CSTF AQUATIC SUBCOMMITTEE
7/24/01 MEETING NOTES
POLA Conference Center
10:00 – 12:00

Introductions: Jim Fields of the Corps called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. Meeting attendees are listed on the attached sign in sheet. Jana Shakarov from the CCC participated via conference call for Jack Gregg.

LARE Dredging Pilot Study: Jim Fields provided a review of the status of the dredging pilot study. A pre-construction meeting will be held on Thursday morning with the dredge contractors, Corps, consultants, etc and dredging will begin on the 31st of July. Manson, who is a sub to Buddies, will conduct the dredging. MEC will conduct the dredge and disposal monitoring portion of the project. Current estimates are for the dredging to take 5 weeks to complete. This creates an issue with some of the CSTF members because the monitoring program was originally designed to last for 8 weeks (the original dredging estimate). There are concerns that if the program is reduced significantly, not enough data will be obtained to meet the project's objectives. Therefore, once dredging commences and the Corps has a better estimate for the actual dredge duration, the sampling frequency for the monitoring program will be re-evaluated and additional sample events added.

Jim mentioned that some CSTF members might be interested in visiting the site during the project. If there is sufficient interest, the Corps will set up a one-day field trip to observe the dredging and disposal operations. This will, however, need to be a coordinated effort with the Corps' project manager as the contractor will not allow any observers on their equipment or at the site without prior Corps approval. This is a health and safety issue that will need to be followed at all times. The same applies to CSTF members who wish to observe the monitoring program while underway. Any interested parties should contact Jim to add your name to the list. Jim will contact all interested parties within the next few weeks to announce the date selected for the field trip.

Rick Cameron from the POLB asked when the monitoring data would be available. Jim mentioned that there is a standard 2-4 week turn around time for the analytical data so results should be available within 4 weeks of collection. Physical data (e.g., % transmittance) should be available sooner.

Jim continued his update by stating that the baseline Sediment Profile Imaging (SPI) photos were already collected and should provide useful information. Two sites (one in the NEIBP and one near the shore) did not turn out very well so they were re-visited. Final images are not yet available for this data – Jim only saw drafts on the ship during sampling.

Jim mentioned that there was another issue that needed to be resolved with regards to the contract for monitoring the dredge operations. As of last week, MEC did not have a final contract with SCCWRP for the work. Michael Lyons mentioned that this was now taken care of and they should be authorized to proceed up to about $150K.

Sediment Washing Bench Scale Study: Steve Cappellino of Anchor Environmental provided an update on the status of the sediment washing bench scale study. A work plan was distributed prior to the last CSTF Aquatic Subcommittee Meeting and no comments were received. WES is therefore proceeding with the tests. Sediment from the LARE is being collected by MEC this week and testing should begin within the next few weeks at WES.

Sediment Blending Bench Scale Study: Steve Cappellino provided an update on the status of the sediment blending study. A work plan has not yet been distributed to the group because there has been some uncertainty as to the benefit of the data that would be generated. In the original 905(b) report, sediment blending was identified as a potential treatment option for contaminated sediments. A bench scale study was planned using sediments from the LARE and possibly Marina Del Rey. Later it was decided that the study test material should encompass a wider range of potential dredge materials. As a result, the project was refocused to developing performance curves for a range a test material using three standard geotechnical tests (compaction, consolidation and shear strength). A draft work plan was prepared and meetings were held with the Ports and some of their geotechnical consultants to validate the approach. The information gathered at these meetings provided several key pieces of information:

- It was learned that the port's geotechnical consultants would not actually use the performance curves when designing a CDF or even during the planning phase.
- The only types of information that is typically used prior to accepting a dredge material are grain size distribution and measures of plasticity.
- No sediment blending actually occurs – the material is either simply placed in the CDF or layered between fine and course grained material. If possible, selective dredging occurs so that material placement in the CDF can be controlled. Alternating sand layers between fine-grained materials can provide a natural drainage system and is sometimes preferred over complete mixing of the material.
- Adjustments are usually conducted after the CDF is filled. These may include adding wick drains to remove moisture or installing stone columns to provide additional support.

