STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LOS ANGELES REGION

ORDER NO. 01-016

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
FOR
PORT OF LOS ANGELES
(BERTHS 261-265 MAINTENANCE DREDGING)
(FILE NO. 00-086)

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board), finds:

1. The Port of Los Angeles (Port) has filed an application for Waste Discharge Requirements for maintenance dredging activities in the Fish Harbor area of Los Angeles Harbor.

2. The Port proposes to dredge approximately 25,000 cubic yards of bottom sediments from Berths 261-262, Berths 263-264 and Berth 265 in Fish Harbor. Shoaled areas adjacent to the pier face at Berths 261-262 would be dredged to deepen the berth to a depth of -20 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW). Existing depths in this area vary from approximately –9.6 to –20 feet MLLW. Maintenance dredging also would be performed at Berths 263-264 to deepen the berth to a depth of –20 feet MLLW. Existing depths at this site range from –11 to –20 feet MLLW. In addition, a small area adjacent to Berth 265 would be dredged to deepen the berth to –20 feet MLLW.

3. The Port proposes to dispose of the dredged material from Berths 261-262 at the LA-2 offshore ocean disposal site. The Port proposes to dispose of the dredged material from Berths 263-264 and Berth 265 at the Anchorage Road Soil Storage Site, as well as any material from Berths 261-262 deemed unsuitable for unconfined ocean disposal. In a letter dated May 1, 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency determined that none of the proposed dredged materials would be suitable for ocean or unconfined disposal. Therefore, all of the dredged material will be disposed of at the Anchorage Road Soil Storage Site.

4. The Port conducted a sampling and testing program for the material to be dredged. Core samples were collected at six locations along the pier face at Berths 261-262 and composited into a single sample for testing and analysis. Core samples were collected at five locations at Berths 263-264; chemical analyses were conducted on each sample, as well as on a composite from the five samples. No samples were collected at Berth 265, due to the small volume of material to be dredged and the expected similarity to Berths 263-264. The sediment chemistry results are summarized in the table below.

   Sediment levels for most trace metals (silver, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, mercury, nickel, lead, zinc), PAHs, PCBs and DDT often exceeded the concentration at which toxicity to marine organisms might occur (Effects Range Low, or ERL level) if they were exposed to these bottom sediments in the harbor environment. Sediment levels for several trace metals (cadmium, copper, mercury, nickel, lead, zinc), PAHs, PCBs and DDT exceeded the concentrations at which toxicity to marine organisms would be likely to occur (Effects Range Median, or ERM level) if they were exposed to these bottom sediments.

The Port conducted testing to measure the Soluble Threshold Limit Concentrations (STLC) for the trace metal and trace organic constituents present in these sediments. The low STLC values measured indicate that these contaminants are strongly bound to the sediment matrix and should not be readily leachable into the environment. With proper management of the dredging and disposal operations, the project is not expected to release significant levels of contaminants to the Harbor waters or other State waters nor adversely impact beneficial uses.

Sediment Characteristics – Berths 261-265 Maintenance Dredging

Parameter	Berths 261-262 (composite)	Berths 263-264 (range of samples)
Silver	<0.1 ppm	0.4 - 1.13 ppm
Arsenic	7.7 ppm	16.3 - 31 ppm
Cadmium	1.28 ppm	1.53 – 10.1 ppm
Chromium	25.8 ppm	45.8 - 158 ppm
Copper	147 ppm	364 - 1530 ppm
Mercury	2.88 ppm	5.14 – 12.1 ppm
Nickel	13.7 ppm	20.4 – 78.9 ppm
Lead	128 ppm	122-1030 ppm
Selenium	3.42 ppm	2.13 – 3.5 ppm
Zinc	305 ppm	541 - 2320 ppm
Total DDT	<100 ppb	101.4 – 919.4 ppb
Total PCB	<1000 ppb	176 - 5425 ppb
Total PAH	9300 ppb	9074-52469 ppb

5. The sediments at Berths 263-264 are predominately fine-grained, containing 44.5% silt and 15.2% clay. Sediments containing high levels of silt and clay are unsuitable for use as beach nourishment.

6. The Regional Board adopted a revised Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles River Basin on June 13, 1994. The Water Quality Control Plan contains water quality objectives for the Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor. The requirements contained in this Order as they are met will be in conformance with the goals of the Water Quality Control Plan.

7. The beneficial uses of the inner harbor waters are: industrial service supply, navigation, water contact recreation (potential use), non-contact water recreation, commercial and sport fishing, marine habitat, preservation of rare and endangered species, and shellfish harvesting (potential use). The beneficial uses of the outer harbor waters are: navigation, water contact recreation, non-contact water recreation, commercial and sport fishing, marine habitat, preservation of rare and endangered species, and shellfish harvesting (potential use).

