Southern California Dredged Material Management Team (SC-DMMT)
January 25, 2012
Final Meeting Notes

I. Participating Agencies /Attendees:

a. Michael Lyons (RWQCB – Los Angeles)
b. Allan Ota† (EPA)
c. Larry Simon† (CCC)
d. Bill Paznokas† (DFG)
e. Loni Adams† (DFG)
f. Doug Shibaru† (RWQCB-Santa Ana)
g. Scott John (USACE-PPMD)
h. Larry Smith (USACE-Planning)
i. Dan Swenson (USACE-Regulatory)
j. Joe Ryan (USACE-Engineering)
k. Paul Wong (LA County Beaches and Harbors)
l. Jeffrey Devine (USACE-Geotech)
m. Rob Walker (Anchor QEA)
n. Chris Osuch (Anchor QEA)
o. Stephen Estes (USACE-Regulatory)
p. Jason Lambert (USACE-Regulatory)

† participating via teleconference.

II. Announcements:

a. Marina del Rey (POC Larry Smith, Corps): MOA to obtain local funds is in Washington, DC for review and approval. Approval expected in February with start of dredging shortly thereafter. Dredging will extend into the California least tern nesting season. However, given that California least terns forage mainly offshore in this area, the Corps will be preparing a no-effect determination for review by the USFWS and Coastal Commission. Beach placement will likely extend into the grunion spawning season. We will prepare monitoring and minimization measures. Nearshore placement will likely extend into the grunion spawning season. We will avoid impacts by shutting down nearshore placement one hour before, during, and one hour after predicted grunion runs to avoid turbidity effects on running grunion. Both least tern and grunion information will be forwarded to the Coastal Commission, RWQCB, USFWS, NMFS, and CDFG in writing once a more exact schedule has been prepared with dates.

i. **DFG comments** (POC: Loni Adams): The draft notes indicate that avoidance of the turbidity during the grunion runs is what is important to grunion spawning. Although, this is good to avoid, the

main purpose of the annual grunion spawning is to deposit the eggs in the sand to regenerate young to replace adult grunion. Therefore, protecting the eggs inside of the sand is a critical part of conservation of the grunion species and for a sustainable fishery. Unless you plan to conduct activities outside the grunion season or if you plan to deposit dredged sand into the near shore, the Department additionally recommends that the onshore sand disturbing activities avoid the grunion eggs by monitoring the grunion runs and locating the egg nests if spawning is observed. A grunion egg protection plan should be developed for the event that grunion spawning is observed during the grunion runs. The Department would be happy to assist with developing a plan.

b. **Lower Newport Bay** (POC Larry Smith, Corps): MOA to obtain local funds is in Washington, DC for review and approval. Approval expected in February with start of dredging shortly thereafter. The dredging is now expected to include the Coast Guard Area, which has eelgrass beds in and around it. Therefore, we will be estimating the cost for eelgrass mitigation and holding those funds aside from dredging to ensure that eelgrass mitigation funds are available. Actual eelgrass mitigation will be based on post-dredge surveys. Initial estimate is that 1.2 acres of eelgrass could be lost due to dredging.

III. Project Review and Determinations

a. Oceanside Harbor SAP

i. EPA comments (POC: Allan Ota)

1. Clarification is needed in the proposed SAP for distinguishing project depth, advance maintenance dredging depth, and overdredging depth.
2. Both advance maintenance dredging depth and any overdredging depth greater than 2 feet requires special authorization by USACE Division.
3. Advance maintenance dredging appears to have received such special authorization, by implication that the additional depths have been dredged in previous episode, but it should be so stated for clarity.
4. In several spots in the document, there is mention of 5 feet of overdredging depth, which is excessive when considering that 2 feet has been the standard, and we are not aware of instances where more than 2 feet has been necessary, given the typical dredge equipment used over many years. Advance maintenance dredging needs appeared to be combined with the overdredge depth in the

document (e.g., 5 feet of overdredge allowance), and this should be corrected to read: 3 feet of advance maintenance and 2 feet of overdredge depth allowance.

5. As such, Table 1 (section 1.1, page 1) needs to be revised, as far as adding a column for advance maintenance dredging depth, applicable to Area C.
6. Similar correction is needed for section 1.2 (third paragraph) to revise the reference to "allowable overdredge depths are [.....] five feet" to read instead as: 3 feet of advance maintenance dredging depth and 2 feet of overdredge depth allowance.
7. Similar corrections are needed for section 3.1, where references to "five-foot overdredge depth for Area C" needs to be revised to read as: 3 feet of advance maintenance dredging depth and 2 feet of overdredge depth allowance.
8. Table 5 (section 3.3, pages 16-17) needs to be revised, as far as adding a column for advance maintenance dredging depth.
9. Table 5 (section 3.3, page 17) - math error noted in the first row (core OHVC11-B-1) - estimated core length should be 15 feet.
10. Section 3.4 (page 18) - for evaluation purposes, RSLs (used to be EPA's PRGs) and CHHSL (California Human Health Screening Levels) should be added to the existing ERL and ERM screening values; this should be reflected in the text for this section as well as additional columns in Table 8.
11. EPA concurs on this SAP if these revisions are incorporated in the final SAP. We understand that the final SAP will be distributed when revisions are completed.

ii. **DFG comments** (POC: Loni Adams):

1. DFG comments above for Marina del Rey also pertain to the Ocean side project in regards to grunion impacts. Conservation measures should be the same for Oceanside as this area has supported very large grunion runs in the past as long as grunion habitat is available.

b. 43 Linda Isle SAPR/Suitability:

i. EPA comments (POC: Allan Ota**):**

1. Physical and chemical analysis results revealed some elevations above ERLs, and only one constituent that was elevated significantly (TBT >264 ppb). This constituent

was apparently not bioavailable because the acute toxicity tests did not reveal any significant mortality.

2. The bioaccumulation tests did not reveal any results in excess of ERED apparent thresholds.
3. EPA concurs on the suitability determination proposed in this report - proposed project sediments are suitable for ocean disposal at LA-3.

ii. **DFG comments** (POC: Loni Adams):

1. The Department requests the Corps look into avoiding impacts from dredging to the eelgrass bed on the north side of the Linda Isle project footprint.

IV. Other issues:

a. Follow-on meeting (non-SC-DMMT): Ventura Harbor Maintenance Dredging (POC Michael Lyons (RWQCB – Los Angeles))