

Southern California Dredged Material Management Team (SC-DMMT)  
April 24, 2013  
Final Meeting Notes

**I. Participating Agencies /Attendees:**

- a. Theresa Stevens (USACE-Regulatory)
  - b. Corice Farrar (USACE-Regulatory)
  - c. Daniel Swenson (USACE-Regulatory)
  - d. Joe Ryan (USACE-ED)
  - e. Allan Ota<sup>†</sup> (USEPA Region 9)
  - f. Jack Gregg<sup>†</sup> (Coastal Commission)
  - g. Larry Smith (USACE-Planning)
  - h. Bill Paznokas<sup>†</sup> (CA-DFW)
  - i. Alan Monji<sup>†</sup> (RWQCB-San Diego)
  - j. Michael Lyons (RWQCB – Los Angeles)
  - k. Mark Adelson<sup>†</sup> (RWQCB-Santa Ana)
  - l. Doug Shibberu<sup>†</sup> (RWQCB-Santa Ana)
  - m. Chris Osuch<sup>†</sup> (Anchor QEA)
  - n. Jack Malone<sup>†</sup> (Anchor QEA)
  - o. Adam Gale (Anchor QEA)
  - p. Shelley Angara (Anchor QEA)
  - q. Steve Capellino (Anchor QEA)
  - r. Doug West (City of Newport, Harbor Resources Commission)
  - s. Chris Miller (City of Newport, Harbor Resources Commission)
  - t. Kathryn Curtis<sup>†</sup> (Port of Los Angeles)
  - u. Kat Pricket (Port of Los Angeles)
  - v. Barry Snyder (AMEC – Port of Los Angeles)
  - w. Rachel McPherson (YTI - Port of Los Angeles)
- <sup>†</sup> **participating via teleconference.**

**II. Announcements:**

- a. **Corps Planning (Larry Smith):** Oceanside Harbor dredging almost completed. Expect dredging to be completed Friday or Saturday followed by a week to demobilize. Question on grunion and suitability of disposal area. Grunion were noted 250 ft south of the pier, disposal area shortened to 200 ft to avoid impacts.
- b. **LA Water Board (Michael Lyons):** Susie Santilena has left Heal the Bay and thinks Kirsten James might be taking over her responsibilities.

**III. Project Review and Determinations**

- a. **RGP 54 Renewal (Cori Farrar, Chris Osuch), SAP:**
  - i. **Corps (Regulatory) comments:**

1. RGP 54 initiated (under a different name) in 1974 and has continued to present time. Prior renewal efforts were for residential dock maintenance dredging, small volumes, and no channel dredging. Renewal for 2014 is proposed for residential marinas, commercial dock maintenance dredging, and minor modifications to existing structures.
2. SAP is for beach disposal or disposal at LA-3, or disposal at confined aquatic site. Previous sampling events were for RGP 54 renewal in 2000, 2005, and 2010.
3. Area is being expanded to include as much of the bay as possible, excluding Upper Newport Bay north of Dover Shores marina.
4. Proposed Test Approach:
  - Six composite areas (matching 4 prior, adding to new)
  - Cores to -12' MLLW (-10' MLLW project depth plus 2-foot overdepth)
  - 0.5 foot z-layer from -12 to -12.5 MLLW
  - Phased testing as shown on slides 20 & 21
  - Schedule as shown on slide 21

**ii. Corps (Planning) comments:**

1. Cores 6-3 and 6-4 should be included in Area 4 as they are hydrologically part of Area 4 not Area 6. In which case, should Areas 4 & 6 be combined, as Area 6 would be too small.
2. What is the source of mercury in the bay? This should be discussed in the SAP. Sources identified were shipyards on the bay, possible upland sources, including historic mercury mines in the watershed.
3. Corps made recommendation that any past sampling results from marina dredging, if available, be included in the SAP as historical data.

