

BCDC's Sediment and Beneficial Reuse Working Group members met on September 15, 2023 for a virtual public meeting at 10 am.

The Chair, Commissioner Andrew Gunther, began the meeting by welcoming attendees. He then turned to Maya McInerney for updates on the Sediment for Wetlands Adaptation Project (SWAP). Maya informed the working group that the Catalyst Group has been selected to facilitate the stakeholder outreach phase of the project. Charles Gardiner of the Catalyst Group introduced his team, which will be busy interviewing stakeholders and planning for upcoming January workshop. The project team at BCDC is also preparing for the workshop by writing issue papers and other supporting documents for future discussions.

Maya then introduced Jennifer Siu of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9, who gave an overview of dredging in the San Francisco Bay. After first detailing the importance of dredging in the Bay, Jennifer explained that approximately 60 percent of dredged material is disposed as waste, in part due to high costs, wildlife concerns, and logistical disconnects between dredging projects and placement sites. Despite these challenges, she highlighted the success of various programs in the region, including the Long Term Management Strategy for the placement of Dredged Sediment in the Bay Area (LTMS), which has established a cooperative permitting framework and ensures beneficial reuse of dredged sediment in the region.

The following presentations centered around flood control projects as sources of sediment. Judy Nam of Valley Water gave a presentation on her organization's efforts in reconnecting creeks to historic marshes, specifically connecting the Calabazas and San Tomas Aquino Creeks to a South Bay Salt Pond, A8. This project would allow sediment to flow into the ponds and aid in the restoration of tidal wetlands, while building up an ecotone area to ensure resilient flood protection.

Roger Leventhal of Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District then picked up where Judy left off and shared lessons learned from beneficial reuse projects in the North Bay. Roger began by explaining the various pilot projects undertaken in Marin County and their respective challenges and successes. Marin County is also preparing for new pilot projects that will examine the ways in which tidal channels can be dredged to create a more natural flow regime, potentially alleviating some of the dredging-related obstacles to sediment management and reuse.

Chair Gunther then called for public comment. Seeing none, the meeting was adjourned.

The next Sediment and Beneficial Reuse Commissioner Working Group will be held on November 17th and will focus on the beneficial reuse of soils and preparations for the stakeholder workshop.

For additional information and meeting materials, please visit
<https://bcdca.gov/swap/Sediment-for-Wetland-Adaptation-Project.html>