

DELTA LTMS ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT WORK GROUP MEETING

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA

Tuesday, June 30, 2009
10:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

MEETING NOTES

Meeting Attendees

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Bill Brostoff – USACE SPN | Steve Michelson – Environmental Risk Services |
| Katie Chamberlin – Anchor QEA, L.P. | Al Paniccia – USACE SPN |
| Nancy Ferris – USACE SPN | Brian Ross – U.S. EPA |
| Cal Fong – Port of Stockton | Brooke Schlenker – USACE SPK |
| Cory Koger – USACE SPK | Amy Simpson – DWR |
| Nancy Ferris – USACE SPN | Fari Tabatabai – USACE SPN |
| Susan Ma – USACE SPN | |
| Jack Malone – Anchor QEA, L.P. | |

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- The next TWG meetings were scheduled for **July 9, 2009**, **August 13, 2009**, and **September 17, 2009** and will be joint Protocols, Alternatives, and Permitting TWG meetings beginning at 9 a.m. Future meeting agendas will assume no lunch break and anticipate ending at noon or 12:30 p.m.
- The Delta LTMS Management Committee meeting has been scheduled for July 29, 2009. The meeting location is being determined and several potential locations in Sacramento are being evaluated.

ALTERNATIVES TECHNICAL WORK GROUP OVERVIEW

- Jack provided a brief summary and overview of the Alternatives TWG purpose, tasks, and proposed deliverable. Copies of the Regional Disposal and Reuse Development Technical Work Group Overview and Direction document were provided to the meeting attendees. The document is also available on the Delta LTMS website.
- Jack stated that the purpose of this meeting is to introduce the new chair of the Alternatives TWG, Brooke Schlenker, and to review sediment placement site maps and solicit feedback on potential beneficial reuse sites. Jack provided copies of two maps for review: one depicting sediment placement sites across the entire Delta region and one focusing on the Sacramento DWSC, including project reaches and projected dredge volumes.
- In response to a request from Brooke, Jack provided a brief update of the status of the group's effort to identify sediment placement sites and create maps and data tables using that information.

ALTERNATIVES TECHNICAL WORK GROUP CHAIR INTRODUCTION

- Jack introduced Brooke Schlenker of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District as the new chair of the Alternatives Technical Work Group. Brooke explained that she has been involved in a number of Delta projects including the Stockton DWSC project and is currently involved in the CALFED Delta Levee Stability Program and DILFS.

CALFED DELTA LEVEE STABILITY PROGRAM

- Brooke explained that the CALFED Levee Stability Program (LSP) is designed to target short-term levee stability needs with some opportunities to explore ecosystem restoration. Long-term flood risk management and ecosystem restoration in the Delta will be explored as part of the Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility Study (DILFS). The main focus of LSP is on landside placement of material on levees in critical need. The USACE works with the Reclamation Districts as the local sponsors for the projects.
- The USACE has identified 8 projects for which to execute contracts this FY.
 - Fari asked whether sediment sources had been identified and for clarification on the schedule and funding for these projects. Brooke replied that sediment sources and volumes had not been identified and that Federal funding had been secured while local funding was still being obtained. Brooke added that the

process began with proposals from the Reclamation Districts documented in the 2006 Report to Congress. Site visits are currently being conducted to determine the current status of the proposal. USACE will produce a Project Implementation Report (PIR) for each study, which will be sent to South Pacific Division for approval. Although there is no limit for individual project cost, the intent is to keep each constructed project in the \$15 million range in order to maximize the productivity of the entire program.

- Brian stated that using a holistic approach to match sediment sources, such as dredging, with sediment needs, such as levee repair should be a goal and that EPA's focus remains beneficial reuse as a focus rather than cost alone.
- Brian brought a hard copy of EPA's scoping comments on the Sacramento and Stockton DWSC projects and said that he could make them available electronically to the USACE to distribute when requested by individuals. The USACE will post all of the scoping comments on the DWSC project websites at one time so EPA's scoping comments will not be posted on the Delta LTMS website.

BETHEL ISLAND

- Steve M. reported that he encountered a challenging situation at Bethel Island that might appear at other locations. He explained that Bethel Island chose not to participate in his proposed sediment characterization study, apparently because some of the landowners are not interested in accepting dredge material because they currently mine material from their property and sell it for levee repairs.
 - Brooke and Cory stated that they had spoken to a Bethel Island representative who had indicated that they might be willing to accept dredged material. A general discussion ensued and it appears that Steve had spoken to the same individual that Brooke and Cory had contacted. It was determined that additional conversations with the Bethel Island Municipal Irrigation District would be appropriate.
- Cory reported that the SAP for the project will be distributed for review today. A general discussion regarding the appropriate permitting pathway for the project ensued.
- Fari suggested that the project is a good candidate to be handled through the Permitting TWG and asked Bill whether there were any issues that would potentially prevent that course of action. Bill pointed out that this project will be an item of discussion at the

Delta LTMS IWG teleconference tomorrow and that Bethel Island should remain a standing item on the Delta LTMS TWG agenda.

