

IDEAS, ISSUES AND COMMENTS

from the

Monterey Bay Area Public Outreach Workshop

on the

California Coastal Sediment Management Master Plan

April 29, 2004

- The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (Marine Sanctuary) is developing data for sand transport in the Sanctuary area, as well as a GIS map base.
- The Marine Sanctuary's concerns regarding sediment management include coastal armoring, dredge disposal, landslide disposal and water quality.
- Between 1971 and 1993, coastal armoring increased from 3 to 12 miles, and is projected to reach 27 miles.
- There is some Harbor dredging in the Marine Sanctuary, but very little placement of sediment on beaches. The Marine Sanctuary regulations and policies generally don't favor beach replenishment due to contamination concerns, however, the Sanctuary managers are willing to consider a pilot beach replenishment project to test issues of concern and evaluate benefits.
- A main focus of Marine Sanctuary programs relating to sediment is water quality protection, including keeping sediment on site and out of water courses, and erosion control.
- The extensive agricultural activities in the area results in contamination of sediments with fertilizers and pesticides and erosion from irrigation and from agricultural land management practices. It's believed that the thrice/year crop turnover may increase sedimentation 10-15 times the normal rate.
- The Marine Sanctuary sees potential useful areas of activity in the Sediment Master Plan work coming from more sediment data and increased coordination with state and federal agencies.
- Dr. Thornton at the Naval Postgraduate School is conducting a four year program to monitor erosion rates in the Sanctuary. Coastal erosion is about 0.5 to 2 meters per year according to historical data. Rip currents are reflected in the morphology of the beach line, with erosion hot spots located behind the cusps.

- The goals of the Sediment Master Plan should be more specific and detailed.
- How can the City of Monterey combine all erosion areas into one comprehensive plan?

Goals that make sense for the Monterey Bay area are improving governmental coordination, accessing more money for sediment management, and a comprehensive, region-wide policy.

- The Sediment Master Plan seems focused on beach nourishment and not enough on other sediment issues such as pollution.
- Construction on the beach is a problem. It appears to cause erosion in adjacent areas.
- There needs to be better connections between problems and solutions in watersheds; agricultural managers, water quality managers and coastal managers have different perspectives and goals that should be integrated.
- The involvement of the Regional Water Quality Control Board is important. They oversee implementation of the NPDES program which has a big impact on sediment management.
- The NPDES program emphasizes retention of sediment on site, preventing sand from getting to the coast. How in touch with the setting of TMDLS is the Sediment Master Plan?
- NRCS, representing six counties, uses a regional approach to watershed management, which includes gathering public input
- The Monterey Bay area has a lot of good coordination going on. An example is the Agriculture Water Quality Alliance (AQUA) group which coordinates watershed management through agreements among agencies.
- The Regional Water Quality Control Board is monitoring sand-bar removal in the Salinas River over the next five years. This data should be of use to the Sediment Master Plan.
- Current practice allows farmers to remove sand from rivers if it is on their property. About 277,000 cubic yards were removed in 2003.
- Reducing sediment from agricultural lands is very important
- Issues with beach replenishment that should be addressed in the Sediment Master Plan include: need for beaches, the covering of valuable hard bottom habitat in the

nearshore ocean area, and the contamination that could be in sand. An example of contamination is the high PCB counts found in dead otters near harbors. It is likely that similar contaminants would be in sand dredged from harbors and put at beaches.

- Holding the public outreach workshops for the Sediment Master Plan at night could result in better attendance.
- The Sediment Master Plan should recognize the significant differences in coastal sediment issues between Central and Northern California and Southern California. For example, beaches are typically less valuable as tourist attractions in Northern and Central California, and the coastal geology is often different.
- The Marine Sanctuary area is predisposed to regional approaches. The Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments and CalTrans coastal Highways efforts are good examples.
- The Surfriders have four chapters in the Marine Sanctuary area. The Surfriders are concerned with keeping the Sanctuary's beaches intact and preserving the other resources the Sanctuary contains, including the health of users of the beaches/waters. The Surfriders support alternatives to armoring the coast such as relocation and beach replenishment, and an ecosystems approach to regulation. The Surfriders State of the Coast Report indicates that 86% of the state's beaches are eroding and there are many beach closures due to bad water quality.
- A coordinated research program is needed to make sure funds for sediment management and beach replenishment are used most effectively.
- One outcome of the Sediment Master Plan should be to identify ways that various entities can obtain supplemental funds for coordinated sediment management activities
- Caltrans sometimes has a lot of good, clean sandy material from road construction projects. The issue is how to pay for moving it to beaches. If supplemental funds were set aside in advance this could become a useful source of beach sand.
- Erosion is a big problem in the Monterey area.
- Sediment quality is inseparable from sediment supply.
- There are some areas in the Marine Sanctuary area that would like additional sand on their beaches. Two locations that want more sand are the City of Santa Cruz and the City of Capitola.
- We need to educate people about shoreline erosion and ways to avoid it.

- U.C. Santa Cruz has looked at 60 years of aerial photos of the Monterey Bay coast. The photos show little change in beach width, except where armoring has resulted in narrower beaches.
- The Sediment Master Plan should look at system-wide impacts of moving sand and other sediment using sediment budgets and computer modeling. However, we don't know boundary conditions well enough to model the effects of moving sand from one area to another.
- Sand dunes are an important aspect of the Monterey Bay coast. Dunes provide most of the sand for the Bay's beaches and provide a unique habitat. The Dunes are eroding and getting "squeezed" by coastal erosion and inland development. Dunes should be a major issue in sediment management in the Monterey Bay area.
- Better operation of dams (to mimic historic conditions) in the Monterey Bay area could flush sand to the coast. A study is needed to determine whether this is feasible.
- Beach nourishment is sometimes used to mean dredge disposal. Need to keep the discussions open to ensure that beach nourishment is the appropriate action to take.
- Pilot studies are needed to take what is known about sediment transport and prioritize by societal needs (i.e., keeping Highway 1 open). Need to look at the entire system rather than political subdivisions.