

CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS TASK FORCE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, JANUARY 14, 2002

MEETING SUMMARY

Welcome and Introductions

The Executive Committee members attending were Peter Douglas (California Coastal Commission), Dennis Dickerson (Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board) and John Guenther (attending for Richard Thompson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). Others attending included Steven John (EPA), Jaime Kooser, Jack Gregg and Jessica Morton (Ca Coastal Commission), Michael Lyons (LA Regional Board), Tony Risko, Kathy Anderson, Ruth Villalobos and Mo Chang (Army Corps of Engineers), Tom Johnson and Rick Cameron (Port of Long Beach), Mitzy Taggart and Mark Gold (Heal the Bay), Steve Bay and Doris Vidal (Southern California Coastal Water Research Project), Joe Chesler (Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors), Ralph Appy, Paul Johansen and Kathryn Curtis (Port of Los Angeles), Ying Poon (Everest Consultants), Steve Cappelino, Shannon Snider and Tom Schadt (Anchor Environmental), and Leo Rebele (Hart Crowser).

2000 Annual Report

The draft annual report, covering the period between January 2000 and July 2001, had been circulated for review via e-mail. The Executive Committee was asked to approve the report for submittal to the Governor and Legislature. Dennis Dickerson recommended that we extend the period covered to December 31, 2001, so that this report might better serve as a communication tool and as documentation for the request for legislation to extend the funding of the CSTF and extend the deadline for completion of the long-term management plan. The Executive Committee agreed that it would be better for the report to be more current, thus avoiding confusion over the status of events that have already occurred but were not reflected in the status report (e.g., progress on the Corps of Engineers' pilot projects). The Committee suggested that we highlight the work remaining to be done and indicate tasks that might not be completed if the CSTF does not receive additional funding to continue its activities past this summer. The Corps requested that Accomplishment 1 be edited to reflect that the DMMP Feasibility Study will be completed by spring 2005 (rather than mid 2004) and that Accomplishment 3 be edited to state that 3 out of 4 pilot projects were completed by December 31, 2001, but that the fourth (the confined aquatic disposal site pilot project) will not truly be completed until 2005 (due to need for monitoring and analysis of results).

Jessica Morton will revise the draft report by the end of January to incorporate these comments and suggestions. A revised report will be sent via e-mail to the Management Committee for review and comment and then to the Executive Committee for final approval by the second week of February.

## CSTF Deadline Extension and Funding

Jack Gregg presented a summary of funding and deadline issues facing the Task Force. The initial 5-year funding provided by the legislature to fund staff resources at the Coastal Commission and the Regional Board ends June 30, 2002. The report containing the long-term management strategy is due to the legislature by January 1, 2003. When the program started in 1997, the CSTF anticipated completing most of its work by June 30, 2002 and using the last six months to fine-tune the final report. However, as work has progressed, it has become obvious that a great deal of work remains to be accomplished to complete the special studies funded by the CSTF and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and produce the Corps' Dredged Material Management Plan (draft DMMP report scheduled to be completed by mid-2004 and final report by spring 2005). Although most special studies will be completed by mid to late 2002, we will not have completed evaluation of the confined aquatic disposal site pilot project (year 1 monitoring would be completed in 2002, but we probably will need additional monitoring for an initial evaluation of the success of this disposal alternative; year 2 monitoring results will not be available until late 2003, and year 3 results not until late 2004). We also will need additional time to coordinate watershed activities with other ongoing efforts, such as TMDL development. The Executive Committee pointed out that the original 5-year schedule proposed for the CSTF was pretty arbitrary, but now we have a more realistic view of when studies will be finished and what products we will have at the end of this process, so now we are in a position to commit to a more specific timeline for completion of the CSTF management plan and the Corps DMMP.

The Management Committee recommends seeking an extension of the schedule for completion of the management plan and additional funding for Coastal Commission and the Los Angeles Regional Board staff to continue the CSTF activities. The preferred option is to extend the deadline to early 2005 for submittal of the final management plan and secure 3 years of funding for the two state agencies. An alternative would be to extend the deadline by 18 months (to July 1, 2004) and secure 2 years of additional funding. The preferred option would allow completion of the CSTF management plan to coincide with completion of the Corps' DMMP. The longer deadline would allow us to make use of the Corps studies completed for the DMMP, including evaluation of 3 years of monitoring data from the CAD pilot project. Unless CSTF activities continue, it could impact future funding of Corps DMMP activities and there would be a disconnect for approval and coordination between the Corps and the CSTF. Also, without CSTF input, the final plan could reflect the Corps' perspective on dredging, rather than the broader CSTF perspective. Regional Board and Coastal Commission participation probably would be limited in the DMMP process without additional CSTF funding.

The Executive Committee supported the concept of new legislation to continue the CSTF activities. Neither the Coastal Commission nor the Los Angeles Regional Board can propose such legislation. We will need strong support for new legislation from the Ports (Port of Los Angeles, Port of Long Beach, Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors) and the environmental community, especially in a year of budget deficits. Draft language for a possible bill had been circulated to the Management Committee and the Executive Committee for review. The Executive Committee recommended focusing on the economic and environmental benefits of the CSTF efforts. Ralph Appy (Port of LA) suggested changes that would focus on positive aspects of the process, rather than negative issues, and indicated that we should make a commitment to

complete the process within the specified time period (i.e., we would not ask for any more extensions); once the plan is completed, the agencies should build long-term participation into their core programs. Heal the Bay initially was opposed to an extension, but realizes that we cannot finish on time; they recommend shortening the deadline as much as possible for completion of the management plan. Heal the Bay suggested discussing why the work of the Task Force is critical (especially watershed activities) and laying out the disposal options currently under consideration.

