

Southern California Dredged Material Management Team (SC-DMMT)
September 24, 2014
Final Meeting Notes

I. Participating Agencies/Attendees:

- a. Stephen Estes (USACE-Regulatory)
- b. Pamela Kostka (USACE-Regulatory)
- c. Brittany Seguin (USACE-Regulatory)
- d. Larry Smith (USACE-Planning)
- e. Joe Ryan (USACE-Engineering)
- f. Jim Fields (USACE-Planning)
- g. Kirk Brus (USACE-Planning)
- h. Allan Ota[†] (USEPA Region 9)
- i. Larry Simon[†] (CCC)
- j. Loni Adams[†] (CDFW)
- k. Bill Paznokas[†] (CDFW)
- l. Michael Lyons[†] (RWQCB – Los Angeles)
- m. Rick Ware[†] (Coastal Resources Management, Inc.)

[†] participating via teleconference.

II. Announcements: Allan Ota (USEPA) requested the Corps consider developing a system to track the amount of sediment disposed of annually for ocean disposal sites to provide accurate data for USEPA records. USEPA believes the amounts reported this year appeared relatively low. This applies to both Regulatory and Civil Works. USEPA also thought it would be useful to keep track of quantities of sediment beneficially reused.

III. Project Review and Determinations

1. San Pedro Bay Breakwater Repair Project (Larry Smith): Larry Smith provided a pre-construction notice for the San Pedro Bay Breakwater Repair Project, which may commence in mid-October. Waves from Hurricane Marie caused extensive damages to the breakwater. Construction to repair the damage is expected to last approximately 2.5 months and would be conducted by barges on the inside of the breakwater. Rock used in the repairs may be obtained from a quarry. Work would be conducted under the terms and conditions of Regional General Permit 63 for Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations. The Corps coordinated with the U.S. Coast Guard and has received comments from the State Water Resources Control Board.

- a. **CCC comments:** Larry Simon stated the CCC's Executive Director concurred with a negative determination submitted by the Corps of Engineers for the proposed breakwater repair project.

b. CDFW comments: Bill Paznokas stated the CDFW has no objections to the proposed project.

2. Los Angeles River Estuary (LARE) and Port of Los Angeles (POLA) Maintenance Dredging Projects (Larry Smith): The Corps plans to dredge sediment from the federal channel in the LARE and dispose of all sediment at the LA-2 Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS). The maximum volume of dredged material may be as high as 750,000 cubic yards (cy), although the actual volume would likely be closer to 650,000 cy. Surveys for Caulerpa were conducted within the dredge footprint by Coastal Resources Management, Inc. (report dated September 9, 2014) with negative results.

In a separate project, the Corps plans to (a) dredge sediment from the POLA, (b) discharge approximately 111,000 cy of the dredged sediment at the Cherry Avenue discharge site, and (c) dispose of approximately 64,000 cy of the dredged sediment at the LA-2 ODMDS. Surveys for eelgrass and Caulerpa were conducted at the Cherry Avenue discharge site with the results reported in the document mentioned above. Eelgrass was observed outside of the discharge footprint. No impacts to existing eelgrass beds are expected. No Caulerpa was found.

a. CCC Comments:

1. Larry Simon (CCC) mentioned that the surveys found trash and debris within the LARE dredge footprint and questioned whether this material would be screened or otherwise removed prior to disposal at the LA-2 ODMDS. Larry Smith (Corps) responded that the material is primarily organic. Larry Simon stated the surveys specifically reported trash and this would not be appropriate for disposal at the LA-2 ODMDS. In addition, past projects have caused trash to become visible to divers and others. Jim Fields (Corps) stated that any large debris the contractor finds would need to be removed. Plastic bags and other smaller items could not be feasibly removed due to logistical issues with using clamshell buckets. The Corps has requested that contractors remove floating debris for past projects. Rick Ware (Coastal Resources Management, Inc.) added that the amount of trash present at the dredged site was not quantified but did not appear to be a substantial amount based on video reconnaissance. Larry Smith and Rick Ware clarified the visible debris was only along the upper end of the sand trap area and Jim Fields re-iterated that if a pocket of trash was found, it would be removed prior to disposal of dredged material.
2. Larry Simon asked (a) whether the discharged material would move through the eelgrass bed existing in close

proximity to the Cherry Avenue discharge site and (b) whether the discharge site could be moved further from existing eelgrass (by approximately 100 feet or so). Larry Smith responded that (a) the discharged sediment is expected to move more longshore than nearshore so would probably not move through the eelgrass bed and that (b) the Corps would consider moving the inshore boundary line 100 feet further away from the eelgrass bed.

b. USEPA Comments:

Allan Ota agreed with the CCC's comments regarding the disposal of trash at the LA-2 ODMDS and stated that dredged material with substantial amounts of trash would not be appropriate for ocean disposal at a site designated to receive fully characterized sediments shown to be non-toxic. Incidental amounts of trash would be expected for most dredging projects; however, large amounts of trash would need to be removed. Disposal of uncharacterized material would be a violation of the USEPA Ocean Dumping Regulations. Plastic, which is a common component of trash, is prohibited from disposal anywhere in the oceans. Allan gave an example of a 2012 dredging project in Marina del Rey that also had trash issues. See above discussion for the Corps' response to the trash/debris issue. USEPA will be reviewing the standard conditions which are normally included with USEPA's concurrence on ocean dumping permits issued by USACE to ensure that trash and marine debris prohibitions at USEPA-designated ocean dredged material disposal sites are more explicitly stated, and consequently addressed more consistently in contracts issued for dredging projects.

c. CDFW Comments:

1. Loni Adams (CDFW) stated that although the observed eelgrass is outside of the Cherry Avenue site footprint, the discharge of sediments would be within 10 feet of existing eelgrass beds at some locations. The discharge of sediment within close proximity to eelgrass beds may affect benthic communities and other wildlife that rely on eelgrass. Loni asked whether the discharge footprint could be moved further from the eelgrass beds. Larry Smith responded that the placement site was chosen as it would become a feeder of sediment to beaches in the city of Long Beach. In addition, it was used as a discharge site for another project in 2008, which prevents a new site from being impacted. The site consists of a common sandy bottom community,

which would be expected to recover rapidly following discharge. The amount of sediment to be discharged is relatively small (~110,000 cy). Another potential discharge site near Alamos Bay was too shallow for barges to safely navigate.

2. Loni also requested (a) that the eelgrass habitat be monitored during operations to ensure unforeseen impacts do not occur, (b) that the Corps consider reducing the post-project elevation of the substrate at the discharge site, and (c) the approximate recovery time for benthic communities after similar discharges. Larry Smith responded that (a) a post-construction survey would be conducted, (b) reducing the post-project elevation of the substrate would necessitate spreading the sediment over a larger area, potentially causing more impacts to sensitive habitats, and (c) the approximate recovery time for benthic communities is one to two years. Rick Ware agreed with the latter assessment, stating red algae is relatively resilient in this area and there are no sand dollars known to be present at the site.

IV. Other Issues: none.