

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: Robert Smith, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers **Date:** March 14, 2014
David Gibson, San Diego Regional Water
Quality Control Board

From: Kellee Christensen and Kyle King, Anchor QEA **Project:** 131003-01.02

Cc: Michael Chee, National Steel and Shipbuilding Company
Michael Palmer, de maximis, inc.
David Templeton, Michael Whelan, P.E, Adam Gale, and Elizabeth Appy,
Anchor QEA

Re: San Diego Shipyard Sediment Site – South Shipyard (Place ID 794466, Order No.
R9-2013-0093) Monthly and Weekly Biological and Environmental Monitoring
Report: February 1 to March 1, 2014

INTRODUCTION

The San Diego Bay Environmental Restoration Fund – South (South Trust) is remediating contaminated sediments at the South Shipyard portion of the San Diego Shipyard Sediment Site (Site). Remediation is required to comply with Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R9-2012-0024 issued by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board 2012a). Biological and environmental monitoring must be conducted during dredging operations to comply with the following:

- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP; Water Board 2012b)
 - Mitigation Measures (MMs) 4.5.3 through 4.5.7 and 4.5.9
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Individual Permit (USACE IP; 2013)
 - Dredging Condition 16
 - Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Green Sea Turtle Condition 1
 - Endangered Species Act (ESA) Condition 1¹
- Waste Discharge Requirements and Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WDR/WQC) Order No. R9-2013-0093 (Water Board 2013)

¹ ESA Condition 1 also requires photographs of the silt curtain and turbidity monitoring observations. This information is provided in a separate water quality report.

- Discharge Requirement VI-C
- Section V-N.10

Anchor QEA was contracted by the South Trust to conduct biological and environmental monitoring. Specific permit and regulation language associated with each biological and environmental element included in the monitoring effort is presented in the Biological and Environmental Monitoring Report for September 29 to October 5, 2013 (Anchor QEA 2013).

This Biological and Environmental Monitoring Report documents biological and environmental monitoring performed at the Site between February 1 and March 1, 2014, and as such, it fulfills the monthly monitoring requirements for the month of February as well as the weekly monitoring requirements for February 24 through March 1. No work was conducted on February 1, 2, 9, 16, 23, and March 1.

During the month of February, in-water activities included transporting sand cover material barges from the Sediment Management Area (SMA) to Sediment Management Unit (SMU)-4, -2 (South), and -3 and conducting sand cover placement operations in SMU-4, -2 (South), and -3. Site activities in the SMA included pumping water from sediment barges to Baker tanks located at the SMA, stockpiling sand cover placement material delivered to the Site, loading sand cover placement material onto barges, and performing general maintenance of the water management system, offloading, and truck wash areas.

Water quality monitoring activities, results, and discussion for this reporting period are provided in a separate report.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES MONITORING

Contractor Training Log Information (MMRP MMs 4.5.3 and 4.5.6 and WDR/WQC Section VI-C)

Contractor training for protecting eelgrass beds and wildlife species with protected status occurred on January 22 for the contractor's dredge and SMA crews, respectively. Training focused on educating personnel on marine mammals, California least terns, and other special status birds. Training will be conducted again in March or if new crew members are added.

Eelgrass Monitoring (MMRP MM 4.5.4)

SMU-1 and -2 currently contain eelgrass (Merkel 2013). Buoys and stakes mark the boundaries of eelgrass locations. Encroachment of the 30-foot buffer was necessary to perform material placement operations in SMU-2. No disturbance to eelgrass was noted.

Green Sea Turtle and Marine Mammal Monitoring (MMRP MMs 4.5.5 and 4.5.7, WDR/WQC Sections V-N.10 and VI-C, and USACE IP EFH and GST Condition 1)

No green sea turtles or marine mammals were sighted on any day during this report period; therefore, no special construction measures were required at this time.

Special Status Bird Monitoring (MMRP MM 4.5.9, WDR/WQC Section VI-C, and USACE IP ESA Condition 1)***Weekly Monitoring***

Weekly special status bird monitoring occurred on February 6, 11, 19, and 27. Observations were conducted within monitoring areas as identified on Figure 1, which correspond to approximately 500 feet surrounding anticipated construction activities. No California least terns were observed during weekly monitoring. Multiple double-crested cormorants were observed; three in SMU-1 on February 6, six in SMU-1 on February 11, three in SMU-1 on February 19, and eight in SMU-1 on February 27. No disturbance was noted. Details of these observations are presented in Attachment A.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS (USACE IP DREDGING CONDITION 16)

All environmental compliance measures described in USACE IP Dredging Condition 16 and other permits are being implemented adequately at the Site.

SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT AREA DISCHARGE MONITORING (USACE IP DREDGING CONDITION 16)

The water management system at the SMA was operational during this reporting period and collected water from the sediment barge, the truck wash, and Baker tanks located on the water barge. Water samples were collected from the designated point of compliance at the final baker tank in the water management tank series on February 5, and all samples comply

with the City of San Diego Industrial User Discharge Permit. Water discharge is expected to continue as needed for the duration of the project, with sampling occurring as required per the Discharge Permit.

REFERENCES

- Anchor QEA, 2013. *Biological and Environmental Monitoring Report San Diego Shipyard Sediment Site – South Shipyard*. October 2013.
- Merkel (Merkel & Associates, Inc.), 2013. Pre-Construction Eelgrass Report for the San Diego Shipyard Sediment Matter – Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R9-2012-0024 South Shipyard Sediment Cleanup Project. September 15, 2013.
- USACE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), 2013. Department of the Army Permit, File No. SPL-2013-00147-RRS. Issued on September 13, 2013.
- Water Board (California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region), 2012a. Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R9-2012-0024 for the Shipyard Sediment Site. Issued on March 14, 2012.
- Water Board, 2012b. *Final Environmental Impact Report*. March 14, 2012.
- Water Board, 2013. Waste Discharge Requirements for National Steel and Shipbuilding Company, BAE Systems San Diego Ship Repair, Inc., San Diego Unified Port District. Order No. R9-2013-0093. San Diego Shipyard Sediment Remediation, San Diego Bay, San Diego, California. Issued on July 10, 2013.
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FIGURE

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ATTACHMENT A
SPECIAL STATUS BIRD MONITORING
DATASHEETS
