

BCDC's Sediment and Beneficial Reuse Working Group members attended the March 17th 2023, virtual public meeting at 10 am.

Vice Chair Pat Showalter began the meeting by welcoming Maya McNerney, BCDC's new staff member who will be leading the Beneficial Reuse project. Maya introduced herself as well as the topics to be discussed in the meeting: the Bay Plan Amendment process, the project workplan, and the project goals.

Before sharing the workplan, Maya passed the presentation over to Erik Buehmann, BCDC's Long Range Planning Manager, to give an overview of the second phase of the workplan, the Bay Plan Amendment (BPA). Erik first provided background to the San Francisco Bay Plan itself and explained the way in which a Bay Plan Amendment would provide BCDC with the authority to encourage the beneficial reuse of sediment. Erik then outlined the three steps in the formal BPA process: initiation, background research, and the decision. The BPA process for this project is scheduled to begin in early 2024.

Maya then went over the current workplan. The workplan consists of 4 tasks and 3 phases: project management, stakeholder workshops (Phase 1), Bay Plan amendment (Phase 2), and feasibility and financing assessment (Phase 3). Under the current timeline, Phase 1 is underway and will extend through early 2024, at which time Phases 2 and 3 will begin and extend to the end of 2025.

Brenda Goeden, BCDC's Sediment Program Manager, then stepped in to share the goals and objectives of the Beneficial Reuse project. The overall goal is to increase beneficial reuse of sediment and soil for wetland restoration, resilience, and sea level rise adaptation. To provide context for this goal, Brenda gave an overview of Regional Sediment Management and shared the findings of the Sediment for Survival Report, as well as the status of other beneficial reuse initiatives. Brenda also identified under-utilized sources of sediment and other potential directions for the project to pursue. The presentation concluded with an overview of the accomplishments and challenges faced by large scale restoration sites that use dredged sediment, and the next steps for understanding and optimizing sediment reuse in the Bay.

Vice Chair Showalter then polled the Commissioners and attendees about the project goal, resulting in unanimous approval.

The following public comment period returned to the subject of Regional Sediment Management. Attendees identified areas for improvement in current process of getting sediment to restoration sites, and shared resources from their respective agencies to help find solutions to these issues.

The next Sediment and Beneficial Reuse Commissioner Working Group will be held on May 19th.

For additional information, please visit <https://bcdcc.ca.gov/sabrwg/sabrMeetings.html>