

# DELTA LTMS

## LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR DREDGED MATERIAL IN THE DELTA

October 2006

**T**he Delta Long-Term Management Strategy (LTMS) is a cooperative planning effort to coordinate, plan, and implement beneficial reuse of sediments in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Delta (Delta). This fact sheet summarizes the initial concepts for implementing a Delta LTMS.

### Study Purpose, Goals & Objectives

Seven agencies (USACE, USEPA, DWR, SWRCB, CBDA, CVRWQCB and DPC) have begun to examine Delta dredging, reuse, and disposal needs. The Delta LTMS will explore ways to coordinate and manage dredging planning, regulatory approval, and implementation to protect and enhance Delta functions, ecosystem, and water quality.

The goals of the Delta LTMS are to manage dredging and sediment management activities, including:

- Maintain and stabilize Delta levees that protect land-based activities and water conveyance
- Protect and enhance water quality for Delta water supply and ecosystem function
- Support and maintain Delta channel functions for navigation, flood control, water conveyance, and recreation
- Protect and enhance aquatic, wetland, and terrestrial ecosystems

To achieve these goals, the Delta LTMS intends to improve coordination, planning, and approvals of Delta dredging activities. The Delta LTMS will be organized in a three-tier management process to include policy, management, and stakeholder interests to address the challenging issues associated with Delta dredging (see sidebar on back page). Technical working groups will be established to address specific Delta LTMS issues. The seven agencies are now identifying other agencies and stakeholders to participate.



## Problems, Challenges, & Opportunities

The Delta is a complex ecosystem with interconnected problems, challenges, and opportunities, including:

- **Dredging.** Dredging in the Delta is a critical activity for maintaining the important functions of the Delta.
- **Ecosystem.** The Bay-Delta ecosystem is the largest estuarine ecosystem on the west coast supporting more than 110 "species of concern."
- **Levees.** Delta levees, the most important infrastructure in the Delta, are at risk of chronic and catastrophic failure with potentially devastating consequences.
- **Navigation.** Two federally authorized deepwater shipping channels to Stockton and Sacramento provide important access to and from foreign markets for Central Valley goods.
- **Recreation.** The Delta boasts more than 100 marinas, resorts, parks, and campgrounds, and more than 50 boat launching facilities, supporting a thriving annual fishing and boating industry.
- **Water Quality.** The delicate balance of nutrients, salinity, and other constituents supports diverse, and sometimes conflicting, beneficial uses, including drinking water, habitat, irrigation, and recreation.
- **Water Supply.** The Delta is the nexus of a water delivery system providing fresh water for more than 23 million Californians and seven million acres of the most highly productive farmland in the world.

## LTMS Activities

The Delta LTMS will employ an iterative management approach to prioritize and implement both near-term and long-term research and planning activities. Near-term activities will address topics such as immediate research needs associated with dredged material disposal and reuse. Long-term activities will focus on developing a Dredged Material Management Plan for the Delta.

For more information, visit:

[www.DeltaLTMS.com](http://www.DeltaLTMS.com)



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## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Process Initiation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Framework</li> <li>• Solicit Participation</li> </ul>				
<b>Process Chartering</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Charter</li> <li>• Refine Goals and Objectives</li> <li>• Frame Study Issues</li> <li>• Develop Study Plans</li> <li>• Define Schedule</li> </ul>				
<b>Dredged Material Management Plan</b>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define Dredging Needs</li> <li>• Conduct Research</li> <li>• Develop Draft and Final Plan</li> </ul>	
<b>Ongoing Interim Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research, Coordination, and Implementation</li> </ul>				