

ITEM: **29**

SUBJECT: Long Term Management Strategy for Dredged Material in the Delta

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Regional Board participation in Delta Long Term Management Strategy*

BACKGROUND: Staff has been involved in the process of developing a Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for dredged material in the Delta. One of the goals of the LTMS is to coordinate planning and permitting activities for dredging and dredged material management in a manner that protects and enhances the Delta environment and water quality.

This is a public process, initiated by the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), which has solicited input from a wide array of interested parties. Staff began meeting with the Corps, Department of Water Resources, and California Bay-Delta Authority in Spring 2005, but those meetings were interrupted by demands on the Corps from Hurricane Katrina and changes in Corps' staff.

In Spring 2006, the Corps reinitiated the LTMS process and has been meeting with staff from the Regional Water Board, Department of Water Resources, and California Bay-Delta Authority to develop a Charter and Process Framework. That group of agencies has held 3 public meetings to distribute information and provide an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the LTMS including the draft Charter and Framework.

The LTMS will help fund technical studies to evaluate potential water quality impacts from dredging and reuse of dredged material. The LTMS could also be used to educate all involved parties on the regulatory requirements associated with dredging and reuse of dredged material, and could help us with the issuance of a general permit for dredging. The proposed Charter and Framework contain appropriate language that retains the independent authority of the regulatory agencies, including USEPA, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the Regional Water Board. The State Water Resources Control Board is a named signatory on the Charter.

The latest draft Charter and Process Framework are attached. The final documents will be posted on our website when they become available.

ISSUE: Does the Board support the Chair signing the Charter?

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

26/27 October 2006 meeting
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
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