Agenda and Notes for September 24, 2025

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

Agenda

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

Project #1: 10:10-10:40

1) Project name: Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project
2) Applicant's name & affiliation: California Department of Parks and Recreation and Chris O'day (Moffatt Nichol)
3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Regulatory
4) Corps project manager who will attend: Genevieve Holdridge
5) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR): SAPR
6) Request for suitability determination? (y/n): Yes
7) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 30 min

Project #2: 10:40 – 11:10 AM

1) Project name: Marine Group Boat Works Dredging and Ocean Disposal Project
2) Applicant's name & affiliation: Marine Group Boat Works and Chris Osuch (Anchor QEA)
3) Project type (Regulatory/Navigation): Regulatory
4) Corps project manager who will attend: Max Roseman
5) Purpose/topic (draft SAP, revised SAP, SAPR, Other): SAPR
6) Request for suitability determination? (y/n): Yes
7) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 30 mins

Project #3 11:10- 11:55

1) Project name: Linda Isle Lagoon Maintenance Dredging and Ocean Disposal
2) Applicant's name & affiliation: Linda Isle Community Association and 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): SAPR
6) Request for suitability determination? (y/n): Yes
7) Time needed (15, 30, 45 min?): 45 minutes

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

Meeting Notes

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

- Corps of Engineers: Max Roseman (Host), Robert Smith (Notes), Genevieve Holdridge, Larry Smith, Tiffany Armenta, Kim Lyons, Joe Ryan, Susie Ming, Caleb Lodge
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Melissa Scianni
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS): Andrea Dell" Apa
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): Leslie Hart
- California Coastal Commission (CCC): Jeremy Smith, Jules Kelly
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): None.
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB): Emily Duncan, Alan Monji,
- CA State Parks: RJ Van Sant
- Consultants/ Others: Keith Merkel (Merkel and Associates), Chris 'O Day and Chris Webb (Moffat & Nichol), Nick Buhbe, Zachary Urabe, GHD, Chris Osuch (Anchor QEA) Delany Inman (Anchor QEA), Kevin Jensen, McMillan Inc.

Opening Meeting Announcements:

Max then asked if anybody had any agency announcements:

- Melissa from EPA said that she would be on partial leave in October 2025.
- Joe Ryan from the Corps requested that the location of the DMMT projects be included on future meeting agendas.
- Genevieve requested to get the schedules of agency representatives for upcoming October meeting.

Project #1: Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project:

Project Summary:

- Chris O' Day (Chris) then presented the project testing SAP that includes the Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project within Malibu State Creek Park with the excavation of 780,000 cy of material from behind the Rindge dam (using notched layers of phased extraction over 5 years) which consists of mainly the sandy layer between gravel and silty/clay layers. Per the testing SAP the Corps had done previous studies in 2002 and 2020 (Corps Feasibility Study) and determined that approximately 276,000 cy (sandy layer) of the 780,000 cy of total material to be excavated could be used for beach fill or nearshore placement (USACE, 2020).

- Chris mentioned that the proposed project entails the removal of the Rindge dam structure in Malibu Creek, which is situated approximately 3 miles upstream of Malibu Lagoon. Dam removal would restore ecological integrity to Malibu Creek and the lagoon by reestablishing the fluvial connection of lower and upper Malibu Creek with Malibu Lagoon, and its oceanic outlet. The primary purpose of the Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project is to restore the Malibu Creek watershed for steelhead to navigate upstream for spawning. The sandy layer material from the project is being considered for beneficial reuse at nearby nearshore locations and/or via direct beach placement to nourish the littoral cell and enhance the resiliency of the nearby downstream coastline areas. Project considerations now mention Zuma Beach and/or Will Rogers Beach for receiver sites, as both beaches are proposed sand placement sites for the Los Angeles County Sand Compatibility and Opportunistic Use Program (SCOUP).

- The submitted testing SAP for this project was approved in June 2023 by the SC-DMMT for review and approval prior to field activities. Physical and chemical sample materials were collected from the project site, in accordance with the testing SAP by M&N and cone penetration test logs were used to evaluate sediment strength and assess liquefaction potential for dam stability. Cores were advanced through the impounded sediment to the pre-dam alluvium, with expected depths of approximately 100 ft. in Block 1 and 75–85 ft in Block 2.

- SAPR results indicated that there was one ERM exceedance for one composite sample tested above the ERM value for Nickel. Cadmium, Copper, Nickel, Mercury, DDE, and DDD were found above corresponding ERL values. None of these chemical concentrations were above Human RSLs, however, therefore the

SAPR material was deemed as chemically suitable for beach or nearshore placement per the SAPR.

- Chris also stated that fines content between 15% and 25% was found in the majority of sandy layer samples from Rindge Dam and this per the SAPR will likely require surf zone placement of the material so that natural sorting will occur. Of the 49 samples evaluated, 16 samples had fines content less than 15%. Chris proposed that this material can be placed directly on the beach. The material characterized between 15% and 25% fines content in the remaining 33 samples could be placed at the low tide line in a low linear mound for natural nearshore dispersal that allows for some tidal washing. It is recommended that material with fines content <25% be placed at the two potential receiver beaches – Zuma and Will Rogers beaches and other samples shown in the SAPR as being greater that 25% fines would not be suitable for beneficial reuse.

