

**Meeting Summary – Technical Advisory Committee
TMDLs for Dominguez Channel, LA & LB Harbors
May 12, 2009
1-3 pm
(via Teleconference call)**

Prior to this teleconference call...EPA provided the following summary and corresponding documents to TAC members for their review and preparation for the meeting discussion.

Overview of Significant Changes to LA/LB Harbor Model

Based on TAC comments provided in July 2008, Tetra Tech has revised the LA/LB Harbors and San Pedro Bay Hydrodynamic and Sediment-Contaminant Transport Model Report. This includes some significant changes as well as the extra model runs designed to explore model sensitivity to reduced loads in three areas. Some comments were not incorporated into the model and are addressed in a separate Tetra Tech memo which is also attached.

- clarification of sediment and contaminant data used, see Table 2
- update info related to studies used for model initialization, see figs. 9 & 14
- new section on Sensitivity to Long-term Load Reductions, for three extra models runs: open boundary conditions, river and watershed loads, sediment erosion rates. see Section 8.4 & Appdx D.
- new section on Analysis of Addn'l Water Column Metals and TSS data, see Appdx E

Modifications to Problem Statement

We have carefully reviewed comments on the assessment conclusions within the draft Problem Statement. In general, the findings here are consistent with the fact sheet contents and conclusions in the Regional Board's forthcoming 2008 draft 303(d) list. See attached file of assessment findings for each water body.

- water toxicity in DomCh freshwater appears attributed to diazinon
- inclusion of PORTs benthic community data
- clarification that sediment chemistry assessment required at least 2 legs of sediment triad
- assessment of sediment chemistry included all available results, yet more weight given to more recent results (1996-2006)

Meeting summary minutes:

Concerns on Assessment findings/303d list:

PORTs requested clarification regarding assessments based on data associated with dredged sediments, which have been removed and should not be counted. EPA responded that all available data was included in assessment with more weight given to more recent sample results such as 1996 – 2006. RB stated the State's Listing Policy does not promote disregarding older data simply based on age. EPA is willing to work with Ports to identify the specific sediment

sites that may have been removed and potentially not included in assessments. EPA reminded stakeholders that certain WB-pollutant combinations have sufficient exceedences that it might not make a difference if a few sediment sample results were removed; i.e., assessment conclusion would remain same.

EPA described the PORTs 2006 sediment chemistry and benthic community data were included in assessment. Uncertain if the Biobaseline sediment toxicity data was used.

Concerns on Model:

POLA asked if all individual comments were responded to, since the response to comment document grouped things together. Also request to see other comments provided by stakeholders. EPA will post stakeholders comments on RB website before June 30.

Stakeholders expressed continued concerns about the **Salinity calibration** results in the TMDL EFDC model, which are constant with depth. Everest suggested using actual flow data from LAR current meters instead of HSPF output, as this might provide more realistic data for the salinity calibration. Also, wind data may need to be expanded to richer data set, going back to 2002(?).

Everest suggested using actual flow data from LAR current meters instead of HSPF output. Tetra Tech acknowledged he had not used the ACOE River flow data.

LA RWQCB questioned the model output figures that showed negative changes in Cu and Pb conc. in the LAR estuary, especially sites #33 & 52. This appears counterintuitive since [Everest stated] ACOE studies have estimated **sediment deposition** at 80,000 cubic meters/yr.

Recommendation for Ttech to obtain the ACOE sediment tracer study data in LAR estuary. EPA to pursue from Jim Field at ACOE.

Suggestions were made to make improvements to TMDL model and then use model to examine the necessary load reductions as well as to identify and evaluate implementation goals. EPA reiterated limited funds for continuous model development/refinement, thus TAC needs to be strategic on what they expect from model improvements vs. applicability for various “what if” or allocation scenarios.

Next steps:

Discussion of how to use the TMDL model included the following concepts:

- examine the necessary load reductions
- incorporate/integrate information into model regarding what is controllable, including stormwater capture or remediation
- identify implementation options (individually or collectively) to see accomplishment towards goals
- perhaps avoiding model runs that assume broad sweeping reductions, recommending more watershed or pollutant source specific analysis.
- division of labor such that EPA model could be used or some model runs; PORTs model could be used for other runs; e.g. remediation of ConSlip or Navy area.

POLB/POLA Water Resources Action Plan (WRAP):

Draft WRAP is available for public comment. It establishes framework for PORTs to respond to allocations in forthcoming TMDLs.

WRAP model is based on previous DomCh estuary modeling study, yet extended into greater Harbor waters including parts of San Pedro Bay. WRAP model grid has been modified (refined) to examine source inputs within PORTs jurisdiction and based on more thorough data. Model included the ACOE sediment tracer study in LAR estuary.

Action Items:

Tetra Tech:

- explore improving the salinity calibration: a) get more wind data and b) use the LAR current meter/flow data
- obtain the ACOE sediment tracer study for LARE
- reconsider the sediment scouring or deposition in LARE. This may require adjusting the sediment size fractionation values (in HSPF model) coming out of the watershed
- provide the individual response to comment documents to EPA for evaluation

EPA:

- to revisit files provided by PORTs related to sediments that have been dredged
- to forward stakeholder comments (july 2008) to LA RWQCB for posting on TAC website

PORTs:

- to revisit own files provided to EPA related to sediments that have been dredged
- ensure Biobaseline sediment toxicity data was provided to EPA for WQ assessment

TAC invited to send comments on 303d listings, due June 17 to LA RWQCB.

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/water_issues/programs/303d_list.shtml

TAC invited to review and send comments on PORTS draft WRAP due May 22 to PORTs.