

STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS

START INNOVATIVE COASTAL MANAGEMENT EFFORT

WITH ORANGE COUNTY WORKSHOP ON MARCH 17TH

Beach and sea cliff erosion are big issues along the Orange County coastline; 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 number of statewide workshops to solicit public input on the Master Plan is being hosted by the Orange County Coastal Coalition. The meeting will occur on Thursday, March 25, 2004, from 10:00 am the Newport Beach Central Library, 1000 Avocado Avenue, Newport Beach 92660.

The Workshop will be an opportunity for organizations and people involved and interested in the Orange County coast 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, Orange County area input provided now can help make the Master Plan responsive to local issues and opportunities.

The Sediment Master Plan is a great opportunity for the Orange County to build on previous cooperative coastal efforts with the state and federal governments. We need to do much more to address our serious beach erosion problems, as well as continue our 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 workshop.