We want to achieve consistency between the CSTF management plan and the Corps' DMMP. However, we do not want to extend the deadline for completion of the CSTF plan unnecessarily. The Corps agreed to try to accelerate its schedule and perhaps issue the draft DMMP report earlier (perhaps late 2003 or early 2004). We also might be able to hold meaningful discussions on key recommendations of the CSTF plan and DMMP report once the Corps' Alternatives Analysis is complete (late 2003).

The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, as well as Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors, have lobbyists to deal with new legislation. They will consult with these people to develop a strategy for approaching potential sponsors of such a bill, starting with Senator Betty Karnette (who sponsored the original legislation in 1997) and Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal. Money is tight this year and it is quite possible that a bill could pass without providing any funding resources; however, Peter Douglas felt that if we make a good case and leverage the ongoing federal activities (and emphasize possible loss of funds if the CSTF is terminated), there still is a chance to receive money even in this lean year. The federal agencies (Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency) could send support letters for any proposed legislation. In any case, time is short; a sponsor would need to submit a spot bill by the end of January.

#### EPA Settlement for Consolidated Slip

Dennis Dickerson announced that EPA has reached a settlement with Montrose for the Superfund case associated with stormwater runoff from the Torrance Manufacturing Facility. The settlement will provide \$450,000 to the Los Angeles Regional Board for abatement actions within Dominguez Channel and Consolidated Slip. The Regional Board also has \$400,000-450,000 from a previous settlement with Equilon Refinery for use in the cleanup of sediment contamination in Consolidated Slip. Although we have nearly \$1 million available for this cleanup project, considerably more money probably will be required to deal with all of the contaminated sediments present. It may be possible to acquire additional funds from the State's Cleanup and Abatement Fund for this purpose.

Given the high interest in this project (including EPA, Regional Board, Port of Los Angeles, Heal the Bay, among others), the CSTF will hold Advisory Committee meetings to develop a plan and explore options for remediating the sediment contamination in Dominguez Channel and Consolidated Slip.

### Preliminary Results of Pilot Studies

Mo Chang, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, substituted for Jim Fields to present a brief summary of the preliminary results from the four pilot projects conducted by the Corps to support the DMMP development: 1) cement stabilization (lab study and field scale testing); 2) sediment washing (lab study); 3) sediment blending (literature search); 4) aquatic capping (field study). The cement stabilization bench scale tests demonstrated that metals were bound by the additives, but some PAHs and DDT were detected in leachate from the treated mixture; the field test showed that the geotechnical properties of the dredged material were enhanced by cement and fly ash additives, but we do not yet have the final leachate results to evaluate successful binding of the contaminants. Sediment washing was tested in the lab with two techniques, gravity washing and cake washing, to attempt to remove chlorides to facilitate upland placement of dredged material; the experiments indicated a rather high variability in the water requirements and flow rates needed to remove chlorides to meet suggested targets (reduce chloride concentration to 30 ppm). Sediment blending has been proposed as a way to mix dredged material with coarser material to produce suitable material for constructed fill projects (focusing on achieving adequate structural characteristics); the literature search focused on reviewing similar projects conducted elsewhere in the country and interviews were held with probable users (Port of Los Angeles and Long Beach) to try to identify criteria for use of such material. The aquatic capping project (confined aquatic disposal site) has proceeded with the dredging and placement of 100,000 cubic meters of contaminated sediments from the Los Angeles River Estuary into a section of the North Energy Island Borrow Pit and capping with a 1-1.5 meter layer of clean sediments; water quality monitoring was conducted during the construction of the CAD site and additional sediment monitoring will be conducted over the next 10-20 years (we hope to make a preliminary decision on the success of the project after the first 2-3 years of monitoring, but we have not yet developed criteria for acceptable loss rates for capping).

### Update on Data Gap Studies

Steve Bay, SCCWRP, presented a brief summary of the progress on the special studies that SCCWRP is coordinating on behalf of the CSTF (using the \$2 million provided by the legislature for this purpose). The electronic database containing sediment quality monitoring data has been completed and released on CD; this database will be used to develop sediment quality guidelines. We are collecting stormwater data in connection with runoff from specific land uses; monitoring at 28 site events was completed in 2001 (last winter) and 16 more will be completed in early 2002; analysis of these data and monitoring data from other major stormwater monitoring programs (e.g., Los Angeles County Department of Public Works NPDES monitoring) will be undertaken in April and we will try to link this to the TMDL models being developed for the Regional Board. The market survey to assess the commercial market for materials produced from treated contaminated sediments is underway and should be completed in the next few months. We will be issuing a contract to conduct long-term monitoring (for the first two years) of the confined aquatic disposal site, in collaboration with the Army Corps of Engineers. The CSTF contract paid for water quality monitoring during dredging and disposal of sediments during construction and capping of the CAD site.

### Miscellaneous

The next meeting has been scheduled for May 14, 2002.