

# **Delta Long Term Management Strategy Management Committee**

**December 7, 2006  
Sacramento, CA**

## **Meeting Summary**

On Thursday December 7, 2006, the Management Committee (MC) of the Delta Long Term Management Strategy (Delta LTMS) met at the office of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program in Sacramento. The meeting objectives were to:

- Understand the Delta LTMS background and Framework
- Review the Delta LTMS Work Plan and Technical Studies
- Establish Science Review Panel

### ***Background of Delta LTMS: Key Framework Elements***

Sergio Guillen, CALFED, welcomed meeting participants to the first meeting of the Delta LTMS Management Committee and introduced Pam Jones, meeting facilitator with CirclePoint. Pam read the description of the Management Committee as worded in the Delta LTMS Framework, Section 4.2. After reviewing the objectives of the meeting, Pam asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves. A list of participants is at the end of this meeting summary.

Pam informed the group that the final draft versions of the Charter and the Framework are being reviewed by the agencies. It is expected that the final versions will be approved imminently.

Al Paniccia, USACE, explained the goals and objectives of the Delta LTMS. He reviewed the structure of the LTMS and roles of its participants, naming the members of the Executive Committee, which convened for the first time in October. Bill Marshall, CVRWQCB, told the group that Robert Schneider's term as Chairman has ended, thus there will be a new person representing CVRWQCB on the Executive Committee.

Al reminded the group the role of the Management Committee, and explained that the Interagency Work Group is specific agency staff that serve as program managers for the LTMS. He explained that technical work groups are being developed and will be the topic of a later agenda item. The Strategy Review Group (SRG) is where other agency staff, stakeholders, and members of the public are involved in the process. Members of the public are also invited to participate during the "public comment" section of each committee's meeting. Al reviewed the history of the LTMS effort, and informed the group of the LTMS Web site ([www.deltaltms.com](http://www.deltaltms.com) or [www.delta-ltms.com](http://www.delta-ltms.com)).

Bill Brostoff, USACE, told the Management Committee that the project's Work Plan, which in USACE terminology is called a Project Management Plan (PMP), is currently in draft form and will be available for review in early January 2007. It will serve as the road map for completing the LTMS. It includes discussion on estimated budget (USACE has a line item—Pinole Shoal

Management Study—for some funding, however lobbying will be needed for additional funds). The Work Plan identifies tasks and responsibilities, and requires confirmation on staffing commitments from the agencies.

Anchor Environmental, a firm that has worked on similar documents for USACE, has been contracted to develop the Work Plan. Bill introduced Steve Cappellino of Anchor to explain in further detail the Work Plan. Steve reviewed eight steps the LTMS might take to result in a Sediment Management Plan over a period of three years. He explained where the SRG and Technical Work Groups are involved in the process. Steve commented that the Work Plan is a living document.

Steve highlighted the four proposed technical work groups and listed the agencies whose participation would be essential to ensure their success. Members of the Management Committee strongly voiced the need for the resources agencies (NOAA Fisheries, USFWS, and CDFG) to be involved in these technical work groups. Steve responded that there was concern that these agencies have limited staff and may not be able to commit.

Steve briefly explained the role of the Science Review Panel as providing an independent science review process for Delta LTMS studies. Specifically, it will evaluate existing information, identify gaps, and review results and conclusions. It was explained that later in the agenda, the Management Committee would be asked to approve the *concept* of the Science Review Panel.

Steve also reviewed the goal, uses, status, and priorities of the sediment database being developed by a consultant to Anchor.

Steve and Pam laid out the next steps for the process, which will result in a conceptual strategy plan in December 2007. An email will be distributed shortly to the Management Committee explaining in detail the charge of the Science Review Panel and the areas of technical expertise being sought, and requesting recommendations for the Panel. The IWG will meet in January to discuss the participant suggestions from the Management Committee as well as other interested parties. It will email its recommendations, with supporting reference material, to the Management Committee and ask for approval of those recommendations. A separate email describing the Technical Work Groups will be sent to everyone on the LTMS distribution list, and people will be asked to select the Work Groups in which they'd like to participate. The Management Committee will be asked to commit staff (approximately 10 hours/month) to appropriate Technical Work Groups.

Regarding the Science Review Panel, members of the Management Committee suggested including more fishery biologists and experts in metals/contaminants. It strongly urged Delta LTMS staff and consultants to work with the CALFED Science Program, which has a great deal of experience establishing scientific technical review panels. Lauren Hastings suggested a balance of panelists that are “inside the system” and from other areas. Members of the IWG informed the Management Committee that members of the Science Review Panel should be independent from the agencies. Bill Marshall, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, explained that the person CVRWQCB suggested is independent from the Regional Water Board and should thus be considered.

