



DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The San Francisco Bay Dredged Material Management Office (DMMO) FACT SHEET - May 2002

DMMO was established in July 1996 through the LTMS process to foster a comprehensive and consolidated approach to handling dredged material management issues for the San Francisco Bay area. The DMMO is comprised of personnel from the federal and state agencies responsible for management of dredged material in the Bay: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX; the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board; State Lands Commission and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Resource agencies that provide DMMO with input include the California Department of Fish and Game, the State Water Resources Control Board, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service.

The DMMO provides a forum wherein the agencies jointly review and discuss permit documents and make consensus recommendations regarding them. Coordination within DMMO results in consistent reviews, reductions in redundancy and unnecessary delays, and provides applicants with a single point of entry into the permitting process. It should be noted however, that DMMO's facilitation of the dredging permitting process occurs *within existing laws, regulations and policies*. No new regulatory statutes have been initiated as a result of the creation or operation of the DMMO. Participation in the DMMO does not alter the legal statutory or regulatory authority of the member agencies.

The DMMO makes joint staff recommendations on the approval, denial, or modification of:

- Sediment Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAP)
- Results of testing pursuant to approved SAPs
- Consolidated permit applications (for completeness)
- Suitability of dredged material proposed for in-Bay, ocean, or upland disposal or reuse

DMMO staff may also recommend that certain conditions be included in permits or approvals.

Decisions are made based on consensus. If consensus cannot be reached at the staff level, the DMMO Memorandum of Understanding provides for a process of elevating the issue to the Dredging Management Committee (DMC) for resolution. The DMC, made up of management executives from each of the DMMO member agencies, oversees the DMMO and is responsible for policy-level decisions.

The DMMO also has an ongoing responsibility for providing the regulated public with up-to-date guidance on topics associated with dredged material management. For example, DMMO issued guidance on Tier I Requests and Decisions in November 2000 and on the Inland Testing Manual protocols in October 2001. These documents and other pertinent local, regional and national guidance, policies and other information related to dredging and dredged material disposal can be found on the DMMO web site (visit: www.spn.usace.army.mil/conops/dmimo.htm). DMMO also works with permit applicants and others on an informal basis to improve public understanding of the dredged material management process.

DMMO meetings are generally held twice each month. All meeting agendas, times and locations are posted on the DMMO web site. All meetings are open to the public. Please call or email the DMMO Coordinator, David Dwinell, at least a week prior to a scheduled meeting if you would like an item to be put on the agenda.