

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: Robert Smith, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers **Date:** December 13, 2013
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: November 4 to 30, 2013

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 2013a).

This Biological and Environmental Monitoring Report documents biological and environmental monitoring performed at the Site between November 4 and 30, 2013, and as such, it fulfills the monthly monitoring requirements for the month of November as well as the weekly monitoring requirements for November 25 through 30. Reporting for November 1 and November 2 are included in the Biological and Environmental Monitoring Report for October (Anchor QEA 2013b). No work was conducted on site on November 3.

During the month of November, in-water activities included dredging and post-dredge sediment sampling in Sediment Management Unit (SMU)-1, -3, and -4. Prior to dredging in SMU-1, a timber pier was demolished. Effort included general pier deck demolition work and pile removal via a vibratory hammer. Pipeline relocation activities in SMU-2 included removing flanges from an underwater pipeline through use of divers and floating and removing approximately half the length of the pipe. The remaining portions of the underwater pipeline are anticipated to be floated and removed during the first week of December.

Site activities in the Sediment Management Area (SMA) included pumping water from barges loaded with sediment from Baker tanks located on the water management barge, mixing dredged material with cement, hauling dewatered sediment in trucks to the off-site landfill, and 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 November 6. Training focused on protecting eelgrass areas identified in SMU-1, where in-water construction is now occurring. Additional training was conducted on November 20 and focused on requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board Permit and general Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) requirements. Training will be conducted again in early December 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, and the silt curtain remained 10 feet from eelgrass areas. Encroachment of the 30-foot buffer was necessary to perform dredging operations in SMU-1. Pipeline relocation activities occurred in SMU-2, with dredging scheduled to take place in December. Protective measures were taken to ensure eelgrass was not disturbed. No disturbance to eelgrass was noted.

Green Sea Turtle and Marine Mammal Monitoring (MMRP MM 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 reporting 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)

Daily Monitoring

As discussed in the Weekly Biological and Environmental Monitoring Report for November 4 to 9, 2013 (Anchor QEA 2013c), daily monitoring for special status birds has been ongoing since the start of dredging on September 29, and observations have determined that activities are not adversely affecting these species. Hereafter, monitoring will be performed weekly.

Weekly Monitoring

Weekly special status bird monitoring occurred on November 5, 14, 20, and 26. Weekly monitoring events were dedicated to observing (via binoculars) the Site for special status birds. 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. No disturbance was noted for special status birds, and 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 fractionation tanks located on the dredge and water barges. Water samples were collected from the designated point of compliance at the final fractionation tank in the water management tank series on November 16, and all samples comply with City of San Diego Industrial User Discharge Permit. Water was discharged beginning on October 29, and 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, 2013a. *Biological and Environmental Monitoring Report San Diego Shipyard Sediment Site – South Shipyard*. October 2013.
- Anchor QEA, 2013b. *Biological and Environmental Monitoring Report San Diego Shipyard Sediment Site – South Shipyard*. November 12, 2013.
- Anchor QEA, 2013c. *San Diego Shipyard Sediment Site – South Shipyard (Place ID 794466, Order No. R9-2013-0093) Weekly Biological and Environmental Monitoring Report: November 4 to 9, 2013*. November 15, 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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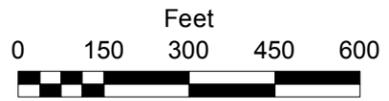


Figure 1
Special Status Bird Monitoring Areas
San Diego Shipyard Sediment Site – South Shipyard

ATTACHMENT A
SPECIAL STATUS BIRD MONITORING
DATASHEETS
