

**CSTF Aquatic Subcommittee
Monthly Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2001
POLA**

Jim Fields of the Corps of Engineers called the October meeting of the CSTF Aquatic Subcommittee to order at 10:10 AM in the Port of Los Angeles administration building. A list of the meeting attendees is presented in the attached table. No new members were present so introductions were not needed.

Update on Pilot Projects – Jim Fields (Corps) and Steve Cappellino (Anchor Environmental) provided the group with an update on the status of the aquatic capping project. The draft plans and specifications for the construction phase of the work are being prepared and will be ready for internal review this week. Initial discussions have been held with the contractor (Buddies Construction Services and Manson) to discuss the type of equipment to be used and the Corps target specifications. Cap thickness modeling conducted previously indicated that a 0.9 meter cap would protect against the combined effects of chemical migration, bioturbation, and physical disturbance associated with storm events. As a precaution, the dredge design report specifies that a final average target cap thickness of 1.5 meters will be placed over the site.

To achieve this goal, the Corps' specifications will likely include a provision for paying the contractor on the volume of material dredged from the SEIBP, with a performance criterion that the final cap thickness is between 1 and 2 meters. The dredge volume would then be calculated as the volume required to place an average 1.5 meter cap over the site. In other words, if the volume estimate is 80,000 meters, the specification would require the contractor to dredge 80,000 meters from the SEIBP and place the material in the NEIBP so that the final cap thickness was between 1-2 meters in all locations. Any areas below 1 meter in thickness would need to be filled in and any areas greater than 2 meters in thickness would need to be knocked down. This will insure that a minimum of 1 meter cap is placed over the entire area and that the cap is no more than 2 meters thick in any one area.

Based on discussions thus far, the contractor intends to dredge the material using a clam-shell bucket and place the material using split hull barges. The cap material at the SEIBP has a high sand content (74-98%) and should flow from the barges rather easily. In all instances, the barges will be opened slowly and pushed to lay down the cap material in thin layers. Evaluation of the data collected during the LA River material placement indicates that it is possible to place the material in layers without creating depressions. Procedurally, the cap material will be placed in the pit by running the barges along a series of lanes set up across the pit.

One concern that the Corps has been evaluating is the possibility that cap placement could disturb and displace the LARE material. The only way that this could occur is if the material were accidentally dumped without spreading. Recent data collected from the NEIBP shows that the LARE material is strong enough to hold a worst case scenario where an entire barge load of cap material was dumped at the site. However, given the research nature of this project, the Corps would like to investigate different placement methods. Therefore, half of the site will be capped as described above while the other half of the site will first receive a thin (~1 foot) cap layer, placed by re-handling the material with a second clam shell, to provide a more stable surface layer with which to place the cap. Both approaches can be evaluated after the cap has been placed to see what effect the thin layer initial lift had on surface stability and mixing during

placement. The schedule for cap placement is for field work to commence towards the end of November and be completed before the end of December.

Jack Gregg of the coastal Commission stated that it would be good to plan an all day meeting sometime soon to discuss the capping project results as a group. There is an executive committee meeting on January 13th and it might be good to coordinate this meeting at the same time in case those members want to attend. Jack will look into potential dates for the meeting.

Cement Stabilization Bench/Field Status – Russ Boudreau (Moffat & Nichol) provided a brief update on the status of the bench scale cement stabilization tests. Thus far, they are still waiting on the last sets of analytical data for the final material. They expect that the data will be received next week and that a draft report might be available within the next two weeks.

Ying Poon (Everest) provided an update on the status of the cement stabilization field pilot study. All field work was completed last week and samples of the material have been delivered to the analytical laboratory for leachate testing. Results are expected sometime in early December. The mixing pits at the POLA site have been filled in, but the material is still sitting on the curing pads. The goal is to leave the material there until the POLA needs to use the site. This will allow for additional observations, if needed. The results of the physical tests look promising. While the 2% mixture did not dry the material out very much or set up, the 4% and 6% mixtures set up well and were dry enough for re-handling shortly after mixing.

Soil Washing/Soil Blending Status – Steve Cappellino provided an update on these two studies to the group. No new info to report for the sediment blending study. Data has been received from the POLB and Anchor is sifting through the material. The sediment washing study should be nearly complete. The last sets of tests are being run this week and chemical analysis of the final treatments should get started. Data should be back from the labs in early December. A series of addition treatments were added to evaluate the effects of adding surcharge material to the column leaching tests, which has resulted in a delay of about one month.

Update on Data Gap Studies – Steven Bay and Michael Lyons stated that the RFP for the dredge material beneficial reuse study was sent out and four proposals were received. A review team will begin evaluating the proposals during November and selection should occur by early December.

At the August meeting, a discussion was held regarding the goals for the dredging BMP scope of work that SCCWRP is currently preparing. At that time, Tom Wang from Anchor mentioned that they had a lot of information that might be useful for the group. That information is now being summarized in the form of a white paper that will be made available to the CSTF to assist in guiding development of the SOW. The white paper should be available within the next month.

Remediation Funding - A brief discussion was held regarding the status of the NRDA funding that was recently released for the Montrose Settlement. A goal would be to see if there is a way that some of the money could be available for cleaning up the Consolidated Slip. No new info is available regarding this request by the POLA. David Moore (MEC) mentioned that the RTDF (EPA's sediment research group) might be interested in using the Consolidated Slip as a test site for sediment remediation options. David will coordinate a meeting between Michael Lyons, Steven John, and others to discuss further.

Looking Ahead (Time existing/extending, long term monitoring) – Mitsy (Heal the Bay) asked about the schedule for developing the long term monitoring program. After a brief

discussion, all agreed that the best time would be in late January or early February, after the monitoring data was all analyzed. A brief discussion was then held regarding funding at the CCC and the Water Board. Both agencies will lose their funding for staff participation in June of 2002. The Corps has funding set aside for as long as it is needed to complete the work. Because the CCC and Water Board funding will be ending soon, staff will need to begin preparing the management strategy report in early 2002.

Plan Next Meeting – The next meeting was set for November 27th from 10-12 at the POLA. The exact location within the POLA will be announced later via e-mail.

New Business – No new business items were brought before the group and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.