

## Orange County Coastal Coalition Update

The Orange County Coastal Coalition, which I Chair, provides an opportunity to learn about and collaborate on current topics affecting not only our coastal cities, but those inland as well. As such, our July 26<sup>th</sup> meeting provided a forum to hear from Clifton Davenport, Project Manager of Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup; and David Cannon and Seamus Innes, Principal Engineers with Everest International Consultants.

Clifton Davenport, Hydro geologist and Engineering Geologist has been working for the past nine years to develop and implement the California Coastal Sediment Master Plan as Project Manager for the Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup (CSMW). The California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup (CSMW) was established by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Natural Resources Agency in 1999 to develop regional approaches to protecting, enhancing and restoring California's coastal beaches and watersheds through federal, state and local cooperative efforts.

The CSMW is the first state and federal partnership developed in California for on-going, multi-agency interaction on statewide coastal sediment management issues. Our urbanizing society has significantly changed natural sediment supply and transport patterns, and some coastal areas (e.g., beaches) are narrowing due to reduced sediment supply, while others (e.g., wetlands, ports & harbors) are being deluged with excess sediment. Facilitating beneficial reuse of excess clean sediment from inundated locations at areas experiencing severe erosion is the substance of Regional Sediment Management (RSM).

Sediment is an integral component of the coastal ecosystem, representing a public good that must be managed to provide for quality of life, natural resource protection, and economic sustainability. Sediment imbalances resulting from alteration of the natural environment therefore threaten the viability of the public good and require management to restore the natural balance. Coordinated beneficial reuse of sediment resources within a regional context helps to restore natural processes and simultaneously address sediment imbalances.

CSMW is developing a coastal Sediment Master Plan (SMP) to help guide political, regulatory, environmental, educational and process-related efforts anticipated when implementing RSM. The SMP consists of three types of products produced during Plan development- informational reports, computer-based tools, and RSM strategies/Plans.

Outreach and agency coordination provide the fourth and overarching Plan focus. Currently, CSMW's main thrust for SMP development is regionally-based RSM strategy plans. CSMW is working with regional entities towards implementation of RSM within their jurisdictional area through Coastal RSM Plans. These Plans identify how governance, outreach and technical approaches can support beneficial reuse of sediment resources within that region without causing environmental degradation or public nuisance.

For information about the California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup meetings visit <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/csmw/meetings.aspx>

David Cannon and Seamus Innes, Principal Engineer's collaborative efforts focus on the planning and design of coastal projects. Their presentation highlighted the CSMWs efforts being made to remedy Southern California Beaches regional Sediment erosion and what is underway to resolve Sediment nourishment for Southern California beaches.

The Orange County Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan (Plan) is being created to provide sufficient information for decision makers to develop policies and/or execute management sub-plans to restore and preserve the future vitality of Orange County beaches and shoreline areas.

Specifically, the Plan includes a comprehensive approach for the conservation, restoration, use, and preservation of the valuable sediment resources along the coast of Orange County in order to reduce shoreline erosion and coastal storm damages, provide for environmental restoration and protection, increase natural sediment supply to the coast, restore and preserve beaches, maintain or improve coastal access, improve water quality along coastal beaches, and optimize the beneficial use of material dredged or excavated from ports, harbors, wetlands, and other opportunistic sediment sources.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the County of Orange and California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup, is currently in the process of developing the Plan, which is one component of a larger statewide effort called the California Coastal Sediment Master Plan. The Plan is being developed through significant stakeholder outreach and coordination to ensure that local issues are addressed. The Plan included the collection and dissemination of pertinent economic, physical, and environmental data that is specific to Orange County beaches and shorelines.

To facilitate stakeholder usefulness, the Plan includes an array of potential projects with implementation priorities, recommendations for financial viability, suggestions for possible governance approaches, and recommendations for implementation. For information about the California Coastal Sediment Management Plan visit [http://www.dbw.ca.gov/csmw/pdf/SMP\\_Brochure27APR2011.pdf](http://www.dbw.ca.gov/csmw/pdf/SMP_Brochure27APR2011.pdf)

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