**iii. Anchor QEA comments:**

1. Proposed following revised test approach:
  - a. Vertical cores with three layers: sample mudline to -7' MLLW; sample -7 to 12- MLLW; Z-layer sample -12 to -12.5' MLLW.
  - b. Perform separate chemistry on vertical composites for top two layers, archive z-layer sample and only analyze if last layer shows contamination.
  - c. Split Area 1 into Areas 1a and 1b
  - d. Combine Areas 6 and 4
  - e. Split Area 4 into Areas 4a and 4b

- f. Perform individual core analysis for cores 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, and 6-4 to determine suitability for compositing with Area 4.
2. Following agreement with EPA and Corps, Anchor QEA will resubmit for out of cycle review by SC-DMMT members to avoid further delay.

**iv. California Coastal Commission comments:**

1. Initiated discussion on whether the new annual limit was too large. The applicant was asked to address the rationale for the new limit. Corps (Regulatory) asked that this discussion be postponed as it is actually a permit issue unrelated to the sediment characterization.

**v. CDFWS comments:**

1. Initiated discussion on z-layer and expressed interest in having the sediment that would remain after dredging characterized thoroughly.

**vi. EPA comments:**

1. Initiated Questioned if the -17 to -10 MLLW represents new dredging for the berths. No, it does not as the entire harbor was authorized to -10' MLLW. Then, the concern is that the -7' to -10' MLLW band historic deposition that has not been dredged for many years and may contain high levels of mercury from historical sources. Prior dredging RGP (1974-1984) allowed dredging to -10' MLLW.
2. Proposed adding cores to fill in what appeared to be data gaps. EPA, Corps RGL, and Anchor QEA will discuss separately to resolve. CCC asked to participate.
3. EPA okay with SAP modification to test two vertical composites for grain size and metals only. If the two composites yield similar results, then proceed with full chemistry and bioassay tests on full depth samples.

**b. Berths 212-224 Yusen Container Terminal Improvements Project, Port of Los Angeles; SAP (Theresa Stevens-Corps PM):**

**i. Comments:**

- Not likely to approve LA-2 disposal (RWQCB-Lyons).
- TMDL actions are coming and Port prefers to reserve space at Berth 243-245 CDF for truly contaminated materials because capacity at CDF is limited (POLA).
- 2006 Kinetics study results requested by agencies (All agencies); AMEC to provide.

- Likely to encounter native material due to proposed sample depths (Corps Planning-Smith).
- Phase testing proposed for composite samples (AMEC).
- Core B-3 may not be needed due to only ½ foot of dredging (Corps Planning-Smith).
- Alternatively to bioassay tests, toxicity tests could be completed; could stop there or continue to bioaccumulation tests based on toxicity results (All agencies).
- Fix tables for inconsistencies in depth reporting in SAP. Other errors in SAP will be fixed by AMEC (All agencies).
- Potential for a fine grain control using amphipods, using clean fines obtained from San Diego; this would remove confounding factors such as where grain size, in the absence of contamination, might affect results (All agencies).
- Schedule: collect cores in May (AMEC).
- Expect revised SAP for agency review by email (All agencies).

**ii. EPA Comments:**

1. Suggested possible phasing of bioassay tests.
2. Approved of analyte table and species list but recommended adding pyrethroids and Rhepoxynius to analyte and spp lists, respectively.

**c. Dredge Maintenance Berths 163-164 Port of Los Angeles (Theresa Stevens-Corps PM); SAP :**

**i. Comments**

- RWQCB not likely to approve LA-2 disposal (RWQCB-Lyons).
- Area B core locations (B1-B3) are located in area of deepest sediment accumulation (AMEC).
- Dredging in areas that would only remove ½ foot of sediment may not need to be dredged or sampled (Corps Planning-Smith).
- Phased testing needs to be explained in the revised SAP (All agencies).
- Pyrethroids and Rhepoxynius (amphipod) need to be added to the analyte and organism lists, respectively (RWQCB-Lyons).
- Suggestion to conduct a composite toxicity test from a composite of all A and B cores (if they exhibit similar contaminant levels) to determine whether bioaccumulation tests are needed. Grain size differences and/or life history characteristics would drive amphipod spp. Selection )(All agencies).
- Expect revised SAP for agency review by email (All agencies).

**IV. Other issues:** none.