

# Navigation Dredging

## Bay Plan Section

### Proposed policy concepts:

- A. Recognize the need for increased beneficial reuse to address rising seas in the region and dredged sediment's necessary contribution.
- B. Recognize that dredged sediment is a public trust resource and that beneficial reuse of dredged sediment for restoration is necessary to protect public trust uses.
- C. Beneficial reuse is the preferred alternative to disposal of dredged sediment at aquatic disposal sites in the Bay or ocean. (Note that beneficial reuse may include strategic placement of sediment at aquatic sites that seek to support habitat development).
- D. Ocean disposal is discouraged due to permanent loss of sediment from the Bay's sediment system.
- E. All dredging projects should evaluate:
  - Suitability of dredged sediment for beneficial reuse;
  - Availability of beneficial reuse sites;
  - Alternatives to aquatic disposal, including a comparison of costs of beneficial reuse and aquatic disposal;
  - How a project maximizes beneficial reuse; and
  - The estimated economic benefit to the region and nation and a description of any other benefits of the dredging project and ability to balance economic benefits and societal and economic benefits of reuse.

Based on this analysis, beneficial reuse would be required if a site is available, the sediment is suitable, and the reuse is practicable.

- F. The Commission shall maintain a list of available beneficial reuse sites, including information on permit status, estimated capacity, and connection with Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plans.
- G. Directs the Commission to develop a program that supports small dredging projects beneficially reusing sediment at local restoration projects.
- H. Continue to implement the Long Term Management Strategy Program (LTMS) and collaborate with partner agencies on future updates to the LTMS Management Plan.

### Problem:

Bay Plan policies currently encourage but do not require beneficial reuse of sediment or an evaluation of beneficial reuse in comparison to aquatic disposal. The Bay Plan contains no policy guidance to identify the relevant factors for when beneficial reuse should be required.

### What does this policy do?

1. Clarifies that beneficial reuse is the Commission's preferred alternative to disposal of dredged sediment at aquatic disposal sites due to the regional need for sediment. The policy retains flexibility for in-Bay or ocean disposal when dredged sediment is not suitable for beneficial reuse, there is no available beneficial reuse site, or beneficial reuse is not practicable.
2. Provides application requirements for applicants to evaluate beneficial reuse opportunities and feasibility.
3. Improves the Commission's analysis for whether beneficial reuse should be required.
4. Directs the Commission to develop better technical assistance to support project proponents doing beneficial reuse. Commits the Commission to evaluating and evolving the LTMS with partners in the future.

### Discussion questions:

1. What is an important part of this concept?
2. What is unclear?
3. What is missing?
4. Is there anything you disagree with?
5. What issues do you see with this concept?