Alternatives Analysis: Status of San Francisco Bay Area Dredging Projects

During 2004 and early 2005, the LTMS agencies have coordinated closely with a variety of dredging project proponents to develop Integrated Alternatives Analyses (IAAs) for their projects. An IAA is a single alternatives analysis that evaluates an applicant's overall dredging program over a multi-year (typically three-year) period. IAAs are intended to streamline the permitting and approval process for larger dredgers by removing the need to prepare facility-by-facility and episode-by-episode alternatives analyses, while documenting how their overall program meets the LTMS Transition Period goals for reducing in-Bay disposal and increasing beneficial re-use over time. IAAs are thus an important means of ensuring that the LTMS goals are achieved, while providing operational flexibility and predictability for dredgers. Overall, the dredging projects listed below account for approximately 90 percent of the dredged material managed each year under the LTMS program.

Projects Covered by an IAA:

Valero Refining Company (Benicia Refinery Terminal)

ChevronTexaco (Chevron Long Wharf)

BP Richmond (Richmond Berth)

ConocoPhillips (San Francisco Refinery)

City of Alameda (Alameda Point Channel)

Port of Oakland (multiple berths and facilities)

Port of San Francisco (multiple berths and facilities)

USACE Federal Channels O&M:

- Oakland Outer and Inner Harbor
- Richmond Outer and Inner Harbor
- San Francisco Main Ship Channel
- Suisun Bay Channel
- Petaluma Across the Flats
- Pinole Shoal-San Pablo Bay
- Redwood City Harbor

Projects Not Yet Covered by an IAA:

Port of Richmond (berths and other facilities)
Port of Redwood City (berths and other facilities)

US Coast Guard (Treasure Island)

Golden Gate Ferry (Larkspur Terminal)

CalTrans

Other USACE Federal Channels O&M:

- Larkspur Ferry Channel
- New York Slough

In addition, in October 2004 the LTMS agencies completed and published the Small Dredger Programmatic Alternatives Analysis (SDPAA). The SDPAA significantly streamlines the permit application and approval process for shallow-draft (<12 foot mllw) projects that dredge and dispose an average of less than 50,000 cy per year. Initially the SDPAA applied to 58 small dredger projects, but there is a mechanism for dredgers to apply to DMMO to be added to the list. To date two additional small dredger projects have been added, and the SDPAA has been deemed relevant and adequate for one other project, so that currently 61 Bay area dredging projects are covered. Under the SDPAA, projects that have access to existing upland or beneficial re-use placement sites will continue to use them while other small dredger projects will continue to have access to the unconfined in-Bay disposal sites. Overall, approximately 250,000 cubic yards per year are disposed in-Bay from these small dredger projects.

Projects Covered by the SDPAA:

58 small dredger facilities that were listed in the original SDPAA. Subsequent additions:

- Oakland Yacht Club
- Point San Pablo Yacht Club
- US Coast Guard (STA Golden Gate)