CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD,
LOS ANGELES REGION

Los Angeles, California
September 19, 2001
446th Board Meeting

ITEM: **8.1**

SUBJECT: **TENTATIVE WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR BERTH 100 WHARF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN LOS ANGELES HARBOR**

PURPOSE: To propose the adoption of the Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements.

BACKGROUND: This item contains tentative waste discharge requirements for a wharf construction project proposed by the Port of Los Angeles to be conducted in the vicinity of Berth 100 within Los Angeles Inner Harbor. This is a new discharge, so there is no compliance history for this project. However, the Port has demonstrated compliance with waste discharge requirements issued for similar dredging projects in the past.

This project involves dredging and disposal of approximately 46,000 cubic yards of lightly contaminated bottom sediments. The dredged material would be disposed of at Anchorage Road Soil Storage Site within the harbor. The project also involves construction of a new wharf dike with approximately 124,000 cubic yards of rock, placement of approximately 22,000 cubic yards of clean fill material behind the dike as backfill, installation of approximately 644 24-inch octagonal concrete piles, installation of approximately 1,920 pin-piles to improve slope stability, and construction of approximately 134,000 square feet of concrete wharf deck.

ISSUES: The primary issues of concern related to dredging projects are: 1) potential resuspension of contaminants in the water column during dredging operations to remove sediments from the bottom; and 2) proper disposal of dredged material to prevent contaminants from being released into the environment. “Clean” sediments that pass federal criteria (sediment toxicity testing and bioaccumulation testing requirements) can be disposed of at an offshore disposal site (e.g., LA-2) and do not pose a risk of resuspension of contaminants. However, “contaminated” sediments (defined as sediments unsuitable for unconfined aquatic disposal) require special handling to minimize adverse water quality impacts.

The Port of Los Angeles proposes to dredge approximately 46,000 cubic yards of sediment, including 26,000 cubic yards to deepen berth 100 to –59 feet Mean Lower Low Water. The bottom sediments proposed for dredging and disposal by the Port of Los Angeles are lightly contaminated with several trace metals and trace organic compounds. Although contaminant concentrations are well below hazardous waste levels, these sediments probably would be unsuitable for unconfined aquatic disposal and could pose a risk for resuspension of contaminants into the water column during the dredging operations.

The Port of Los Angeles proposes to dispose of the dredged material at the Anchorage Road Soil Storage Site within the East Basin of Los Angeles Harbor. This site has been used several times in the past to receive lightly contaminated dredged sediments and has proven to provide adequate containment of the dredged material to prevent release of contaminants back into the environment. Although the dredging operations potentially could result in resuspension of contaminants in the water column, monitoring of previous similar projects has demonstrated that water column concentrations of the trace metals and trace organics of concern rarely exceed water quality objectives for these constituents. However, the receiving water monitoring program requires monitoring for turbidity and chemical constituents to assess this potential risk.

COMMENTS RECEIVED: No comments have been received from the discharger or other interested parties.

CONCLUSION: Staff believes that the attached tentative Order will accomplish the following:

a) Ensure that dredging operations are managed to prevent excessive turbidity in the water column.
b) Ensure that disposal of the dredged material is managed to prevent release of contaminants into the environment.

RECOMMENDATION: The Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements be adopted, as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS: 1) Tentative Waste Discharge Requirements + Monitoring and Reporting Program
2) Discharge Requirements Summary