

Los Angeles Contaminated Sediments Task Force Sediment Subcommittee – October 30, 2001

Attendees: Michael Lyons (LARWQCB), Bill Paznokas (CDFG), David Moore (MEC), Steve Cappellino (Anchor), Jessica Morton (CCC), Nick Buhbe (AMEC), Jack Gregg (CCC), Paul Johansen (POLA), Josh Burnam (USACE), Tom Johnson (POLB), Mitzy Taggart (Heal the Bay), Steve Bay (SCCWRP), Kathryn Curtis (POLA), Cynthia Erickson (URS), Guangyu Wang (SMBRP), Kathy Anderson (USACE), Steven John (EPA)

1. Sediment quality database status report.

- 100% of the priority studies have been provided and received by EVS. Metadata has been entered for all but one study.
- Majority of the secondary studies have been entered and approximately half of the metadata.
- All of the electronic databases for sediment quality have been acquired. Missing critical data for some of the electronic databases has been acquired (NSI station locations, metadata gaps, no dredged materials tracking system metadata yet).
- EVS in the process of preparing the database for integration (entity relationship verification, datafields to support future applications).
- Next steps: continue database QA; merge databases at study and results levels; add sample queries; add error reporting form; create CD for data distribution; prepare database documentation materials.
- Data gaps: establishing centroids for dredge studies sample areas; summary toxicity data (in particular for regulatory monitoring data currently with just raw data).
- Database QA: checking of coordinates; standardizing nomenclature for chemical and toxicity methods; null or zero values checks (missing data versus results of zero); cross referencing dredged studies and volume information; verify relations, indices, foreign and primary keys.
- Disclaimer – this should indicate CSTF's intended uses for the database, state that the database was not designed for other than these CSTF uses, how toxicity data is to be interpreted, etc.

2. Corps of Engineers Regulatory Technical Note. Use of Sediment Quality Guidelines (SQGs) in Dredged Material Management.

- Corps Regulatory has expressed concerns about the CSTF intentions for the use of SQG in making determination of suitability of dredged materials for aquatic disposal, citing the limitations on SQGs outlined in the Corps Long-Term Effects of Dredging Operations Program, Dredging Research Technical Note EEDP-04-29 (May 1998).
- In addition to presenting a summary of the derivation of SQGs relevant to the aquatic environment, the Note describes conditions in which SQGs are technically appropriate and helpful, and conditions in which they are not appropriate, for dredged materials management decision making (see Note at <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/dots/pdfs/eedp04-29.pdf>).
- Note indicates SQGs are suitable for such decision making at the Tier 1 and Tier 2 level only.

- Discussion of the regulatory limitation stated in the Note relative to the anticipated construction and use of the proposed CSTF SQGs lead to acknowledgment that the proposed Level 1 CSTF SQG would support a Tier 1/Tier 2 evaluation, while the Level 2 CSTF SQG would be useful to the dredging applicant as a management tool to determine the likelihood of materials passing or failing toxicity testing. Both SQG sets would be advisory and not regulatory in nature. As such, the CSTF SQG model appears to be consistent with the regulatory constraints outlined in the Technical Note.

3. Next sediment meeting November 27, 2001. Draft scope of work for the SQG development project will be circulated before the meeting and will be discussed at the meeting.