

IDEAS, ISSUES AND COMMENTS

from the

Orange County Public Outreach Workshop

on the

California Coastal Sediment Management Master Plan

March 25, 2004

- The Sediment Master Plan should consider the propensity for needs a study on how bacteria and other contaminants to bind to associates with clay and silt. There may be methods to minimize or eliminate public health issues related to this: for example, in a dredging project at Dana Point Harbor, material placed on the beach initially exceeded acceptable bacteria counts and after a few days the bacteria counts had dropped to acceptable levels. Should one use the material at all versus letting the three day cleanup occur?

- Ways to prevent contamination of sediments in the first place should also be included in the Sediment Master Plan. Prevention of pollution will have multiple benefits and make sediment management easier and less expensive.

- How can we segregate contaminated materials from good beach material?

- All sand sources should be explored, including creeks and riverbeds, for example San Diego Creek may contain usable sand deposits.

- Heavy metals get taken up in sediments and are toxic. Ways to eliminate sediments containing heavy metals or to treat them to remove the contaminants should be a mandatory part of the Sediment Master Plan.

- The California Coastal Coalition (CalCoast) should have a role in the development of the Sediment Master Plan. CalCoast is a participant in the group guiding the plan's development.

- Dam removal should be one of the actions considered in the Sediment Master Plan.

- Upland sand sources should be identified as part of the Sediment Budget Work being done through the Sediment Master Plan effort.

- Can upland areas be set aside to facilitate collection of beach compatible sediment?

- A firm timeline for implementation should be included in the Sediment Master Plan

-The availability of dredges for sand replenishment and harbor dredging is an issue of importance. Dredges need to be more available to California locations, and it takes too long to schedule them. The Sediment Master Plan could list planned dredge projects to help project planners anticipate the location of dredges, collect dredging needs at the local level, and could also develop information on problems and solutions for dredge availability.

- The funds for completion of the Sediment Master Plan and its authors and participating consultants should be clearly identified. How can funding be obtained to carry the program into the future? How do we maintain continuity as individuals leave the program?

- It is important to identify and involve potential "champions" of the Sediment Master Plan – leaders who can work to get it carried out once it is completed.

- The involvement of the Department of Agriculture could be beneficial as they have expertise in soils and erosion which are related to the upland sediments that eventually reach the coast.

- The Sediment Management Plan should recognize that local governments have major responsibilities for sediment management in California. Their role should be factored into the implementation program.

- The state and federal legislatures should be informed of and involved in the Sediment Master Plan.

- The Sediment Master Plan needs to have the support of local governments and interest groups.

- Development is paving over sediment sources which could be valuable resources (e.g. use as beach sand). Local governments should consider this issue in making decisions on development proposals.

- Federal and State water quality regulations currently are geared to prohibit natural transport of contaminated sediments in some cases. This could unnecessarily limit sand flowing to the coast from watersheds. Other strategies for protecting the environment and the public from contaminants should be explored with federal and state water quality regulators.

- A second workshop on the Sediment Master Plan should be scheduled in Orange County at an appropriate time after completion of the first round of workshops up and down the state.