Agency Comments/ Determination:

- Melissa asked if it was a SUAD for each layer or mainly just layers 2 and 3 for reuse and Jeremy asked why now or would it be phased and was it an informal or formal suitability determination (SUAD) being requested?
- Chris O Day responded that it was a formal SUAD and there were timeline issues. Melissa then commented that there needs to be a clarification on the sorting and that a materials specification needs to be submitted by a geologist.
- Chris Webb said that an onsite field evaluation may be needed after disposal as it was not straight forward.
- Melissa then instructed she could not give a SUAD yet, but she was tentatively ok with the sand that had 15-25% fines and could go to nearshore and less than 15% could go to the beach for direct placement; she also deferred to CCC and CRWQCB and CCC who had questions so she agreed that a separate off-cycle meeting would be needed.
- Genevieve mentioned the use of a NWP 6 permit and the Corps could do an off-cycle meeting and a strategy would need to be written up and
- Chris and Chris Webb from M&N said they could do that.
- Emily from CRWQCB was also ok with the off-cycle meeting and please invite her and the 401 application had been received.
- RJ Van Sant mentioned they had coordinated with the 401 and NMFS agencies.
- Jeremy with CCC was ok with the off-cycle.
- Andrea from NMFS said there were other NMFS staff involved (Gene and Matt). Leslie Hart supported the off-cycle meeting proposal.

Project #2: Marine Group Boat Works (MGBW) Project

Project Summary:

- Marine Group Boat Works, LLC's dredging and ocean disposal project (MGBW's) Chula Vista Facility is proposing to conduct maintenance dredging within their facility to ensure safe navigation during operations. Dredged material was previously characterized to determine suitability for ocean disposal at the LA-5 ODMDS.

- Delaney Inman from Anchor QEA presented the project and she started with saying the sediment sampling was conducted in December 2024. One composite sample was submitted for physical, chemical, and biological testing and Z-layer samples from each core were analyzed for contaminants of concern, as requested by the RWQCB. The Sampling and Analysis Report was presented to the DMMT on May 28, 2025, and sediment was determined to be suitable for ocean disposal at LA-5.

- Following previous DMMT meeting, the RWQCB requested additional dredging at three stations (MGBW-02, MGBW-04, and MGBW-05) due to elevated Z-layer concentrations. To achieve a clean Z-layer, MGBW is proposing additional dredging to the elevation of the native Bay Point Formation. Sediment below the design depth and overdredge has not been characterized for ocean disposal; therefore, additional sampling and testing was performed to determine suitability for ocean disposal of 4,199 cy (to achieve clean Z layer) from the northwest corner of the facility with a Tier 1 exemption. The results were relayed to the group and the conclusions during sediment coring showed that the Bay Point Formation was encountered at all stations but that composite sediment chemical concentrations were relatively low, with all concentrations less than the ERM value.

- Based on test results and coordination with the DMMT, a Tier I exclusion from additional biological testing was also approved and based on the revised SAPR results of testing, the additional dredged material (30,447 cy) from MGBW was recommended as suitable for ocean disposal at LA-5 and sediment concentrations were consistent if not lower than those previously measured in the composite sample from December 2024, which passed full Ocean Testing Manual Tier III biological testing.

Agency Comments/ Determination:

- Melissa said she was ok with the previous SAPR and Tier I exclusion and the suitability determination for LA-5 ODMDS.
- Max with corps Regulatory Division also agrees with suitability for L-5 disposal but will need EPA LA-5 site use conditions during permitting.
- SDRWQB, CCC, and NMFS had no comments, and all agreed that the material is suitable for LA-5 disposal.

Project #3: Linda Isle Community Association Maintenance Dredging/Ocean Disposal Project

Project Summary:

- Keith Merkel opened the Project 3 discussion as the applicant is proposing dredging in Newport Bay (Lagoon Channel and Lagoon Core areas) and ocean disposal of dredged material at LA-3 (39,072 cy) and Keith then went over the SAPR results. 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 also explained that RGP 54 sediment characterization and maintenance testing had been done around the perimeter of the lagoon in 2022 (Anchor QEA 2023)

- Keith presented and described how the project was constructed in 1962 with design depths -8 and -10 ft MLLW and had not been dredged since construction and the current bottom elevation was now at -5 ft MLLW. Also, he said boats were running aground with scouring of the bottom. He discussed how RGP 54 dredging occurs adjacent to the Lagoon Core dredging area.

- RGP 54 sediment characterization and maintenance testing has been done around the perimeter of the lagoon in 2022 to a depth of -15 feet MLLW plus 2 feet of over depth 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. Z-layer testing was required to confirm post-dredge surface contains DDT concentrations at 17 locations. Keith went over the sediment chemistry for each constituent in the SAPR guidelines in the final SAPR and all were shown as less than the benchmarks in the testing/final SAPR. The SPP elutriate test element passed with no water column toxicity and the SP (10-day) was also a pass with no toxicity. He also went over the biological testing and SPP results which were all pass, and the bioaccumulation results showed no accumulation, and the tissue screens passed.

Agency Comments/ Determination:

- Melissa from EPA agreed with Keith that the results were okay for a SUAD even though there was much discussion about the *Macoma* test species (the individuals received for testing were not high quality, but Macoma is the only worm species available for bioaccumulation testing), and she was to forward a paper to the DMMT group and TRV information. The *Macoma* results indicated that the control samples were greater than the reference samples which came from Washington State. Regardless, she agreed that the material was suitable for ocean disposal at LA-3.
- CRWQCB, and CCC also agreed that the material was suitable for ocean disposal at LA-3.
- NMFS and Gerry from the Corps Regulatory had no comments and approved the SUAD.
- Jules from CCC also wanted to understand the issues with *Macoma* and asked for clarification on how the TRV was derived.
- Claudia Tenorio with the SRWQCB also mentioned there was a CEQA determination for the 401 WQC.