



# LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Bay Conservation and Development Commission  
McAteer Petris Room  
50 California Street, San Francisco

Tuesday, August 2, 2011  
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Introductions and Review of Meeting Agenda

Will Travis (San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission [BCDC]) provided an introduction to the meeting and an overview of the meeting agenda.

### Value Engineering Study Presentation – Presented by Jessie Burton Evans, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Jessie Burton Evans (USACE) described the Value Engineering (VE) study that USACE carried out from May 16 through 20, 2011, in Sacramento. The purpose of the VE study was to:

- Evaluate current contracting strategies and practices to invite greater competition among the dredging contractor community.
- Evaluate contracts for opportunities regarding an advanced maintenance cycle to extend project utility.
- Maximize the use of upland sites where appropriate to meet LTMS goals and environmental considerations.

The 13 VE study team members initially considered 88 ideas, which they refined, combined, or dismissed to a total of 26 recommendations for actions. Of these, the VE study team identified 11 actions with the greatest potential for success/implementation. A copy of the full presentation is posted to the LTMS website.

Public comments pertaining to this agenda item included:

- Brian Ross (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [USEPA]) asked whether the whole VE study be available for the public to review. Jessie Burton Evans (USACE) responded that it would be posted to the USACE San Francisco District and the LTMS websites.

- John Coleman (Bay Planning Coalition) asked whether USACE has a plan for collecting additional information on those recommendations for which more information was noted as needed. Jessie Burton Evans (USACE) responded that USACE is developing a strategy on how to move forward with gathering this information. USACE's budget for the next two years has been determined, so the amount of progress during that period is constrained; however, these data gaps will be considered in developing USACE's budget for FY2014.
- A meeting attendee asked whether the VE study team members are still involved in the effort. Jessie Burton Evans (USACE) responded that although they are not currently involved, USACE's goal is to keep both these recommendations on the table and the VE study team members involved to the maximum extent feasible and/or relevant. Brian Ross added that designating a staff member to focus on this topic is indicative of a meaningful commitment from USACE.
- Doug Lipton (Lipton Environmental Group) suggested that USACE prioritize the top recommendations from the VE study. Jessie Burton Evans (USACE) responded that USACE has already taken action on some of the recommended strategies. Doug Lipton asked whether the recommendations that require additional information are considered high priority– specifically, the one pertaining the beneficial reuse of dredged material. Jessie Burton Evans (USACE) responded that the VE study team noted the recommendations they perceived as being most cost effective with asterisks. She added that if the stakeholders would find it useful, the USACE could provide them with a ranking of how the recommendations were prioritized later this year.
- Brian Ross asked who stakeholders should contact if they have comments on the VE study. Jessie Burton Evans (USACE) responded that they should contact her at (415) 503-6862 or [Jessica.L.BurtonEvans@usace.army.mil](mailto:Jessica.L.BurtonEvans@usace.army.mil).
- Brian Ross aired Jim Haussener's (California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference [CMANC]) comments on this topic as he was unable to attend the meeting:
 

*"I am interested in the group's thoughts as to how to make for a Lean System. The current "system" is not providing value to any of the LTMS partners. While funding is partially an issue, even projects that had funding prior to FY2011 are not being dredged in accordance with the Corps' work schedule. One item that I am very interested is the "on-call" concept. As I understand, currently the Suisun Channel has a "hump" restricting draft to 29' instead of 35' that could be removed in a day's worth of dredging. Last year there was a hump in the Oakland Channel that restricted draft to 45 feet instead of 50 feet and would only have required one or two days' worth of dredging."*
- A meeting attendee suggested that dredgers be invited to participate in future VE studies, as they can provide valuable input.

- A meeting attendee noted that there appears to be a lack of emphasis on the limitations of dredging windows, which are restrictive with regard to the size of the equipment that can be used. Jessie Burton Evans (USACE) responded that the VE study's recommendation to dredge deeper and less frequently assumes that projects would not need to be dredged annually, but every three years. This would decouple the sediment testing and dredging timelines and allow more time to complete sediment testing prior to the need to dredge.

### **South Bay DMMIP Presentation – Presented by Scott Bodensteiner, Weston Solutions, Inc.**

Scott Bodensteiner (Weston Solutions, Inc.) presented on the South San Francisco Bay Dredged Material Management Implementation Plan (DMMIP), which is a spin-off of the regional Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP). A copy of the full presentation is posted to the LTMS website.

Public comments pertaining to this agenda item included:

- Brenda Goeden (BCDC) asked whether the “new work projects” in the presentation include deepening the Sacramento River channel. Scott Bodensteiner (Weston Solutions, Inc.) responded that the “new work projects” include the Stockton and Redwood Harbor deepening projects, not the Sacramento River channel as it is outside of the study area.
- Doug Lipton (Lipton Environmental Group) asked about general capacity of the South Bay placement sites. Scott Bodensteiner (Weston Solutions, Inc.) noted the following approximate site capacities:
  - South Bay salt pond sites (2 sites) have a combined capacity of between 12 to 30 million cubic yards (cy).
  - Moffett Field has a capacity of 1 million cy as it has already accepted 300,000 cy.
  - Inner Bair Island had a capacity of 1 million cy; it was noted at the meeting that this capacity is no longer available and should be removed from the DMMIP.
  - Pond A-18 has a capacity of 1 million cy.
- Doug Lipton (Lipton Environmental Group) asked about the depth of the area around the South Bay salt ponds. Scott Bodensteiner (Weston Solutions, Inc.) noted that it's as deep as 20 feet in some areas, but added that he would need to check on the navigational clearance.
- Jessie Burton Evans (USACE) asked what the approximate distance is from Oakland Harbor to South Bay salt ponds. Scott Bodensteiner (Weston Solutions, Inc.) responded that he would expect it to be about 20 miles.

- Tom Gandesbery (California Coastal Conservancy) asked if the material for the levees is coming from dredged material or elsewhere. Megan Kaun (USACE) responded that the USACE is still in the modeling phase of that study but that they will definitely coordinate with the South Bay DMMIP.
- Doug Lipton (Lipton Environmental Group) inquired on the status of the larger DMMP process for the whole estuary. Megan Kaun (USACE) noted that the South Bay DMMIP is a similar but separate effort from the larger DMMP, and that it is still ongoing.
- Steve Goldbeck (BCDC) asked which of the opportunities in the South Bay is currently the most feasible. Scott Bodensteiner (Weston Solutions, Inc.) responded that the South Bay salt ponds – all three – constitute the most viable current opportunity. The other sites are so much smaller that it's uncertain whether they would be worth focusing all of the effort. Each of the three salt ponds has their own benefits.

### **Stakeholder Topics of Interest**

Alexis Strauss (USEPA) noted that the next LTMS Management Committee meeting to be open to the public is scheduled for November 10, 2011, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM at BCDC. Potential topics on the agenda may include next steps with the VE study recommendations, addressing comments on the Draft VE Study Report, and an update on the programmatic LTMS Endangered Species Act consultation.