

Meeting Summary: LTMS MMP Workgroup

Meeting of January 26, 2000

Questions about possible quantitative criteria

- Should we categorize criteria?
 - Group agreed and categorized criteria into three groups: physical, chemical and biological (see table below).
- Do we need reference, especially for biological criteria?
 - Group agreed: yes.
- Can we build on existing data?
 - Group agreed: yes.

Possible Quantitative Criteria	Category
Depth of the site	physical
Footprint of the site	physical
Volumes/location/type of dredged material taken to the site	physical
Consistency of the substrate surrounding the mound (perhaps using sediment profile camera)	physical
Chemistry of the sediment material (taken to the site)	chemical
Chemistry of the site and the footprint	chemical
Turbidity of the mound and environs (compare dumping episodes to non-dumping episodes)	physical
Wildlife criteria	biological
Benthic communities	biological

Factors for Criteria: At the January 4, 2000 meeting, several factors were decided to help determine which of the many possible quantitative criterion should be adopted. At the January 26, 2000 meeting, two of the original factors (“density of measurements” and “priority of information”) were combined with other factors. The group divided the factors into two categories, **threshold factors** and **defining factors**, described below. The group also came up with questions (below) to be asked of each possible quantitative criterion to determine whether the criterion meets the factors.

Threshold Factors are those that will determine whether or not a possible quantitative criterion will be selected for monitoring.

Threshold Factor: Feasibility

- Do we have a method of measuring?
- Is equipment/personnel available?
- Can something be measured (to evaluate compliance with the criteria)?

Threshold Factor: Natural Variation

- Is natural variation so great that measurements would be meaningless?
- Is there a way to adjust measurement to address natural variation?
- Is degree of natural variation known or can it be measured?

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Threshold Factor: Usefulness and relative importance

- Does the measurement mean anything (as far as water quality or other environmental factors)?
- Is it relevant to the disposal sites?
- Does it tell us anything about how to improve management of the site?
- Does measurement help to predict impacts of disposal (i.e., navigation, water quality, benthic community impacts)
- Does measurement address an issue we care about?

Defining Factors are those that determine how a possible quantitative criterion, if selected, would be monitored.

Defining Factor: Location(s) (how many, number of measurements, and background conditions)

- What are minimum number of
 - samples?
 - locations?
 - references?
- Are reference data adequate to detect impacts from disposal?

Defining Factor: Timing/frequency/duration

- What is minimum (timing/frequency/duration of samples) needed to detect impacts from disposal?
- What is appropriate time period to measure?

Defining Factor: Costs (\$, resources)

- What is minimum cost?
- Who is going to pay?
- What is optimum sampling plan?
- Who will perform monitoring program?
- Who will administer monitoring program?
- At some point: What is funding limit and do we need to prioritize?

Alcatraz Mounding

USACE to address by:

- Analyze historical data
- Continue monitoring
 - bathymetry?

RWQCB questions and recommendations

- Why is there more mounding (at this time)?
- Look at survey information from previously dredged sites (e.g. Larkspur Ferry– 4 years ago)
 - Did they dredge outside of the channel?
 - Could dredging outside of the channel (i.e. new work) explain why there appears to be an unusual amount of consolidated material associated with the current mounding?
- Look at why more clamshell dredging in recent years
- Look into why there is more consolidated material going to site in recent years
- Is there a better way to measure consolidated material?
- Is more cohesive material going to Alcatraz?

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- Can clays consolidate (to the point where they are not easily eroded by the currents at the Alcatraz Dredged Material Disposal Site) during the time between dredging episodes (typically 1 to 7 years)?

Action Items

- Subgroups formed to work on answering factor questions for possible quantitative criteria:
 - Wildlife – Glynnis, Becky, Barbara
 - Benthic communities – Chris
 - Physical/Chemical – Jack, Larry

Sub-groups will come up with preliminary responses to factor questions, then all subgroups will meet to determine format for making presentation to entire group at next meeting.

- USACE and Jack will work on answering questions on Alcatraz mounding for next meeting

Meeting evaluation

- + facilitation
- Δ room location (need keycards for access)

Next Meeting

Monday, February 28, 2000

1:00pm – 3:30pm

RWQCB Offices

Agenda topics:

- Revisit criteria, sub-group presentations
- Site boundaries
- Alcatraz mounding
- Parking lot issues

Comments on the minutes can be sent to Jack at 510.622.2354 or jhg@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov or brought to the next meeting.