

## **IDEAS, ISSUES AND COMMENTS**

**from the**

**San Diego Region Public Outreach Workshop**

**on the**

**California Coastal Sediment Management Master Plan**

**February 5, 2004**

- The Sediment Master Plan views sediment as a natural resource. This approach is supported through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA encourages the beneficial use of natural resources whenever economically feasible. The Sediment Master Plan should look at ways that CEQA can be revised to make this more explicit for all projects.
- Removal of dams as is being considered for Matilija Dam is not feasible for most of the existing dams in California because they are essential water storage / flood control facilities. An alternative which should be evaluated is to slurry sediment in reservoirs and transporting it around the dams so that it can reach the coastline.
- It is important that the Sediment Master Plan address multiple objectives for coastal management and include all appropriate interests. In order to be effective, the Sediment Master Plan should be comprehensive.
- The Sediment Master Plan should have an appropriate level of detail in its analysis and recommendations. The analysis and recommendations should be at least at the regional or littoral cell level, and possibly more specific when appropriate.
- The solutions in the Sediment Master Plan should be system-wide, that is, they should consider watershed scale actions and watershed-wide effects of proposals.
- It would be useful for the Sediment Master Plan to have legislative recommendations where appropriate.
- The Sediment Master Plan should evaluate the impact of sediment management activities on habitat, especially nearshore ocean habitat, including fisheries. What are the ecological consequences of sand removal from lagoons?

- The Sediment Master Plan should include ways to help the San Diego region implement more beach replenishment projects like the Regional Beach Sand Project.
- The National Coastal Ocean Observing System (NCOOS) is being coordinated in the San Diego region by Scripps Institute of Oceanography. The Sediment Master Plan work should be coordinated with the NCOOS, since many data and analysis tools being developed by NCOOS projects will be of use to the Sediment Master Plan, and visa versa.
- A Sediment Master Plan priority should be to look for coarse sand sources from offshore locations for beach replenishment. Opportunistic sand sources (from dredging, excess material from upland construction projects) should also be targeted as sources of beach sand.
- The Sediment Master Plan should include evaluation of [what holds sand] on the beach; need proof that devices such as artificial reefs actually work.
- Small sediment size has been an impediment to beach restoration in some instances. The Sediment Master Plan should carefully evaluate sediment size as a key criterion for beach replenishment.
- The Sediment Master Plan should consider the use of gravel and cobbles for protection of the coast, as well as sand. Is sand always the answer for protection?
- It would be helpful in the San Diego region to locate debris basins using GPS and use this information in developing potential sources for beach sediment.
- The Sediment Master Plan should recognize the importance of the coast for recreation.
- The Sediment Master Plan should encourage actions that mimic natural processes in the management of sediment. Management of water and sediment in the Grand Canyon provide an example.
- The sand compatibility template is a good idea. Incompatibility elements should be included as well. Sediment contamination issues should be considered in the Sediment Master Plan.
- Trucking sand to the beach in and of itself is not comprehensive. The Sediment Master Plan should look at long term as well as project level solutions. Examples of long term solutions are bypassing sand around dams and removal of development from flood plains.

- Storm drains move sediment as well as pollutants to the coast and are not well managed. The Sediment Master Plan should look at the implications for coastal sediments and consider filtration systems for storm drains.
- The Sediment Master Plan should include recommendations for inclusion in Local Coastal Programs of cities and counties (the LCPs are part of the California Coastal Act) and for the California Coastal Commission.
- The Sediment Master Plan should evaluate the appropriate amount of sand for various areas and address issues of too little or too much sand. Sediment budgets for the various coastal segments in the state are one way to do this.
- The Sediment Master Plan should consider mitigation of damage from sediment. For example, it is unclear how damage to lobster fisheries could be mitigated. Also, how is mitigation going to be pursued for surfgrass? Existing studies should be researched and new studies proposed if needed.
- The impact of the sand and gravel industry on beach sand should be evaluated as part of the economics analyses portion of the Sediment Master Plan.
- Beach management activities (i.e., grooming of beach and berms) is an issue and may be destructive to wildlife and sand retention (by breaking bonds between sand grains). Can this be addressed as part of the compatibility template?
- The Sediment Master Plan should consider that unsolved sediment problems (e.g. over sedimentation of lagoons) can cause adverse impacts on habitat and plants and animals if not addressed in a timely manner. Moving compatible sediment from lagoons to beaches can renourish the coast and improve lagoon habitat at the same time.