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For Immediate Release

Contacts: Maria Or, USACE, (415) 503-6801
Keith Coolidge, CALFED, (916) 445-0092

Long-Term Dredge Plan Charter Complete *Seven state and federal agencies sign agreement*

Seven state and federal agencies have signed a charter to develop and implement a long-term plan for managing dredge material that will ultimately help restore the ecological health and improve water management of the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast.

The Delta Long-Term Management Strategy (LTMS) details both near- and long-term research and planning activities for dredging and beneficial reuse in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. It was developed in 2004 by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers along the same lines as a successful dredging and sediment management approach for the San Francisco Bay.

Near-term activities of Delta LTMS will address topics such as immediate research needs associated with dredge material disposal and reuse, while long-term activities will focus on developing a comprehensive dredge material management plan for the Delta.

All seven agencies that signed the LTMS charter are engaged in implementing the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. They are: the Corps, California Bay-Delta Authority, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, the Delta Protection Commission and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

State Agencies

The Resources Agency – California State Parks / Delta Protection Commission / Department of Conservation / Department of Fish and Game / Department of Water Resources / San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission / The Reclamation Board /
California Environmental Protection Agency – State Water Resources Control Board / **California Department of Food and Agriculture** / **California Department of Health Services**

Federal Agencies

Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management / Bureau of Reclamation / Fish and Wildlife Service / Geological Survey /
US Army Corps of Engineers / **Environmental Protection Agency** / **Department of Agriculture** – Natural Resources Conservation Service /
Department of Commerce – National Marine Fisheries Service / **Western Area Power Administration**

Delta LTMS will explore ways to coordinate and manage dredging planning, regulatory approval and implementation to protect and enhance the Delta's ecosystem, water quality, navigation and flood control functions. The goals of LTMS are to manage dredging activities to achieve the following:

- Support and maintain Delta channels for navigation, flood control, water conveyance and recreation,
- Maintain and stabilize Delta levees that protect land-based activities, water conveyance and terrestrial ecosystems, and
- Protect and enhance water quality for Delta water supply and ecosystem function.

The Delta plays a major role in the state's prosperity by providing at least a portion of the drinking water for 24 million Californians statewide, fueling a \$31 billion agricultural industry and serving as an important habitat for 750 animal and plant species, including waterfowl, birds of prey, sport fish and species listed as threatened or endangered such as Delta smelt, Chinook salmon and steelhead.

The 1,000-square-mile Delta estuary supports 80 percent of California's commercial salmon fisheries and its 1,100 miles of levees protect farms, cities, schools and people.

For more information on the Delta Long-Term Management Strategy please visit www.deltatms.com. For more information about the Delta and the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, please visit www.calwater.ca.gov.

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