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Subject: Development of Biological Resource Protection Guidelines Associated with Coastal Sediment Management

You are cordially invited to participate in a process to assist the CSMW in developing guidelines to enhance biological resource protection during coastal sediment management projects in California.

### ***Background***

The CSMW was established by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the California Natural Resources Agency (Natural Resources Agency) to develop regional, sediment management-related approaches protect, enhance and restore California's coastal beaches and watersheds through federal, state and local cooperative efforts. The Corps is the federal lead agency with the mission, authority and capability to assist in managing and restoring coastal shorelines, wetlands, and watersheds. The Natural Resources Agency oversees conserving, enhancing and managing California's natural and cultural resources. Its twenty-six departments include the California Coastal Commission, California State Lands Commission, California Geological Survey, Department of Boating and Waterways, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Parks and Recreation, and State Coastal Conservancy.

The California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) is charged with implementing the California Ocean Protection Act (COPA) of 2004, which includes coordinating activities of ocean-related state agencies to improve the effectiveness of efforts to protect ocean resources. A key objective of the OPC strategic plan is to work with the CSMW to protect, restore and enhance California's coastal sediment and beach resources through implementation of regional sediment management (RSM). The guiding framework for RSM implementation in California is the CSMW's Sediment Management Plan (SMP).

In general, the SMP is a comprehensive guidance and policy document discussing how regional sediment management can be implemented in an expeditious, cost-effective, and resource-protective manner. We are implementing SMP objectives by developing a series of Coastal RSM Plans that are specific to discrete portions of the California coast (available at <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/CSMW/default.aspx>).

Several technical studies and reports provide the supporting basis for guidance incorporated in the SMP and associated Coastal RSM Plans. A comprehensive Biological Impact Analysis (BIA) report consisting of review of California coastal biological resources and impacts associated with sediment management is in the process of being finalized. As part of this effort, the CSMW is requesting your input to assist us in the development of Resource Protection Guidelines relevant to coastal regional sediment management that addresses the concerns of coastal stakeholders. Coastal sediment management includes beneficial reuse of non-polluted sediment (dredged, terrestrial) for shoreline protection or ecosystem restoration, beach nourishment, and beach maintenance (e.g., grooming).



The Resource Protection Guidelines developed from the Biological Impact Analysis report and stakeholder input are intended to be of practical use to resource managers, regulators, and entities involved with implementing sediment management or maintenance projects.

Desired input from coastal stakeholders relate to resource protection throughout different project phases (e.g., design, construction, maintenance). In addition, input will be solicited regarding guideline development for CEQA thresholds of significance, essential fish habitat and cumulative impact assessments, resource agency coordination, monitoring during different project phases, and database tools to facilitate resource protection with implementation of sediment management plans. A recommended process for future updates to the guidelines will also be discussed.

### Topics

The CSMW will be meeting with interested stakeholders in both northern and southern California. Planned topics for discussion include:

- General approach to Guidelines development (Long Beach 2/18/10)
- Resource Protection in Managed and Recreational Areas, Water Quality (2/24/10)
- Beach Habitat, Coastal Dune and Strand, and Sandy Subtidal Habitats (TBD)
- Rocky Intertidal, Rocky Subtidal, Kelp Beds, and Surfgrass Habitats (TBD)
- Embayments, Lagoons, and Eelgrass Habitats (TBD)
- Impact Assessment, Monitoring, database tools (TBD)

For each habitat-based workshop, a flow path summary will be used to identify resources and species of concern, impact issues, types of protective measures (that may be applicable depending on site-specific considerations), and monitoring and performance evaluation considerations.

### RSVP

Please reply to Susie Ming ([susan.m.ming@usace.army.mil](mailto:susan.m.ming@usace.army.mil)) with a cc to Clif Davenport ([Clif.Davenport@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:Clif.Davenport@conservation.ca.gov)) and Karen Green ([greenka@saic.com](mailto:greenka@saic.com)) regarding your interest to participate in the Resource Protection Guidelines process. If there are other staff members at your agency more suited to participate, please forward this memo as appropriate with our request that they RSVP. Thank you for your assistance in helping the CSMW fulfill its mandate to implement resource-protective regional sediment management.