

Southern California Dredged Material Management Team (SC-DMMT)  
December 16, 2009  
Final Meeting Notes

**I. Participating Agencies /Attendees:**

**Morning session:**

- a. Jorine Campopiano (EPA)
- b. Larry Simone<sup>†</sup> (CCC)
- c. Mike Lyons (RWQCB – Los Angeles)
- d. Allan Ota<sup>†</sup> (EPA)
- e. Bill Paznokas<sup>†</sup> (CDFG - San Diego)
- f. Kathryn Curtis<sup>†</sup> (POLA)
- g. Larry Smith (USACE – Planning)
- h. Dan Swenson (USACE- Regulatory)
- i. Antal Sziij<sup>†</sup> (USACE- Regulatory)
- j. Wanda Cross (RWQCB – Santa Ana)
- k. See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees

<sup>†</sup> participating via teleconference.

**II. CSTF projects:**

**a. Middle Harbor (note-taker: Janna Watanabe, POLB)**

**Presentation:** Middle Harbor Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)

- Matt Arms (POLB) presented an overview of the tentative WDRs for the Middle Harbor Redevelopment Project and water quality monitoring and reporting program.
- Tentative WDRs based on construction activity and incorporate Port's sediment management plan. Port will email out copy of sediment management plan to CSTF distribution list in the future. It should be noted that plan is a living document and will be continually revised.
- Port taking an adaptive management approach with water quality monitoring.
  - Screening station for BMP implementation
  - Compliance sampling station located outside of designated construction project boundary
- Michael Lyons (RWQCB) gave an overview of WDR permit process. Comments on the WDRs are due by Jan. 15, 2010. Item will go for Board approval on Feb. 4, 2010. There are not many issues with this project since it involves beneficial reuse and material will be placed in a confined fill site. WDR permit will be valid for 5 years and would need Water Board approval for renewal.

## Questions/Discussion

- Susie Santilena (Heal the Bay) asked where the dredge material will be stored while third parties are waiting to dispose of material in the Middle Harbor slip fill. Matt Arms (POLB) responded that material is not allowed to be stored at the Port and that it would come by barge and be placed directly into the slip.
- Susie Santilena (Heal the Bay) asked where the LA River Estuary (LARE) material will be placed in the Middle Harbor slip since it will be placed before rock dike is in place. Larry Smith (USACE) and Matt Arms (POLB) responded that the material will be placed in the north portion of the slip, near the north slip wedge fill.
- Dan Swenson (USACE) asked whether dredge material will be dewatered prior to placing in slip fill. Tom Johnson (Port Consultant) replied that material does not need to be dewatered and will be in slurry form. Third parties will probably be bottom dumping the material into the slip. After material has been placed in the slip, dewatering will occur naturally by gravity. The displaced water will go over dike or be discharged through weirs.
- A question was asked whether third parties could dump material by truck. Matt Arms (POLB) responded that there will be no terminal access. Third party material will need to come by barge.
- Jorine Campopiano (EPA) asked whether Middle Harbor WDRs will specify the type of material that can be accepted at the fill site. Matt Arms (POLB) responded that each party's WDRs will specify the Middle Harbor slip fill as a designated disposal site.
- Michael Lyons (RWQCB) and Tom Johnson (Port consultant) stated that no hazardous waste would be accepted at the Middle Harbor fill site because the Port does not want any liability issues.
- Mo Chang (USACE) asked when the dike will be constructed. Matt Arms (POLB) stated that the estimated time frame is by October 2010.
- Michael Lyons (RWQCB) mentioned that Army Corps is interested in placing LARE material early into slip fill. Larry Smith (USACE) stated that the Army Corps permit for the Middle Harbor project does not have to be in place before material is placed into slip. The Middle Harbor slip is a suitable 404 disposal site under the Clean Water Act. This was discussed in the supplemental EA prepared for the LARE maintenance dredging project. If Middle Harbor project does not get permitted, the Corps will have contingency measures to cap material if necessary.
- Larry Simon (CCC) asked if the Port was comfortable with the placement of LARE material before final WDRs are approved. Matt Arms (POLB) responded that the Port is not comfortable with this plan. Larry Simon (CCC) noted that the Coastal Commission cannot issue concurrence if the Port is not comfortable with early placement of LARE material.
- Matt Arms (POLB) stated that Port is okay with placing the material before dike is constructed if the CSTF and stakeholders are in agreement, but not with placing

the material before the permits (Army Corps permit and WDRs) are issued for the fill site. The desire to place the material prior to receiving all entitlements is new information to the Port and needs to be discussed further.

