TO: CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS TASK FORCE
FROM: MICHAEL LYONS, JACK GREGG
RE: SUMMARY OF THE CSTF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 22, 2001 AT PORT OF LOS ANGELES, SAN PEDRO

Welcome

Jaime Kooser welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Subcommittee Progress Reports

Aquatic Disposal/Dredging Operations – Jim Fields reported that the Coastal Commission approved the Consistency Determination by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for pilot studies using contaminated sediments, subject to certain revisions to the Environmental Assessment. 1) CAD - The Confined Aquatic Disposal site pilot project is expected to begin around the end of June or early July; once the contaminated material from the Los Angeles River Estuary has been placed in the North Energy Island Borrow Pit, it will require an estimated 30-45 days for consolidation prior to placement of the cap of clean material. The Army Corps plans to issue a contract soon to one of the contractors currently under contract to perform monitoring of the CAD during and immediately after construction. The CSTF expects to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit bids for long-term monitoring of the CAD (which would not start until summer 2002) within the next few months. 2) Cement stabilization – laboratory bench tests should be underway very soon using sediments collected from Marina del Rey, Consolidated Slip and a typical Port site, to be tested with three types of additives: kiln dust, fly ash and cement. If the bench tests are successful, a field pilot project (approximately 3000 cubic meters) using Los Angeles River Estuary sediments would be conducted, using Pier T (Port of Long Beach) as the handling facility. 3) Sediment washing – ERDC (formerly Waterways Experimental Station) is conducting studies to evaluate three soil washing alternatives, primarily designed to remove chlorides: passive washing (flood a diked facility containing contaminated sediments with water and drain; filter press and agitation (centrifugation). 4)Soil blending – laboratory testing should be underway soon to define acceptable ratios to produce desired structural characteristics for re-use of contaminated sediments within constructed fill projects. The subcommittee developed a Scope of Work a few months ago to conduct special studies to investigate the relationship between turbidity and resuspension of contaminated sediments during dredging operations. The subcommittee has decided to move forward with a literature survey and should have an RFP developed for this task within a few weeks; this will be circulated to the subcommittee for approval. Another RFP for field studies will be issued in the future if deemed necessary after the completion of the literature survey.

Upland Disposal/Beneficial Re-Use – Michael Lyons noted that the subcommittee approved a scope of work to conduct a survey to determine the potential market for re-use of products derived from contaminated sediments, and to identify and discuss liability issues or other concerns that might limit re-use. An RFP will be issued in a few weeks to hire a consultant for this work.

Watershed Management/Source Reduction – As previously reported, Law Crandall was hired to collect and analyze stormwater samples at several land-use stations during the January-April 2001 rainy season. Unfortunately, there was insufficient rain during this period to allow collection of all of the desired samples (28/38 samples were collected), and the laboratory also encountered some problems in analyzing PAHs. Additional samples will be collected next winter (2001-2002) to complete the desired work. Sampling results will be provided to the subcommittee as they become available. The subcommittee will need to meet over the next few months to develop a scope of work for analysis of the stormwater data that is being assembled in electronic format by a contractor.

Sediment Thresholds – Steven John reported that at the last subcommittee meeting, EVS discussed progress towards assembling sediment monitoring data (grain size, sediment chemistry, toxicity, bioaccumulation, benthic data) into an electronic database. EVS has acquired and reviewed most of the pertinent dredging reports and presented recommendations on the studies suitable for inclusion into the database. Assembly of the database should be completed during August/September. Originally, SCCWRP was planning to be responsible for acquiring sediment and stormwater data already available in electronic format; however, SCCWRP recommends that EVS perform this work to improve efficiency. Soon the subcommittee will focus on identifying objectives for the scope of work to develop sediment quality guidelines, so that an RFP can be issued for this task towards the end of the year.

Implementation – Maile Gee reported that the subcommittee is nearing completion on the revised dredging permit application form. The subcommittee also is working on final revised advisory committee guidelines.

CSTF Role in Funding Long-Term Monitoring for Corps' CAD Project

Although the Coastal Commission approved the Consistency Determination for the pilot projects, concerns were raised regarding the need for long-term monitoring of the CAD site and the perceived lack of a commitment by the Corps to pay for this monitoring. The Army Corps is committed to conducting the monitoring, but the agency cannon guarantee future funds. They request and receive Operations and Maintenance funds one year at a time, and normally cannot carry over funds to future years. The Army Corps has requested funds in the 2003 fiscal year budget to cover monitoring costs ($150,000), and it is possible that they could reprogram funds by delaying other projects, if necessary. The CSTF has targeted funds ($285,000) to conduct long-term monitoring of the CAD during year 1 (2002) and possibly year 2; however, the contract for special studies requires completion of all work by March 2003. In any case, some level of long-term monitoring will be required for as much as 10 years or more, although we expect that the level of effort will be reduced after the first three years. Congress can provide specific funds for monitoring to the Army Corps, but federal agencies cannot lobby for funds, so other agencies would need to help by writing letters of support. The Implementation Subcommittee will try to coordinate this letter writing effort, which normally should be done in February for best effect (letters probably should be directed to Harmon and Horn).

Executive Committee Meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2001, from 10 am to noon, at the Port of Long Beach. CSTF members recommended several topics for discussion at the meeting: funding issues, especially long-term monitoring of the CAD; extending January 2003 deadline for submittal of management strategy; results of special studies (database, pilot projects, stormwater monitoring); Consolidated Slip cleanup – ask for help in getting the project moving with coordination with Superfund; Dredged Material Management Plan update; strategy report – discussion of draft report status. We will develop a draft agenda with allocation times in the next few weeks for distribution to the CSTF members for comments.

Draft Strategy Report Review

Per the request at the last Executive Committee meeting, Maile Gee and Michael Lyons are writing a draft version of the long-term management strategy, based on the information that has been gathered so far by the CSTF. We hope to complete this task around mid-June and send the draft report to the CSTF members

for review and comments. Rather than distribute the report to the Executive Committee members, we plan to describe our progress to them in a brief update at the July 30th meeting.

ACTA Offset Project Update

The ACTA Oversight Committee agreed that ACTA could best perform the offset required to compensate for metals discharged into Dominguez Channel via dewatering of contaminated groundwater during construction of the Alameda Corridor project by dredging contaminated sediments from Fish Harbor, in the Port of Los Angeles. Calculations show that ACTA would need to remove approximately 40 cubic yards of sediments to remove the required 297 pounds of metal (150% of the amount discharged). To render the project cost-efficient, ACTA is coordinating with the Port of Los Angeles' planned maintenance dredging of Berths 261-265 in Fish Harbor and will use the same contractor. ACTA plans to dredge 80 cubic yards of sediments to provide a safety margin in case the contaminant concentrations in the dredged sediments removed are not as high as expected. The dredged material will be transported to Kettleman Hills Landfill for disposal.

Miscellaneous

There will be an Advisory Committee meeting immediately following today's management committee meeting to discuss the Port of Los Angeles plans to recover coal products from the harbor bottom near the former Kaiser Terminal.

Ralph Appy mentioned that the Port of Los Angeles has written a letter to U.S. EPA requesting action on the Dominguez Channel (Consolidated Slip) cleanup under the Superfund program. Ralph pointed out that $5 million from cities and the ports was set aside in a settlement for this cleanup.

Next Meeting

The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2001, 10 am to noon, at the Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro.
The Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2001, 10 am to noon, at the Port of Long Beach.