8. An Environmental Assessment, Categorical Exemption, was issued by the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles harbor Department for this project on January 15, 1999.

9. With proper management of the dredging and disposal operations, the project is not expected to release significant levels of contaminants to the Harbor waters or other State waters nor adversely impact beneficial uses.

The Board has notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to prescribe waste discharge requirements for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity to submit their written views and recommendations.

The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge and to the tentative requirements.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Port of Los Angeles, in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, and the provisions of the Clean Water Act as amended, and regulations and guidelines adopted thereunder, shall comply with the following:

A. Discharge Requirements

1. The removal and placement of dredged/excavated material shall be managed such that the concentrations of toxic pollutants in the water column, sediments or biota shall not adversely affect beneficial uses.

2. Enclosed bay and estuarine communities and populations, including vertebrate, invertebrate and plant species, shall not be degraded as a result of the discharge of waste.

3. The natural taste and odor of fish, shellfish or other enclosed bay and estuarine resources used for human consumption shall not be impaired as a result of the discharge of waste.

4. Toxic pollutants shall not be discharged at levels that will bioaccumulate in aquatic resources to levels which are harmful to human health.

5. There shall be no acute toxicity or chronic toxicity in ambient waters as a result of the discharge of waste.

6. Dredging, excavation or disposal of dredge spoils shall not cause any of the following conditions in the receiving waters:

   a. The formation of sludge banks or deposits of waste origin that would adversely affect the composition of the bottom fauna and flora, interfere with the fish propagation or deleteriously affect their habitat, or adversely change the physical or chemical nature of the bottom.

   b. Turbidity that would cause substantial visible contrast with the natural appearance of the water outside the immediate area of operation.

   c. Discoloration outside the immediate area of operation.

   d. Visible material, including oil and grease, either floating on or suspended in the water or deposited on beaches, shores, or channel structures outside the immediate area of operation.

   e. Objectionable odors emanating from the water surface.

   f. Depression of dissolved oxygen concentrations below 5.0 mg/l at any time outside the immediate area of operation.

   g. Any condition of pollution or nuisance.

B. Provisions

1. The above specifications are valid only for dredging and disposal of bottom material as proposed.

2. The discharger shall notify this Board immediately by telephone of any adverse conditions in receiving waters or adjacent areas resulting from the removal of dredge materials; written confirmation shall follow within one week.

3. A copy of this Order shall be made available at all times to project construction personnel.

4. In the event that the dredging activities result in an increase in turbidity of 30% or greater above ambient turbidity levels, measured as a decrease in percent light transmittance at a station located 300 feet from the dredging operation, the discharger shall collect a water sample from mid-depth (or the depth coinciding with the maximum increase in turbidity) and analyze the sample for trace metals, DDTs, PCBs and PAHs, to evaluate potential resuspension of contaminants in the vicinity of the dredging operation.

5. The discharger shall provide the following information to the Board:

   a. A copy of the final Department of the Army permit issued for the dredge and disposal operations.

   b. The scheduled date of commencement of each dredging operation and an engineering plan and profile of the excavation and the disposal site, other than the "LA-2" ocean disposal site, at least two weeks prior to commencement.

   c. Notice of termination of the operation, within one week following the termination date.

6. The discharger shall submit, under penalty of perjury, technical reports to the Board in accordance with specifications prepared by the Executive Officer.

7. In accordance with section 13260(c) of the Water Code, the discharger shall file a report of any material change or proposed change in the character, location, or volume of the waste.

8. These requirements do not exempt the discharger from compliance with any other laws, regulations, or ordinances which may be applicable: they do not legalize this waste discharge, and they leave unaffected any further restraint on the disposal of wastes at this site which may be contained in other statutes or required by other agencies.

9. In accordance with Water Code section 13263(g), these requirements shall not create a vested right to continue to discharge. All discharges of waste into waters of the State are privileges, not rights, and are subject to rescission or modification.

10. This Order includes Attachment N: "Standard Provisions, General Monitoring and Reporting Requirements" ("Standard Provisions"). If there is any conflict between provisions stated hereinbefore and said "Standard Provisions", those provisions stated hereinbefore prevail.

11. This Order fulfills the requirements for a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the proposed project. Pursuant to Section 3860 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 CCR), the following three standard conditions shall apply to this project:

    a. this certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to section 13330 of the California Water Code and Article 6 (commencing with 23 CCR section 3867);

b. this certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to 23 CCR subsection 3855(b) and the application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought;

c. certification is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required pursuant to 23 CCR Chapter 28 and owed by the applicant.

12. This order shall expire on June 30, 2002.

I, Dennis A. Dickerson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, on January 25, 2001.

DENNIS A. DICKERSON
Executive Officer

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