few and may needed to be moved to the wastewater pond areas. Jeremy from CCC said he was ok with the testing SAP with more cores and EPA's response. CRWQCB, NMFS, USFWS, and CDFW had no comments. Chris said

he would have to meet with the applicant/client said he would follow up with the IRT and then the DMMT group and may come back next month after they get the IRT approval. Melissa also reiterated that the SAP data was good for three years. Genevieve mentioned that they would be waiting for an email from Chris for when a revised testing SAP was submitted for a new presentation.

**Project #3:** Linda Isle Community Association Maintenance Dredging/Ocean Disposal represented by Keith Merkel, Merkel & Associates

Corps of Engineers: Genevieve Holdridge, Victoria Andreas, Caleb Lodge, Robert Smith, Gerry Salas, Tiffany Armenta

Melissa Scianni from EPA

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): Andrea Dell" Apa

Cal. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife: Leslie Hart

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

USFWS: Sandy Vissman

California Regional Water Quality Control Board: Emily Duncan, Kyle Fructoso Santa Ana office, Lauren Schift

Others: Barry Snyder consultant, Keith Merkel & Associates, Zachory Uribe w/ Anchor Environmental.

Genevieve then said we could start with Project Nos. 3. Keith Merkel opened the Project 3 discussion with an update that they were not requesting DMMT relief from bioaccumulation testing as they were still proposing ocean disposal at LA-3. He then went over the testing program with vibracore sampling at 8 stations in the lagoon channel and lagoon core and chemical, physical, and biological testing with a bioaccumulation phase and Z layer testing.

He further discussed that the project **composite chemistry** indicates very low contaminant levels: Total **PAHs**= 15.9 µg/kg (<<ERL and below LA-3 reference), **metals** at or below ERLs, **PCBs/pyrethroids/organotins** non-detect or trace, and Total DDX ≈ 20.6 µg/kg (below ERM and barely over TMDL Z-layer 18 µg/kg). SPP (elutriate) **acute toxicity testing** has been completed and passed for all species/endpoints.

**OTM provides that tiered testing proceeds only until a definitive Limiting Permissible Concentration (LPC) determination can be made; for non-polar organics, Tier II theoretical bioaccumulation potential (TBP) relative to reference may resolve the bioaccumulation component. DDX regional precedent: Lower Newport Bay/LA-3**

programs have accepted sediments with DDT concentrations on the order of ~200 µg/kg when tissue burdens were low and below TRVs (SC-DMMT minutes 7/25/2018).

RGP-54 SAR guidance recognizes a Tier I comparability pathway allowing reliance on prior Tier III outcomes when current chemistry is within previously accepted ranges (Anchor QEA 2018, 2023). It is reasonable to expect bioaccumulation potential for DDT to be similar and proportional across Newport Bay sediments and thus prior bioaccumulation testing conducted at higher DDX levels should address the bioaccumulation risks.

He also explained that RGP 54 sediment characterization and maintenance testing had been done around the perimeter of the lagoon in 2022 (Anchor QEA 2023)

“Suitable to -15 feet MLLW plus 2 feet of overdepth for unrestricted disposal at the LA-3 ODMDS. Material proposed for beach replenishment or nearshore placement must have grain size verification and chemical testing for DDTs with agency concurrence to verify suitability prior to placement.” (Anchor QEA 2023)

- Z-layer testing is required to confirm post-dredge surface contains DDT concentrations less than 18.0 ppb.” (Anchor QEA 2023). Caulerpa infestation in Newport Bay has created an opportunity for out of kind mitigation for eelgrass through contributing to Caulerpa eradication
- Recent testing at 17 lagoon perimeter locations Z-layer total DDX averaged 4.74 µg/kg with the maximum at planned depths being 16.80 µg/kg

Jules from CCC then asked what depth the testing would be done at and Keith said to a depth of -10 ft. with -2 ft. overdepth of -12 ft. total to Z layer. Melissa then stated that she had contacted Keith offline and was okay with -12 ft. depth testing as being compatible with RGP 54 and good for ocean disposal at LA- 3. Jules then said she was okay with the above testing as it was not clear at first. Keith then said they are not requesting a bioaccumulation waiver anymore and he looked forward to the bioaccumulation testing results. Genevieve then asked if there were anymore comments and there were none and the DMMT meeting was adjourned.