Karen Schwinn, USEPA, expressed concern at the number of Technical Work Groups proposed (four) and thought there might be difficulty in committing staff to each one. She suggested that some of the groups with overlapping goals be consolidated. Brian Ross, USEPA, commented that Technical Work Groups could meet on the same day to maximize the staff time. It was agreed that each agency might not be able to commit staff to every Technical Work Group, but they should try to attend the ones which are most relevant to their agency's mission.

COL Light, USACE Sacramento District, commented that he was reluctant to commit staff if funding is questionable. He asked about the funding possibilities of other agencies. CALFED does not have money, nor its own staff—staff works for other agencies. Mike Aceituno, NOAA Fisheries, stated that they do not have a line item to fund their involvement and expressed concern over their limited resources and heavy work load. Linda Fiack, Delta Protection Commission, said she could commit people to be involved on two of the Technical Work Groups. COL Light questioned if the 10 hour/month commitment was realistic. Steve Cappellino commented that it will depend on the group and its charges; it might be more than 10 hours at first, but will die down. Mike Aceituno commented that he expects it will be more time consuming than projected, especially if participants are expected to be thoroughly engaged. A major commitment from the resources agencies will be required, but a resources solution is needed.

COL Light suggested researching the possibility of entering into a mutual agreement with the Federal agencies, in particular NOAA Fisheries and USFWS. Brian Ross commented that for the Bay LTMS, staff is generally doing what is part of their job requirements anyway. He suggested thinking creatively in negotiating agency involvement. Brian said the Dredged Material Management Office (DMMO) that was developed in the Bay has been operating as a standing “pre-application” review group that actually coordinates and facilitates the permitting process—also the objective of the Delta LTMS. USFWS attends Bay DMMO meetings when their consultation is necessary. Pam asked the Management Committee for comments on moving forward. COL Light said that an effort must be made because the situation will only get worse.

### ***Public Comment***

There were no comments from members of the public.

### ***Approval of SRP and Technical Work Groups***

After reviewing their directives, the Management Committee was asked to approve the concepts of the four Technical Work Groups. Some members of the Committee commented that two groups seem to be off-shoots of the other two. They were informed that all groups will move on parallel tracks. Since their directives will be related, the recommendations of each group must mesh with the others; communication between the groups will be critical. Recognizing this concern, the IWG will serve as the “synthesis” group that will coordinate the actions of the groups. A chairperson from each group will report to the IWG and SRG. Brian Ross, EPA,

suggested that perhaps there could be one large Technical Work Group whose tasks are undertaken by subcommittees; some of these tasks may finish sooner than others.

Dave Mraz, Department of Water Resources, commented that DWR has some funding from the recent bond measures, thus they can commit staff and some monetary support. The objectives of the Dredge Re-use Work Group, in particular, might be eligible for DWR support.

Linda Fiack asked the group to consider strategies for engaging the resources agencies. The Delta Protection Commission has deputy-level directors on their Board that could be encouraged to participate. She asked for ways that the DPC can assist.

**Action:** The Management Committee gave consensus approval to the concept of the Science Review Panel as described and of the four Technical Work Groups.

Pam reaffirmed that the Management Committee will be asked for its suggestions for members of the Science Review Panel, and will subsequently be asked to approve the Panel as recommended by the IWG. The Management Committee will also be asked for a commitment of staff persons from their agency to be a part of the Technical Work Groups.

### *Next Meeting*

The Management Committee will meet on March 21, 2006. Pam asked for Management Committee members to review the contact lists of the three LTMS committees (Executive, Management, and Interagency Working Group, and provide edits to CirclePoint. Management Committee members were also requested to submit the name and contact information of an Alternate to serve on the Management Committee in their absence.

### *Attendees*

COL Ron Light, USACE  
LTC Craig Kiley, USACE  
Karen Schwinn, USEPA  
Mike Aceituno, NOAA Fisheries  
Linda Fiack, DPC  
Dave Mraz, for Les Harder, DWR  
Bill Marshall, for Pamela Creedon, Central Valley RWQCB  
Lauren Hastings, for Ron Ott, CALFED  
William Brostoff, USACE  
Al Paniccia, USACE  
Brian Ross, USEPA  
Sergio Guillen, CALFED  
Bob Yeadon, DWR  
Sue McConnell, Central Valley RWQCB  
Phil Giovannini, Central Valley RWQCB  
Lynn O'Leary, USACE

John Headlee, USACE  
Jim Sandner, USACE  
Jessica Burton Evans, USACE  
Susan Ma, USACE  
Roberta Goulart, Contra Costa County Water Agency  
Roger Golden, Walter Yep, Inc., for Port of Stockton  
Darryl Foreman, Land Planning+Entitlements Inc./South Delta Water Agency  
G. Fred Lee, G. Fred Lee & Associates  
Kim Tremaine, Argus Technology  
Leo Flor, Harris & Associates  
George Nichol, ASCE  
Christine Boudreau, Anchor Environmental  
Steve Cappellino, Anchor Environmental  
Pam Jones, CirclePoint  
Sonja Wadman, CirclePoint