

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

December 12, 2007  
CALFED Bay Delta Room (1:00-3:00)

## **Meeting Summary**

On Wednesday, December 12, 2007, the Management Committee (MC) of the Delta Long-Term Management Strategy (Delta LTMS) met at the offices of CALFED Bay-Delta Program in Sacramento, CA. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Present the MC with a project status update, and
- Review the progress of the Permitting and Protocols Technical Working Groups.

***Introductions and Announcements*** (Steve Cappellino, Anchor Environmental, and Al Paniccia, USACE-SPN)

- Attendance – see sign in sheet for list of attendees + Karen Schwinn (EPA) participated via phone
- Project funding update –
  - USACE SF District, Pinole Shoal Management Plan (the official name of the Delta LTMS) FY08 budget is estimated at approximately \$500K (\$2M capacity was requested)
  - WRDA 07 – Levee funding authorizations (not appropriations) were increased from \$90M to \$106M and it eliminated the Benefit: Cost ratio for flood control projects
    - Roberta Goulart mentioned that Sherman Island was authorized in the WRDA (not appropriated) as a cost shared federal project
  - DWR – has potential funds for special studies that could assist the Delta LTMS project

***General Project Status Update*** (Steve Cappellino, Anchor Environmental)

- Steve reviewed the basic function of the four TWGs as initially formulated
- Milestones completed to date:
  - Sediment Quality Database draft in QA review at San Francisco and Sacramento Districts – goal is to present the database to the SRG in January 2008
    - Evaluating ability to merge database with Bay LTMS databases
    - Ultimate goal is a GIS or web-based program
  - GIS map database that includes project features (maps, waterways, boundaries, etc.) has been initiated
    - Valuable resources for TWGs
    - Compiled a very large amount of available electronic information
  - Value Stream Analysis completed in August 2007
    - Facilitated by Dr. Aaron Allen of LA District Corps
    - Resulted in formulation of a 12 step process to achieve a desired “future state” for permitting dredging in the Delta, which includes

- joint permit applications, a multi-agency review group, general permits/general orders, and new sediment testing protocols.
- Two TWGs (Permitting and Protocols) formed and meeting monthly
- Steve reviewed the overall project development status and schedule on the timelines/Gantt chart

***Permitting Technical Work Group Update*** (Kathy Dadey, USACE-SPK)

- Kathy reviewed the group's definition of the Delta project boundary
  - Legal Delta boundary w/o Suisun Marsh/Bay LTMS
  - Recommendation is to limit to CVRWQCB and/or Sacramento District Corps regulatory boundaries to limit conflicts in jurisdiction/complicating management and testing issues across multiple jurisdictions
- Joint Permit Application
  - Single application for all applicants for dredging projects within the Delta
  - Internal drafts are under review/discussion
  - A test period/test projects will be used to gauge effectiveness
  - Question: What about a project that crosses boundaries?
    - Answer – Corps would designate a lead District; Water Boards might require WDRs in both San Francisco and Sacramento Board jurisdictions. A commenter added there are examples of water boards in two regions designating a lead.
    - Brian Ross added that the JPA is primarily for regulatory and to capture the majority of routine projects, but does not capture every eventuality.
- Delta dredging group naming/formulation
  - Two potential names – “Delta Dredging and Reuse Task Force” vs. “Delta Dredging and Reuse Management Team”
  - Evaluating ad-hoc vs. formalized format – group is leaning to ad-hoc
  - Use a JPA for all new projects
  - Review applications and information in a group format

***Protocols Technical Work Group Update*** (Brian Ross, U.S. EPA, Region 9)

- Group wants to update mandate to focus on utilizing pilot studies to formulate a better framework
- Group wants to make additional changes:
  - Rather than assess specific tests, assess the bigger picture of placement locations
  - Focus on pilot projects to help educate
  - Develop evaluation framework based on the pilot study results
- Next steps:
  - Evaluate Roberts Island data as a baseline, and then develop and fund pilot studies – coordinate with DWR as a potential funding source.
- Questions (DWR representative):
  - Duration of tests? Brian answered that it is too early to tell, but probably a year or more of monitoring at various locations would be expected for different pilot studies at least initially.

- Estimated costs? Walter Yep answered that a typical cost might run about \$2M and suggested the Sherman Island WRDA authorization might be helpful.
  - DWR (Bob Yeadon) responded that local assistance dollars is the best route, rather than state funds.
  - DWR also mentioned there are locations on Sherman that are good to use potentially for pilot purposes

**2008 Key Initiatives for Delta LTMS** (Bill Brostoff, USACE-SPN)

- Funding opportunities –
  - Funding needed to initiate remaining two TWGs, including the programmatic biological assessment. Target is 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2008:
    - Programmatic BA TWG
    - Regional Disposal and Reuse Alternatives Development TWG (some informal work has been done on this one)
  - Corps recognizes agency funding/staffing is an issue with attempting to manage all four TWGs and is asking for member agencies to increase their commitment
    - Brian: Believes kicking off these 2 groups in 2008 is actually questionable due to agency time/resources and feels the overall schedule will be lengthened if the status quo on resources/time commitment is maintained
    - Roberta: Schedule is based on a need/prediction of upcoming decisions at the State level, and the Governor is going to move ahead quickly on several initiatives. The agencies should consider the pace of political developments/possibility of executive orders when weighing commitment to the LTMS process.
- Re-initiate the planning process for the science review panel
  - Needs funding
  - List of potential candidates and draft charter produced in early 2007
  - Target is to formalize in mid 2008 as technical products start getting developed that will need review
- Begin an outline for the Sediment Management Strategy
  - IWG to take on a framework for the Strategy in mid 2008
  - Focus on format and content of the NEPA/CEQA document

**Next Steps/Meeting Dates** (Steve Cappellino, Anchor Environmental)

- Next MC Meeting: Sometime in May 2008 was recommended
- IWGs: 1-2 times monthly
- SRG: Superseded by TWGs, quarterly meetings planned
- TWGs:
  - Next Permitting/Protocols TWG combined meeting planned for January 2008

***Questions/Comments:***

- COL Kiley: Wednesdays are ok for COL Kiley and COL Chapman. 1-3 PM is a good slot
- DWR: Wednesdays good too for MC meetings
- DWR: Willing to help with funding if they know what the group wants/needs – needs to be a specific request
- Phil: Looking for a specific problem statement – what are the specific problems in the Delta in terms of large scale needs, programs in play, what needs to be addressed to move towards large-scale solutions
- Roberta: There are lots of specific, short-term needs that are coming that the group/agencies need to be nimble enough to respond to.
- Meeting adjourned by Kathy Dadey at 3:00 PM.