

Case Studies – Levees

Pinole Shoal Management Study – (Delta Long-Term Management Strategy)

In the last several years, agencies, the public, political leaders, and the media have become increasingly concerned about the urgent need for levee rehabilitation in the Delta. One possible contributor to Delta levee rehabilitation is sediment management and reuse from dredging activities. Ongoing concerns about the complex and sensitive environment in the Delta necessitate stringent regulatory requirements for dredging and sediment reuse and placement in the Delta. These two apparently conflicting objectives -- protection of the Delta environment and increased dredging and sediment reuse and placement -- highlighted the need for better coordination and management of Delta dredging and sediment management and reuse requirements.



In late 2004, local sponsors of Delta dredging projects and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) met to explore the feasibility of developing a long-term management strategy (LTMS) for dredging and dredged materials placement or reuse in the Delta. A similar process was used to successfully develop a collaborative, coordinated approach to dredging and sediment management in San Francisco Bay.

In April 2007, seven state and federal agencies signed a charter to develop and implement a long-term plan for dredge material that will ultimately help restore the ecological health and improve water management of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The seven agencies that signed the Delta LTMS – all engaged in implementing the CALFED Bay-Delta Program -- were the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California Bay-Delta Authority, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, Delta Protection Commission and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. ,

Delta LTMS details both near and long-term research and planning activities for dredging and beneficial reuse in the Delta. It was developed in 2004 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers along the same lines as a successful dredging and sediment management approach for San Francisco Bay. Near-term activities will address immediate research needs associated with dredge material disposal and reuse, while long-term activities will focus on developing a comprehensive dredge material management plan for the Delta.

Additionally, Delta LTMS will explore ways to coordinate and manage dredging planning, regulatory approval and implementation to protect and enhance the Delta's ecosystem, water quality, navigation and flood control functions. The goals of Delta LTMS are to manage dredging activities to achieve the following goals:

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

Schedule: This study is being conducted in coordination with DRMS and the Delta Vision, and is expected to be finished in 2012.