

**Sediment Quality Advisory Committee
Kickoff/Formation Draft Meeting
Summary
Cal/EPA Building
Sacramento California
Friday July 29, 2003**

Meeting began with participants introducing themselves (List of Attendees is attached).

Chris Beegan, SWRCB program manager, provided an overview of why and how sediment quality objectives (SQO) will be developed. The timeline, legal mandates, and California Water Code requirements were described. Process details for development, public input and adoption were also explained.

Steve Bay from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Program (SCCWRP) presented the technical approach to attendees. SCCWRP will serve as the lead contractor for this effort. During his presentation, Mr. Bay explained that SQOs will be developed by:

- Using data for both benthic macrofauna analyses and toxicity tests.
- Making the development process a team effort in order to meet deadlines.
- Emphasizing California-specific results.
- Making all data available on the SCCWRP web site (www.sccwrp.org).

Mr. Bay described how data will be used and how objectives will be derived. The schedule for adoption by 2007 was also presented.

All slides from this meeting and other materials will be available on the State Board web site (www.swrcb.ca.gov/bptcp/).

Questions and responses (paraphrased):

Question: How will narrative objectives be applied?

Chris Beegan: The goal is to develop benchmarks and tools that can be used to assess sediment quality relative to the narrative objectives and prepare clear policy to prevent misinterpretation or ambiguity.

Question: What pollutants will have numeric objectives developed?

Steve Bay: That is still an unknown at this time and the answer will depend on what the data reveal. It is anticipated however, that polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and some metals will be likely candidates. The objectives likely will not say if the concentration of pollutant X is greater than Y mg/kg then an adverse effect will occur. Pollutant selection will be driven by which constituents drive observed results and which of those have good data associated with them.

Question: How will site-specific concerns and the extent of available data influence SQO development?

Steve Bay: Data quality will be a significant factor. Completeness of the data set, methods, and detection limits are key concerns. For any study used to derive objectives, a suite of compounds will have to have been measured in order to identify which pollutants lead to the observed impacts.

Question: Will landowners and agricultural interests be involved in the Scientific Steering Committee?

Steve Bay: All input is welcome. The Scientific Steering Committee will be only concerned with science. Policy input will be solicited through the public advisory committee meetings.

Question: Who will direct activities of the advisory committee?

Steve Bay: Brock Bernstein will facilitate the meetings.

Question: How will upstream sources be addressed, such as in the North Coast area?

Chris Beegan: Clean sediments are not the issue. If contaminated sediments are traveling downstream and impacting beneficial uses they will need to be controlled. The mechanism for that will likely be a total maximum daily load (TMDL). These objectives will not govern contaminated sediments in freshwater. The focus at this point is strictly bays and estuaries.

Question: How will enclosed bays and estuaries be defined?

Chris Beegan: The Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Policy contains the definitions. (Briefly, enclosed bays are indentations along the coast that enclose an area of oceanic water within distinct headlands or harbor works. This includes all bays where the narrowest distance between the headlands or outermost harbor works is less than 75% of the greatest dimension of the enclosed portion of the bay. Estuarine waters extend from a bay or the ocean to a point upstream where there is no significant mixing of fresh and salt water.). At this point we are planning to focus the development on marine/estuarine waters. There is just not enough time to expand this effort to freshwater benthic communities.

Question: Will offshore waters be considered?

Chris Beegan: Only enclosed bays and estuaries will be considered.

Question: Is it possible that the objectives will be used as benchmarks to drive an ensuing corrective process?

Chris Beegan: Yes. It may be useful to compare sample data with threshold concentrations. Under this scenario a concentration greater than the objective will lead to further actions to address the problem.

Question: Won't the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta be included since it is an estuary?

Chris Beegan: That is unclear at this time. The Delta is highly variable and therefore how the objectives are used may change with the seasons or by location.

Question: How will rejected data be stored?

Steve Bay: The database will include a record of what studies were not included and why.

Question: Will emerging contaminants (fire retardants, endocrine disrupters, etc.) be considered?

Steve Bay: No. The data necessary to include these pollutants do not currently exist.

Question: How will SQOs affect other regulatory programs?

Steve Bay: At this time it is too early to predict how SQO will impact other State and Regional Board actions.

Question: Where is the benthic response index (BRI) heading?

Steve Bay: BRI will likely vary by location. It can be derived through various methods depending on the organisms present at a site. For more information on the BRI, see the May work plan.

Question: This is an ambitious effort. Has a limit been set for developing SQOs?

Chris Beegan: SWRCB has allocated \$2.5 million. For more information see the May 21, 2003 Work Plan.

After breaking for Lunch participants were asked if there were additional questions. There were none and Brock Bernstein was introduced as Facilitator. Dr. Bernstein then proceeded to organize the participants into groups that represented common interests. The groups were then asked to caucus and select a primary member and alternate for participation on the advisory committee. The groups and associated members are;

Regulated Community

Ports: Paul Johansen, Port of Los Angeles. Alt: Andy Jahn, Port of Oakland

POTWs: Tom Grovhoug, Larry Walker Associates (not present). Alt: Lisa Haney, LACSD

Municipal Stormwater: Desi Alvarez, City of Downey. Alt: Sandy Mathews, California Stormwater Quality Association

Industrial Stormwater: Tim Piasky, BIASC. Alt: Steve Arita, Western States Petroleum Association

Industrial Direct: Susan Paulsen, Flowscience. Alt: Craig Johns, California Resource Strategies

Federal Facilities: Teresa Marley, USN. Alt: Sandor (Shaun) Halvax, Southwest Marine Inc

Legacy Pollutants: Paul Singarella, Latham & Watkins volunteered to identify representatives of this group.

