

San Francisco Bay Sediment for Wetland Adaptation Project

Sediment and Beneficial Reuse
Commissioner Working Group Meeting
March 15, 2024



SF Bay Conservation and Development Commission
Regional Sediment Management Program



Agenda

- **Project Updates**

- Present recent activities of the Sediment for Wetland Adaptation Project (SWAP)
- Debrief on Sediment Management Stakeholder Workshop

- **Roadmap Timeline Overview**

- Present timeline of upcoming SWAP tasks
- Preview proposed Roadmap structure and drafting process

- **Public Comment**

- **Adjourn**

Meeting Ground Rules

- **To ask a question or add a comment please either:**
 - Raise your hand virtually
 - Add your question or comment to the meeting chat
- **Re-state your name/affiliation when coming off mute**
- **Be respectful**



Project Updates

Maya McInerney, BCDC

Sediment for Wetland Adaptation Project

Goal:

“Increase beneficial reuse of sediment and soil for wetland habitat restoration, resilience, and sea level rise adaptation in the San Francisco Bay Area.”

Project Objectives:

- Increased Collaboration
- Sediment to Wetlands Roadmap
- Possible Policy Changes
- Financing Strategy



Photo: Hamilton Wetlands

SWAP Timeline



Preparing for Workshop

- **Workshop invite**
 - 150 unique individuals invited from 67 different organizations
- **Issue papers**
- **Workshop plan for both days of workshop**
- **Supporting materials:**

Prereading materials:

- Glossary of Terms
- Issues Summary
- Revised Issues and Actions
- Agendas

Workshop Activity Materials:

- Presentations
- Breakout Session Slides
- Poster Activity
- Organize panelists and questions

Sediment Management Stakeholder Workshop

Day 1 – Barriers and actions for sediment/soil sources, storage, and placement

- **Review the Plan for the Day**
- **Review the Project Purpose, Framework, Roadmap**
- **Morning Breakouts – Sediment and Soil Sources**
 - Construction Soil
 - Flood Management Sediment/Soil
 - Dredged Sediment
- **Afternoon Breakouts – Storage and Placement**
 - Direct Placement
 - Strategic/Indirect Placement
 - Restoration Site Availability/Readiness
- **Summary and Close**

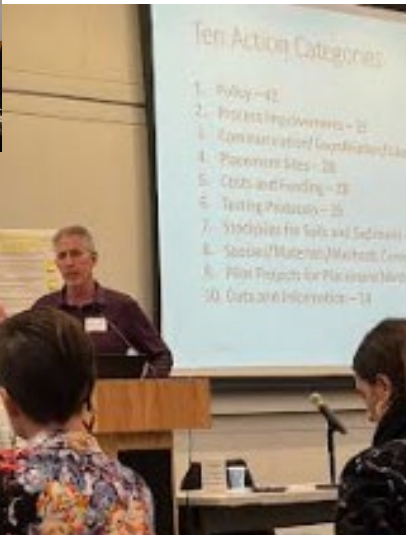
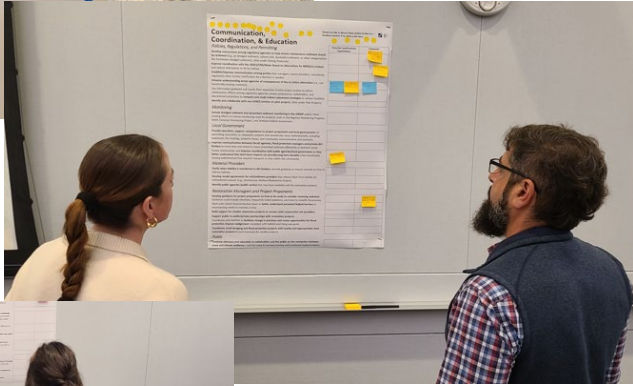


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Sediment Management Stakeholder Workshop

Day 2 - Inform the content of the SWAP Action Roadmap

- **Workshop 1 Review and Plan for the Day**
- **Source and Placement Action Pathways**
 - Summary and Revisions since Workshop 1
 - Poster Board Activity to Prioritize Categories and Note Comments
- **Governance Models, Coordination, and Coalition Building**
 - Breakout Strategy Sessions – Governance
- **Afternoon Breakout Strategy Sessions – Actions**
- **Funding Pathways Panel Discussion**
- **Summary and Close**



Sediment Management Stakeholder Workshop

Results Overview:

- **Over 50 attendees on each workshop day (2)**
- **Hundreds of comments received from stakeholders**
- **Coalition building**
- **Connections across stakeholder groups**

Revision and Progress of Actions

- Revision of issue statements
- Discussion of proposed actions
- Reorganization of actions and issues to create a draft Roadmap