- Allan Ota (EPA) asked if any part of the Middle Harbor slip is part of the federal channel. Matt Arms (POLB) and Larry Smith (USACE) stated that it is not. Allan suggested that the issue of early placement will have to be looked at more carefully. Larry Smith (USACE) said the Army Corps will meet and discuss this issue with the Port.
- Antal Szijj (USACE) gave update on Corps permit for Middle Harbor. EIS is completed and working on finalizing the ROD. Corps might be able to place material if have 404 designation and WDRs. Can see the Port's concern though for being on the hook for material.
- Jorine Campopiano (EPA) asked whether the Army Corps is committed to sediment sampling and to a contingency plan for the material if project is not permitted. Larry Smith (USACE) responded that the Army Corps will sample to determine if surface sediments pose a problem and then manage the material based on sampling results. The Army Corps will then determine whether material needs to be capped or if need to utilize some other management method.

#### **Future Actions:**

- Port developing MOA template for third party placement of dredge material
- Port to issue formal request for projects and distribute application form in January 2010
- Future CSTF meeting in Feb/March 2010 to discuss applications and develop priority list of projects. By spring 2010, Port would like to know where material is coming from and the chemical and geotechnical nature of the material.

#### **b. Maintenance Dredging at Marina del Rey (note-taker: Larry Smith, Corps Planning Division)**

The CSTF discussed a proposed testing regime for Marina del Rey. This consists of a phased approach starting with sediment sampling and chemical/physical analyses of composite samples from the dredge area and physical analyses of grab samples from potential beach and nearshore areas. Optional items are available for chemistry analyses of individual cores from the dredge area and for full or partial Green Book bioassay testing. The compositing scheme is based on past sediment sampling and testing events with in-channel areas further divided into north and south areas for further resolution. Details of the proposal were discussed and two modifications were proposed and accepted. The first regards archiving of individual core samples from the dredge area. The original Scope of Work required that individual core samples be archived for possible future analyses. The proposed change is to examine the cores to determine if there are any layering of materials to see if the core encompasses two or more distinct sediment types. If there are none, then there is no change. If distinct layers are present then the core should be subsampled for the purposes of archiving at the layers. For

example, if there are two visually different layers, there would be two archived samples from that core, one for each layer. The second change adds 2 composite samples for chemistry analyses from the disposal areas. The first composite will be made up of the lower four transect stations (identified post-meeting as: -13.1, -19.7, -26.2 and -33ft MLLW) for all three transects at the Redondo Beach site. This makes up one composite from twelve grab samples. Complete chemistry as well as physical analyses to be run on the composite. The second composite will be made up from the five grab samples in the Dockweiler nearshore site. This makes up one composite from five grab samples. Complete chemistry as well as physical analyses to be run on the composite. Beach samples analyzed from Dockweiler Beach as part of the previous sand separation project will provide sand quality data for that site. The nearshore site for Redondo Beach is a temporary storage site used to transition from barges to the nearby beach site. Chemistry of this temporary site is not necessary.

The Corps will complete contracting with Halcrow to do this work. Their first product will be a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) that will be circulated for review and approval as soon as it is finished. This will take place prior to the next SC-DMMT/CSTF meeting. Review should be quick as scope is agreed upon. Sediment sampling is anticipated to occur in January 2010 with initial chemistry/physical results expected in February for review for suitability determination for beach or nearshore disposal. Materials not suitable for beach or nearshore disposal will be proposed for disposal in Slip 1 in the POLB as part of the Middle Harbor Project. Optional bioassay will be used for sediments considered for ocean disposal (should either of the first two options not be available) or to test sediments not clearly suitable for beach or nearshore disposal to confirm their suitability.

### **III. SC-DMMT Project Review and Determinations**

#### **A. Lower Newport Bay DMMP (note-taker: Corice Farrar, Corps Regulatory Division)**

##### **a. Discussion:**

Jack Word and Bill Gardiner of NewFields presented an overview and new analysis (Chemistry Characterization -Tissue) for the Lower Newport Bay Dredging Project on behalf of the City of Newport Beach Harbor Resources.

