

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS

START INNOVATIVE COASTAL MANAGEMENT EFFORT

WITH HUMBOLDT BAY AREA WORKSHOP ON JUNE 22ND, 2004

Coastal erosion is an important issue along the North Coast of California; so is too much sediment in coastal wetland, lagoons and harbors. The State and Federal governments are recognizing that these problems are closely connected, and that solutions ought to be integrated.

An innovative new planning effort called the CALIFORNIA COASTAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT MASTER PLAN is being initiated by the State of California Resources Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Sediment Master Plan will develop an implementation strategy for regional approaches to managing sediment up and down the state's 1000 mile coastline. The goal will be to integrate management actions for problems related to lack of sediment (e.g. beach erosion) and problems related to excess sedimentation (e.g. deterioration of habitat quality in wetlands and restrictions on shipping in harbors).

One of a series of statewide workshops to solicit public input on the Sediment Master Plan will be held in Eureka from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on Tuesday June 22nd at the UC Agricultural Extension Services Building, 5630 South Broadway in Eureka. The site is reached via the Humboldt Hill Road exit off of the 101 Freeway.

This Workshop is being hosted by the Humboldt Bay Stewards.

The Workshops will be an opportunity for organizations and people involved and interested in the North Coast of California to learn about the Sediment Master Plan and provide comments and local insights to the state and federal governments. Since work on the Sediment Master Plan is in process, input provided now can help make the Master Plan responsive to local issues and needs.

The Sediment Master Plan is a great opportunity to build on previous cooperative coastal efforts with the state and federal governments. Much more needs to be done to address coastal erosion problems, as well as to continue efforts to preserve and enhance our priceless wetlands and retain the efficiency of our ports and harbors. The Sediment Master Plan process will allow local and regional entities to develop efficient, effective solutions in partnership with state and federal agencies.

Please contact Clif Davenport, the Master Plan Project Manager, at (707) 576-2986 or at Clifton_Davenport@fire.ca.gov if you have questions about the Master Plan. Contact Steve Sachs, Public Outreach consultant at (619) 987-7219 or sachssd@cox.net regarding the workshops.