Sediment for Wetlands Adaptation Project **Issues Summary**

ID	Activity Track	Breakout Room	Subject	Issue Title	Issues/Barriers
9	Source	Dredged Navigation Sediment	Policy	Updating federal standard	Federal dredging projects dispose of sediment that could be beneficially reused. Allowing disposal as "environmentally acceptable" is a loophole that reduces the reuse of sediment.
10	Source	Dredged Navigation Sediment	Policy	Updating policies to support beneficial reuse of small-scale dredging project sediment	Small-scale dredging projects are not required to send material to beneficial reuse.
11	Source	Dredged Navigation Sediment	Storage	In-water and upland storage	Timing of sediment availability does not always align with restoration project timelines. Storing sediment for future placement would increase supply and relax tight planning/implementation timelines. Employing aquatic transfer storage would delink the timing of available sediment and placement sites but requires sediment to be dredged twice (once at project site and again from the storage site) and hydraulic conveyance to move sediment from the in-bay storage site). This poses permitting challenges for potential fish entrapment (e.g., sturgeon, longfin smelt) and very significant subtidal habitat impacts to create the site.
12	Source	Flood Control Dredging	Costs and Funding	Funding reuse of flood control dredged sediment	Projects are costly and flood protection agencies are not all able to afford to beneficially reuse sediment from streambed maintenance projects.



This document serves to capture input heard during day 1 of the workshop. Comments made by workshop day 1 attendees regarding the original issues and actions have been incorporated or summarized in the language below. Please note that further refinement and recategorization of this material is already underway for workshop day 2.

Sediment Management Stakeholder Workshop – Day 1
Revised Issues and Actions for Sources and Placement

Construction and Upland Soils

Issue 1: Identifying a process for terrestrial stockpiling and criteria for when stockpiling might be appropriate.

There is no regional system for off-site temporary storage of sediment or soil (stockpiling) for restoration projects. Challenges include ownership and location of stockpile, funding, site management, transportation and community impacts, and material quality management. In addition, the costs and benefits of stockpiling must be evaluated.

Actions:

- Identify and develop permitting process/mechanism. Identify core regulatory concerns ahead of time. Evaluate existing Quality Assurance and Protection Plans (QAPP) as an example of sediment and soil quality management for geotechnical and chemical issues.
- Identifying available or potential sites and/or network of sites near to restoration sites that need sediment/soil (review available information) on a subregional scale, on either a long-term, temporary, or one-time basis.
- Identify willing owners and operators of sites. Consider available land owned/operated by public agencies, as well as owners and operators who might benefit from restoration.
- Work with local communities and trucking companies to identify best haul routes that minimally impact neighborhoods. Identify minimization measures for impacted communities.
- Evaluate benefits and detriments of stockpiling compared to the "free dirt" model. Identify funding for purchasing or leasing sites.

Issue 2 (issues 2 and 3 combined): Ensuring soils used in restoration projects are suitable and streamlining the review of differently sourced material.

Not all material is suitable or recognized as suitable to meet restoration site acceptance criteria - upland materials may have high levels of contamination, naturally occurring chemicals, and/or may not meet geotechnical requirements. QAPPs ensure environmental safety of materials used in restoration projects. Sediment review process can inhibit the use of construction soils for beneficial reuse. The evaluation process can lead to delays in approving candidate soils that may be available for only a short time.



Testing Protocols

Would you like to discuss these actions further in a breakout session? If so, place a dot here.

Upland/Flood Control Soil/Sediment Testing

Develop concurrence among regulatory agencies on **how stream maintenance sediment should be reviewed** (e.g., as dredged sediment, upland soils, stockpiled sediment, or other categorization like freshwater dredged sediment). (Also under Communication/Coordination/Education)

Improve characterization of flood control and stockpiled sediment (i.e., grain size) to determine where/how it can be best used for beneficial reuse.

Evaluate existing QAPPs as examples of sediment and soil quality management for geotechnical and chemical issues.

Evaluate soil contaminant standards, identify and resolve data or protocol gaps, including differences between estuarine and freshwater protocols; not-to-exceed limits; volatilization rates; chemical half-lives, etc.

Standardize sampling and testing requirements and contaminant thresholds for (1) streambed of flood channel maintenance sediment and (2) stockpiled sediment.

Identify flood control and stockpiled sediment and/or soil grain size above which sediment quality tests could be waived, i.e., gravel. (ASBPA/CSO/WR Report)

Better characterize flood control and stockpiled sediment sources and target sites to evaluate if no net contamination would occur.

Standards for Thresholds and Monitoring

Create standard criteria for contaminant thresholds/guidance (consider placement environment)

Evaluate and create protocols for mixing source soils of varying contaminate levels for use at a restoration site (Also added to Placement Sites for spatial aspect).

(Working with experts outside the region), **establish short, medium, and long-term success criteria for indirect placement projects** (e.g., nearshore placement, water column seeding), decide monitoring type and frequency needed, and project success criteria.

