



LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

February 27, 2014

MOVING FORWARD: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LTMS MANAGEMENT PLAN FOLLOWING THE 12 YEAR PROGRAM REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The LTMS program was designed to minimize in-Bay disposal, maximize beneficial reuse, and use ocean disposal as a “safety valve” when beneficial reuse is not feasible. The 2001 Management Plan provided a 12 year transition period during which in-Bay disposal would slowly be reduced, in order to allow beneficial reuse options time to come on line and become available for use. The Management Plan also required that the LTMS agencies comprehensively review the program at the end of the 12 year transition period, to assess the program’s success and whether its goals and Management Plan measures remain appropriate and relevant moving forward.

Throughout 2012, the LTMS agencies evaluated the program’s performance and discussed findings with interested parties at a series of topic-driven public meetings. The materials associated with each public meeting, as well as the subsequent 12 year program review final report, are available on line at <http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Missions/DredgingWorkPermits/LTMS/LTMSProgram12YearReviewProcess.aspx>

As a result of the 12 year program review process, the LTMS agencies concluded that the goals of the program have largely been achieved to date, and that they remain relevant and appropriate for the future despite some new information and changed conditions since the program began. Thus, the agencies made the decision to continue the program with its existing goals. However, due to challenges that currently exist – including a recovering economic climate and beneficial reuse options that remain limited - the agencies proposed at a public meeting on April 24, 2013, to modify some of the Management Plan implementation measures to provide additional flexibility and to address stakeholder concerns. At that meeting several options were presented and discussed, ranging from measures that could be taken immediately under existing agency authorities, to measures that would require state and/or federal legislation.

The LTMS Management Committee has decided to immediately implement or initiate a variety of measures to increase flexibility in implementing the existing LTMS program goals. These measures are described below. Note that some measures may require separate processes at the state level to become fully available.

**U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency, Region IX**
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

**San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission**
455 Golden Gate, Suite 10600
San Francisco, CA 94102

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
South Pacific Division
San Francisco District**
1455 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94103-1398

**San Francisco Bay Regional
Water Quality Control Board**
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612

**LTMS Management Plan Update:
New or Revised Implementation Measures Based on the 12 Year Program Review**

Measures to Immediately Increase Flexibility

1. Effective immediately and until further notice from the Management Committee, the DMMO is authorized to utilize the existing in-Bay disposal “contingency volume” of up to a cumulative 250,000 cubic yards per year for projects that are otherwise approved for in-Bay disposal. This volume may be approved as needed, consistent with a project proponent’s Integrated Alternatives Analyses (IAA) or Small Dredger Programmatic Alternatives Analysis (SDPAA), without further action by the Management Committee. When any or all of this volume is authorized, it is NOT accounted in the annual disposal volume totals for the purpose of triggering possible dredger-specific allocations (Management Plan section 6.5.6.1).
2. Effective immediately, the DMMO will allow project proponents to extend the averaging period for their IAAs from 3 years to 5 years. This measure is intended to increase flexibility from a project planning standpoint. However, the agencies will continue to approve IAAs only to the extent that in-Bay disposal continues to be minimized to the extent practicable and feasible.
3. BCDC and the Water Board will evaluate whether and how the averaging period for triggering potential allocations (Management Plan section 6.5.6) can most easily be extended to 5 years in their Bay and Basin plans.
4. The LTMS agencies will complete programmatic Endangered Species Act consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service, and coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, on salmonids and green sturgeon. The consultation seeks to extend some salmonid work windows, and also to provide for dredging to occur outside the windows if the material dredged at such times is reused for aquatic habitat benefit. This measure is intended to increase flexibility in project planning and reduce competition for limited equipment, while at the same time fully mitigating adverse impacts and increasing beneficial reuse.

Ongoing Efforts to Facilitate Beneficial Reuse

1. With stakeholder support and involvement, the LTMS agencies will seek additional funding sources to increase beneficial reuse. For example, BCDC will pursue appropriate state and federal grant opportunities that could provide funding assistance for incremental cost increases of beneficially reusing sediment. In addition, the LTMS agencies will continue to seek out partnerships in which costs of reusing dredged sediment can be shared or leveraged between partners.
2. The LTMS agencies will increase coordination between beneficial reuse sites and dredging projects. For example, the agencies will work to facilitate communication between habitat restoration projects that need sediment, such as many SFBJV projects, and dredging projects that need to meet IAA commitments for reuse. Similarly, the agencies will continue to study and pursue authorization of new reuse options such as the South Bay Salt Ponds, and to encourage development of additional offloading capacity to facilitate reuse projects.

3. The LTMS agencies will also continue to evaluate the potential for in-Bay placement of dredged material to “work with nature” in such a manner that the material supports beneficial reuse of sediment at habitat restoration sites.
4. USACE will continue to investigate, and as appropriate pursue, innovative contracting approaches to encourage increased beneficial reuse and to realize cost efficiencies for its projects. In addition, USACE will work to take full advantage of any new or revised authorities that may come about in the future (for example, via changes to WRDA or to Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund distributions) to maximize beneficial reuse consistent with federal law and policy.