- Brian observed that based on his understanding of the project description, there could be multiple sensitive habitat and species issues to address and that coordination with the resource agencies will be crucial. Brooke explained that the USFWS and NMFS have been part of their project team and remain engaged in the project development process. There was consensus that including the project in the Delta LTMS TWG agenda might facilitate meeting attendance by the resource agencies.
- Fari asked Brooke about the proposed project schedule and funding and Brooke replied that they plan to conduct sediment sampling this year, and initiate project construction in August 2010. Brooke reported that the Federal funding is in place but that the local sponsor is in the process of entering into an agreement with the DWR to secure their share of the funding.
- Bill asked whether there is a website for the project and Brooke said that they are still constructing one and that information is available in the Delta News newsletter.

DRAFT SEDIMENT PLACEMENT SITE MAPS

- Al asked how sediment placement site information was being developed and Jack explained that it was being done through Delta LTMS TWG meetings, follow-up queries of LTMS participants, and through online research and agency contacts.
 - Doug L. suggested that the table and maps be distributed as widely as possible throughout the Delta LTMS contact list and other lists such as resource conservation districts. There was a general discussion of this idea and a decision by the USACE with support from the group that the material should be distributed as soon as possible with the goal of soliciting comments in time for review at the July 9, 2009 Delta LTMS TWG meeting.
 - There was a general discussion of the ways that the table could be distributed for review and the results compiled, with the consensus that there were multiple ways to solicit the information and provide instructions to reviewers.
 - Jack reminded the group that the July 9 meeting is next week, with a holiday weekend at the end of this week, which leaves little time for the material to be distributed and reviewed.

- Fari asked whether there is a column for site accessibility on the table and Susan consulted a previous version of the table and discovered that there is not. Fari suggested that this information is crucial and that it would be beneficial to know whether each site is accessible by water or land, what size scows can be accommodated, what size trucks can reach the site, whether the roads can support two-way traffic, and related information.
- Al suggested that a paragraph summary be developed for each placement site.

ALTERNATIVES TWG MISSION AND CHARTER

- Fari asked about the task item specifying identification of a central rehandling site in the Regional Disposal and Reuse Development Technical Work Group Overview and Direction document. Brian reiterated EPA's position that sediment sources should be paired with sediment needs and that the Delta LTMS need not specify individual project-specific placement sites but should support a holistic approach.
- Steve M. suggested that the concept of a centralized rehandling location is contrary to EPA's comments. Brian responded that EPA also suggests that material be placed so that it is readily accessible for beneficial reuse, even if it is not initially directly placed at sites in need of sediment. He also stated that such a site should at least be part of an alternatives evaluation, even if it is not selected in the end.
- Doug L. pointed out that rehandling facilities make good sense in certain circumstances, like when there is a need to remove salts from sediment prior to reuse but that generally any sort of rehandling greatly increases project costs.
- Brian suggested that the Regional Disposal and Reuse Development Technical Work Group Overview and Direction document should refer to the two DWSC projects by name, because they represent the vast majority of the dredging in the Delta and are inextricably tied to the LTMS.
 - Fari stated that the DWSC projects must be justified through economic analysis, though they certainly should make use of information developed through the LTMS process. She suggested that it is not necessary to include specific projects in a mission or charter. Brian replied that in his view it is necessary to include them by name and specify that coordination with the LTMS will occur because these very large projects receive a great deal of scrutiny.

SHERMAN ISLAND BENEFICIAL REUSE

- Steve M. reported that the Regional Board had issued an NOA for reuse of 140,000 cubic yards of material dredged by the Port of Stockton and placed in the Scour Pond and McCormack pit in 2007/2008. The material can be reused on the land side of levees within 1 mile of the initial placement site. The dredged sediment was characterized prior to dredging and then recently in parallel with characterization of the proposed placement sites.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Anchor QEA will contact Nancy and Cal to obtain proposed sediment volumes for the Stockton DWSC project as well as GIS data and information about potential sediment placement sites.
2. Anchor QEA will contact Brooke to obtain GIS data and tabular information about levees identified in the CALFED program.
3. Anchor QEA will contact Brian to obtain electronic copies of EPA's scoping comments on the two DWSC projects to supply to the USACE for their distribution to interested individuals.
4. Anchor QEA will send Brooke information about the scheduled Delta LTMS TWG meetings so that she can invite the resource agency staff involved with the Bethel Island project.
5. Anchor QEA will contact Amy Simpson to obtain a list of RCDs to aid in distribution of the draft sediment placement site table and maps.
6. Amy Simpson will attempt to obtain GIS data for DWR project sites to add to the sediment placement site database.
7. Anchor QEA will coordinate distribution of the draft sediment placement site maps and table to solicit information from the Delta LTMS participants and RCDs with the goal of discussing updated information at the July 9, 2009 Delta LTMS TWG meeting. The table will be revised to include additional columns discussed at the meeting.
8. Anchor QEA will coordinate distribution of the Regional Disposal and Reuse Development Technical Work Group Overview and Direction document to the Alternatives TWG attendees and other core Delta LTMS members for their review and with the goal of discussing any suggested revisions at the July 9, 2009 Delta LTMS TWG meeting.

9. Bill B. will look up a list of Alternative TWG members to supply to Anchor QEA for their use in Item 8.
10. Anchor QEA will finalize a meeting location for the July 29, 2009 Delta LTMS Management Committee meeting.
11. Anchor QEA will arrange a means for Steve M. to call in to the July 9, TWG meeting.