

IDEAS, ISSUES AND COMMENTS

from the

San Francisco Bay Area Public Outreach Workshop

on the

California Coastal Sediment Management Master Plan

May 5, 2004

- The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) has a program of physical and natural environment restoration which includes sediment transport studies of the Redwood Creek / Muir Beach area, sediment studies at Bolinas Lagoon and Crissy Marsh and its watershed, and studies of sedimentation and erosion at Ocean Beach in San Francisco (not enough sand).
- The San Francisco Bay Planning Coalition has been active for 20 years in planning and coordinating maritime related activities in San Francisco Bay. A key focus of the group is keeping the Bay's shipping channels dredged and what to do with the dredged sediment.
- There is an average of about 5 million cubic yards of dredged material taken from San Francisco Bay annually. Even with this amount of dredging, there are significant amounts of sediment moving out of the Bay through the Golden Gate.
- The Dredging Plan for the Bay is known as the 40-40-20 Plan. Its goals are to see that 40% of Bay dredged material goes to beneficial reuse (currently primarily in upland areas), 40% to deep water ocean disposal, and 20% in Bay disposal. There is a need to show or recognize relationships between the coast and what's going to the ocean, and determine whether the 40/40/20 plan is still relevant.
- The Bay may currently be in a state of sediment deficit, after decades of having an oversupply of sediment due to gold mining and agricultural activities.
- The San Francisco Bay area has few recreational beaches. New beaches could be created to provide additional beach recreation for the region.
- The Golden Gate Audubon Society is concerned with preserving a healthy environment for birds that use coastal habitats. Examples of these sorts of birds are loons, scooters and cormorants. Bird life south of Sloat Street to Pacifica is rich in bird life but it seems to be decreasing. It is important that monitoring of species occur before, during and after sediment related projects such as dredging.

and beach building. Lack of data on habitats and species is a problem that could be improved by monitoring.

- Erosion of the beach along the Great Highway in San Francisco is an issue of concern to the Surfriders. A long term study of erosion at Ocean Beach may help in understanding the causes and solution of this erosion.
- The California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference (CMANC) representative identified a number of issues that the Sediment Master Plan should address for the San Francisco Bay area. These issues include: how to prioritize projects across the state, how to balance local vs. regional needs and issues, how to address the opportunity to move sand from behind dams to places where it can be beneficially used, how to facilitate transport of sediment from upper watersheds to the coast without it becoming contaminated, and how to deal with contamination of sediments that should be moved.
- A USGS employee is in the process of conducting a two year post-doctoral study monitoring Ocean Beach sediment changes.
- Sand and gravel mining is an important issue related to sediment management. More sand and gravel has been mined in California than has been trapped behind dams, according to research by the Coastal Zone Foundation, and by Humboldt State University.
- Sand rights, the concept of sediment as a public resource governed by legal precepts, is an important issue to explore in the development of the Sediment Master Plan. Two State Supreme Court cases (CA and Michigan) on sand rights.
- Can recycled materials (i.e., concrete) be of value?
- There is a multi-agency coordinated Biological Assessment of the impacts of sand mining activities in San Francisco Bay which includes evaluation of sediment flows and budgets. Includes a great amount of literature on the effects of sand mining, including British work. A Final Draft is currently being put together, Chuck Hansen is the source for the report.
- Elkhorn slough has some success with streamlining permitting processes.
- There is a Joint Aquatic Consolidated Permit Application for San Francisco Bay projects developed by a number of agencies with regulatory responsibilities which helps streamline the permitting of projects in the Bay.
- There is a desire on part of local agency for the California Coastal Commission to use the same consolidated permitting form as other agencies. The DMMO and RWQCB were cited as examples.

- The Sediment Master Plan should emphasize sustainability and the restoration of natural processes. Questions such as the relocation of structures and the proper location of new development should be considered.
- The Sediment Master Plan should look at Sediment Management activities with respect to dams effects on coastlines and programs in other nations to learn from their experiences.
- An important question for the Sediment Master Plan is what time frame to use for planning. It will be useful to plan for several time frames, including considering issues in the context of the long term future, even a thousand years out.
- The National Park Service can not use economic elements as the primary reason for conducting projects.
- Funding for sediment management activities and planning should be part of the program developed by the Sediment Master Plan.