Potential Lead/Involved Organizations	Comments

Questions / Discussion



Photo: Hamilton Wetlands

Roadmap Timeline Overview

Maya McInerney, BCDC

SWAP Timeline

2023

2024

2025

Phase 1 – Stakeholder Engagement

- Sediment to Wetlands Roadmap
- Coalition building

Phase 2 – Potential Bay Plan Amendment

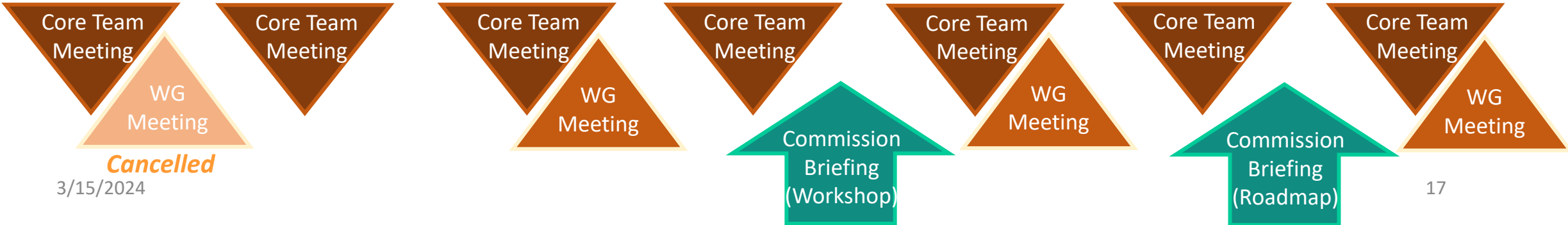
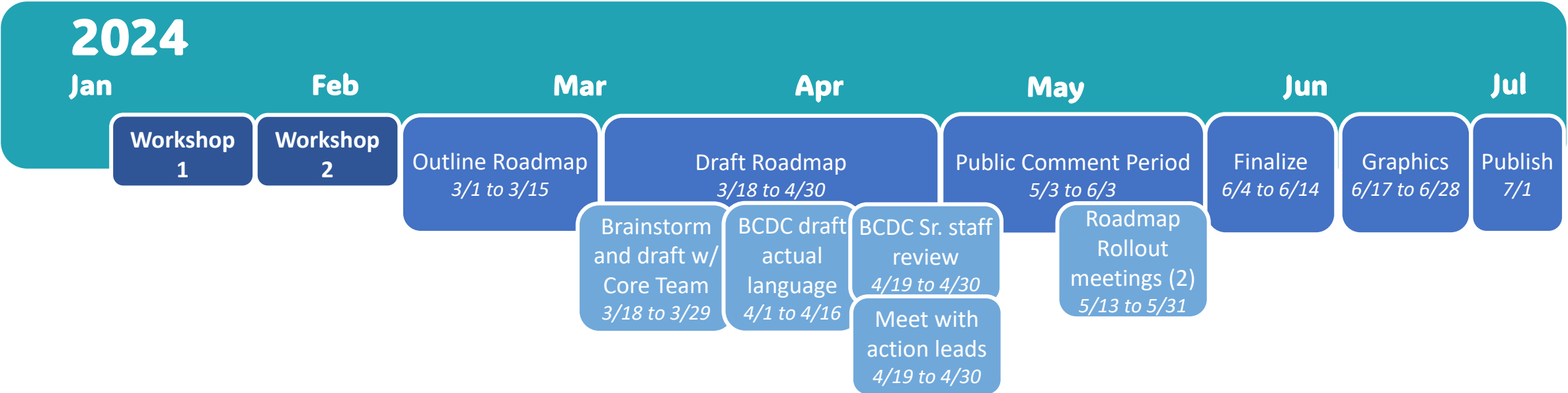
Phase 3 – Financing Strategy

Commissioner Working Group meetings

Core Team meetings



Roadmap Timeline



Transitioning from Workshop to Roadmap

- **Survey workshop participants**
- **Draft Roadmap**
 - Outline Roadmap
 - Work with Core Team members on brainstorming and early drafting process.
 - Determine recommended roadmap/coalition governance structure.
 - BCDC to write context for actions.
- **Complete Issue papers**
- **Possible meetings with integral stakeholders**
 - USACE, Core Team, BPC, Ports, CDFW, Save the Bay, additional federal & state partners

Roadmap Structure

- **Statement of Purpose**
 - Bay Area's sediment challenge
- **Background**
 - Roadmap development process
- **Goals and Principles**
 - Goals: help organize actions
 - Principles: define how we will work with others to implement Roadmap
- **Sediment to Wetlands Pathways**
 - Source to placement pathways
 - Identify common features and highest priority barriers and opportunities
- **Action Plans (8-10)**
 - Each is a list of manageable actions – achievable in next 5 years

Roadmap Structure

- Sediment to Wetlands Pathways**



Roadmap Structure

Action Plan focus areas:

1. Regional, planning, research
2. Federal, State, and regional policies
3. Testing protocols
4. Timing and availability of materials and placement
5. Regulations and permitting
6. Pilot projects
7. Costs and funding / financing strategy
8. Governance and regional coordination



Upcoming Report-outs

- **Commission Working Group**
 - March 15 (*today*)
 - Workshop Outcomes
 - Roadmap Timeline Overview
 - May 17
 - Roadmap Overview
 - July 19
- **Briefing at BCDC Commission Meeting**

Where do you plug in?

- **Review roadmap when it is released– especially policy section**
- **Outreach to your constituencies about Roadmap actions**
- **Pivoting to Bay Plan Amendment**
 - Policy development
 - Stakeholder outreach (workshops on policies)

Questions / Discussion



Photo: Eden Landing