Jack presented an overview of sediment characterization, including physical and conventional measures, chemical characterization of sediment, biological testing (benthic, water column, and bioaccumulation), and chemical characterization of tissue were reviewed.

The discussion centered on Hg and DDx methods of analysis (testing on composites versus individual samples) and results. The following summary highlights the major points discussed and the agencies' concerns:

1. Sediment chemistry for metals results indicated ER-M exceedences for Hg only

- a. elevated [Hg] detected at levels above ER-M and LA-3 background for Balboa Island Channel and Lido Island Channel North composites, but no toxicity was observed in area composites
  - b. Individual station analysis were performed and results indicated elevated [Hg] at isolated locations and confined to lower stratum (below the upper 4 feet of sediment) from historical sources
  - c. DMMT previously directed that Hg be included on analyte list for bioaccumulation testing along with AS, Cd, and Cu
  - d. Bioaccumulation of Hg tissue residues were compared to reference, ERED database, and Deepwater TTL (EPA Region X reference, in progress)
  - e. DMMT asked if any contouring was done around the hotspots to identify extent of contamination; only simple extrapolation was performed
  - f. Based on Hg results, City will exclude 4 areas (2 in YAM-L, 1 in LIN, and 1 in BC) to be managed separately from ocean disposal material
2. Sediment chemistry for PAH's, PCB's, and pesticides
- a. Results indicated very low [PAH]
  - b. PCB Aroclors detected; bioassay results on composites indicated no toxicity observed
    - i. previous approval from DMMT was given to focus on PCB congener bioaccumulation testing at selected stations with highest [PCB Aroclor]
    - ii. Results of bioassay testing using area composite samples for PCB congeners indicated no toxicity; not detected above RL
  - c. [DDx] detected for two compounds in sediment chemistry, but no toxicity observed
    - i. DDx included in bioaccumulation analyte list
    - ii. Bioaccumulation of DDx steady state tissue residues were compared to risk-based threshold
    - iii. No toxicity observed in composites;
- b. **Agency Determination:**
- i. Corps indicated that individual cores within areas of elevated [DDx] and [Hg] may need to undergo toxicity testing and bioaccumulation testing;
  - ii. EPA indicated that individual cores within areas of elevated [DDx] and [Hg] may need to undergo toxicity testing and bioaccumulation testing
  - iii. Corps expressed concerns that composites didn't capture potential hotspots for DDx and potential for bioaccumulation;
  - iv. EPA expressed concerns that composites may not have captured hotspots for Hg and potential for bioaccumulation;
  - v. July submission of data results did not match with data results presented in last submission; individual core samples were reanalyzed for Hg; NewFields will provide explanation of QA/QC on samples to agencies;

- vi. EPA has decided to manage LA-3 ocean disposal site from a loading standpoint and this would affect the criteria for excluding material from disposal:
  - 1. Ramifications for this project is that management strategy for Hg with a 1.0 mg/kg screening level (instead of a 1.62 mg/kg screen level) would exclude dredged material from several sample locations from eligibility for ocean disposal;
  - 2. EPA and the City /NewFields will confer further on potentially excluded areas;
  - 3. NewFields would like to discuss with EPA the approach for excluding dredged material from ocean disposal, i.e., using mass or bulk loading to support a non-degradation policy versus using an effects-based approach;
- vii. Water Board had no comments at this time, but needed to review the report;
- viii. CDFG had no comments at this time.
- ix. City expressed urgency to receive as much information on final decisions so they can assess environmental needs, disposal locations, and continue with preparation of CEQA documents

**B. Upper Newport Dredging project (note-taker: Forrest Vanderbilt, Corps Regulatory Division)**

**a. Discussion:**

- i. Corps will provide EPA with map showing location of proposed dredging project in relation to recent core sampling locations.
- ii. Corps will provide EPA a copy of the complete SAP results for the neighboring dredging project titled "Newport Dunes".
- iii. For disposal of material at LA-3, EPA has some concerns over levels of DDT in sediment neighboring to the proposed project site.
- iv. EPA will review material and decide if the existing grain size analysis at the project site correlates with the results at the neighboring site to allow disposal at LA-3.

**IV. Agency only discussion:**

- a. See agency determination for Lower Newport Bay DMMP above.

