

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Elizabeth Christian)

MEETING DATE: March 14, 2007

ITEM: 8A

SUBJECT: **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District  
Maintenance Dredging Program, 2007 through 2009  
Updated Waste Discharge Requirements**

CHRONOLOGY: Waste Discharge Requirements have been issued to the Corps every 2-3 years since 1990 and were last updated in December 2003

DISCUSSION: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District (Corps) has applied to update its Waste Discharge Requirements for its regular maintenance dredging program in San Francisco Bay. The Tentative Order requires the Corps to limit disposal of dredged material at in-Bay disposal sites consistent with the goals of the Long-Term Management Strategy for the placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region. The Corps' program for 2007 through 2009 includes maintenance dredging of approximately 7.65 million cubic yards of sediments from federally authorized shipping channels within San Francisco Bay and dredging of approximately 1.7 million cubic yards from the San Francisco Main Ship Channel outside of the Golden Gate. Sediments dredged from within the Bay will be disposed of at various locations, including at the four designated aquatic sites within the Bay, at the Deep Ocean Disposal Site 50 miles offshore of the Golden Gate, and at several beneficial reuse sites, where dredged materials will be used for wetland restoration, levee maintenance, and construction fill.

The Tentative Order requires that evaluation of sediment suitability for the proposed disposal sites and analysis of alternatives to aquatic disposal of dredged sediments be coordinated through the multi-agency Dredged Material Management Office (of which the Board is a member) for each proposed dredging episode.

Because the Corps is the largest dredger in the Bay Region and maintains administrative control over use by all Bay dredgers of the designated aquatic disposal sites, the Tentative Order requires the Corps to manage disposal at those sites in accordance with the maximum disposal volume targets set forth in the Basin Plan. The Tentative Order also requires the Corps to perform regular monitoring of the in-Bay disposal sites, and to provide Board staff with reports documenting monitoring results.

The Tentative Order has been revised from the one that was initially circulated to the Corps and other interested parties as a result of minor comments submitted by the Corps. No other comments were submitted. We expect this item to remain uncontested.

RECOMMENDATION: Adoption of the Tentative Order (Appendix A)

File Number: 1250.11(EAC)

Appendices: A - Tentative Order