Environmental/Conservation Organizations

Elaine Carlin, Environmental Health Coalition,

Mitzi Taggart, Heal the Bay (not present meeting, volunteered at later date)

Sarah Newkirk and Linda Sheehan as Alternate Representing The Ocean Conservancy (neither present at meeting, volunteered at later date).

Additional members may be selected as environmental/conservation organization representatives prior to the first formal meeting.

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David Moore requested regional groups be allowed to participate such as the Bay Areas Planning Coalition. Dr. Bernstein and Mr. Beegan did not believe that having a regional representative from San Francisco would be fair to the other regions in the State. This issue was resolved by confirming that interested groups such as the Coalition could attend meetings and speak during the public comment period. In addition it would be possible, depending on the specific issue before the advisory committee, for a committee member to ask a representative of another group, such as the Coalition, to speak to that issue in order to provide more complete information to the committee.

Next Meeting and follow up tasks:

Dr. Bernstein asked when the next meeting should occur and the consensus was October 6, 2003 at which time a document would be presented that summarizes briefly some potential sediment quality strategies and alternatives. The purpose of this document is to generate discussion within the Advisory Committee and State Agency Coordination Group. Chris Beegan would be responsible for preparation of this document. Future meetings are expected to occur bimonthly and, with the exception of the first one or two meetings, would attempt to utilize teleconferencing for the remaining meetings.

Dr. Bernstein Adjourned the Meeting

Attachment: List of Attendees

**Meeting Summary
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SEDIMENT QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
KICKOFF/FORMATION MEETING
ATTENDEES LIST
JULY 29, 2003

NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
Brock Bernstein	Consultant	Brockbernstein@sbcglobal.net	805-646-8369
Andy Jahn	Port of Oakland	Ajahn@portoakland.com	510-627-1568
Chris Beegan	SWRCB	Beegc@swrcb.ca.gov	916-341-5577
Bridgette DeShields	BBL Sciences	Brd@bbl-inc.com	707-776-0865 x 17
Steven Arita	WSPA	Steve@wspa.org	916-498-7753
Susan Paulsen	Flow Science	Spaulsen@flowscience.com	626-304-1134
Clayton Miller	Construction Industry Coalition on Water Quality	Clayton@lewisandco.net	626-858-4611
Bobbi Larson	CASA	Blarson@lawssd.com	916-446-7979
Debbie Webster	PSSEP ICRS	Dwebster@calrestrats.com	916-939-7336
Michael Yu	SCWA	Myu@scwa.ca.gov	707-521-1865
Paul Singarella	Latham & Watkins	Paul.singarella@lw.com	714-540-1235
Paul Johansen	Port of Los Angeles	Pjohansen@portla.org	310-732-3678
Sharon Green	Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County	Sgreen@lacsdc.org	562-699-7411
Monica Oakley	Tri-TAC & BACWA (Larry Walker Assoc)	Monicao@lwa.com	925-962-9700
Craig Johns	California Resource Strategies	Cjohns@calrestrats.com	916-498-3326
Eileen Maher	Port of San Diego	Emaher@portofsandiego.org	619-686-6254
Lisa Haney	LACSD	Lhaney@lacsdc.org	310-830-2400 x 5503
Sandy Mathews	CASQA	Mathews6@lml.gov	925-423-6679
Desi Alvarez	Downey	Dalvarez@downeyca.org	562-904-7102
Sandra Halvax	Southwest Marine	Halvax@swmarine.com	619-238-1000 x2060
Gerald Bowes	SWRCB	Boweg@swrcb.ca.gov	916-341-5567
Joe Dillon	NOAA Fisheries	Joseph.J.Dillon@noaa.gov	707-575-6093
Bruce Thompson	San Francisco Estuary Inst.	Brucet@sfei.org	510-746-7358
Scott Bodensteiner	MEC Analytical Systems	Bodensteiner@mecanalytical.com	415-435-1847
David Moore	MEC Analytical Systems	Moore@mecanalytical.com	760-931-8081
Bill Thomas	CA Cattlemens Assoc.	Wthomas@lmlaw.net	442-1111

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NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
Bill Reeves	SWRCB	Reevw@swrcb.ca.gov	916-341-5508
Brian White	CA Building Industry Asso.	Bwhite@cbia.org	443-7933
Theresa Morley	U.S. Navy	Theresa.morley@navy.mil	619-524-6399
G. Fred Lee	GFL & Assoc.	Gfredlee@AOL.com	530-753-9630
Sheila Vassey	SWRCB	Svassey@swrcb.ca.gov	341-5173
Brian Anderson	U.C. Davis	Anderson@ucdavis.edu	831-624-0947
Elaine Carlin	Environmental Health Coalition	Elainecarlin@att.net	202-607-4715
Tom Grovhoug (not present-POTW rep)	Larry Walker Assoc.	Tomg@lwa.com	530-753-6400
Steve Bay	SCCWRP	Sbay@sccwrp.org	714-372-9204
Frank Palmer	SWRCB		916-341-5581