Based on this newly acquired information, it appears that the bench scale study, as planned, may only be of limited value to the ports. Because the Corps is cautious about proceeding with a study that may be of limited value, comments and suggestions from the CSTF were requested.

Rick Cameron from the Port of Long Beach asked who had been contacted to get the information and stated that there may be other staff that should to be consulted before the value of the study is concluded. There is a management strategy currently taking shape with the regulatory community in the region to push the use of fine-grained contaminated materials more often in fill projects. The attitude that has been in place for many years regarding the use of fine-grained materials may have to change to meet this new strategy. Rick confirmed that this is not an issue of whether or not the ports can use the material, it is usually a matter of cost and timing. It will always be cheaper

and faster to build a CDF if courser-grained materials are used and there is no time constraint on source availability. Hence, past engineering practices have only had to deal with the fine-grained materials when they had to for some other reason. Rick agreed to talk to some of the POLB staff and set up a follow-up meeting for Anchor to get more information. It should be noted, however, that, even with the new management strategy, it might not always be possible to use the fine-grained materials due to logistical issues.

Chimin Chian from Everest International Consultants mentioned that there are performance curves for soils that might work for dredge materials. He suggested that no laboratory tests might be needed, or, at a minimum, only a few to validate the curves for local sediments. Steve mentioned that the Corps geotechnical department would still like the data so some level of testing will likely occur.

Michael Lyons stated that this information changes the objectives slightly because the problem lies primarily with the logistical issues and not geotechnical concerns. The ports have used this material in the past, but it is not favored. Kathryn Curtis from the POLA suggested expanding the literature review to become a white paper on the "state of the science" related to blending and address some of the logistical concerns associated with building a near-shore CDF.

The action items agreed to by the group were: (1) Anchor to have a follow-up meeting with the port staff to learn more about how CDFs might be constructed in the future, given new management directives; (2) Anchor to meet with the Corps geotechnical staff to develop a limited testing plan to meet their needs; and (3) expand the literature review to include the logistical problems associated with sediment blending.

Cement Stabilization Pilot Study

Ying Poon of Everest International Consultants provided an update on the cement stabilization pilot study. At the last meeting the Corps informed the CSTF that, due to problems finalizing the contract for the bench scale study, there would not be time to conduct the pilot study during this fiscal year. However, after evaluating potential financing avenues for future years, the Corps has now decided that it should move forward with the study to guarantee its completion. Several issues need to be resolved. The bench scale study will be underway within a few weeks (LARE material is being collected by MEC this week), but only the results from the first 7 days will be available by the time the pilot study needs to be initiated. Ying handed out a draft schedule for the pilot study. To meet this schedule, the work plan will need to be scaled back. The study will also need to be timed with the completion of the LARE dredging. Current estimates are for the treatment activities to occur the week of 9/3/01 and for curing to occur between 9/3/01 and 10/1/01. There may also be a problem obtaining a suitable site at the POLB to use for curing the material. The optimal procedure is to lay down lifts of approximately 6" thick. Thicker lifts may not be representative of field conditions and might produce erroneous results. The Corps and the POLB will be meeting later in the week to look for an acceptable site for the curing activities.

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Update on Data Gap Activities

Michael Lyons stated that Steven Bay is still working on the RFPs for the turbidity study and beneficial reuse marketing study. Drafts of the RFPs should be available early next month for review by a sub-group of the CSTF members. Michael also reminded the group that they still needed to finalize the scope of the LTMP for the capping project and send that out for bid as well. Steve Cappellino mentioned that it would be best to wait for the results from the construction monitoring to help scope the long-term study. The group agreed.

Other Items

- Jim Fields asked the group to start thinking about what else they would like the aquatic subcommittee to focus on now that the capping project is moving forward. The group needs to start talking about how the dredging information is presented to the rest of the CSTF and where they go from here.
- Jim mentioned that the final EA was now completed and that it was available either in hard copy or on CD. Contact Jim if you would like to receive a copy.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2001 at the POLA conference center from 10-12.