

## Next Steps and Needs for a Regional Upland Disposal Facility

### Background

Since 2006, the LCSG has been exploring options to address the challenges that some lower Columbia ports face with dredging and disposal of sediments that are too contaminated for flow-lane disposal. The LCSG recognizes that contaminants originating throughout the Columbia River watershed move down through the system and deposit at the mouth of the river, leaving lower Columbia ports with the costly problem of dredging and disposing of contaminated material, most of which they didn't produce.

A subcommittee of the LCSG has evaluated the potential for creating a shared upland disposal facility that could be used by multiple ports, located in an area that makes sense considering sediment transportation costs, environmental considerations and community interests. In October 2008, the LCSG received a report entitled, [Selection of an Upland Disposal Site for Contaminated Dredged Material in the Lower Columbia River](#), which described the subcommittee's work to identify candidate sites for an upland disposal facility to meet the Port of Astoria's immediate need for contaminated sediment disposal and potential future needs of the Port of Ilwaco and other lower Columbia ports.

As described in the report, the subcommittee's review revealed that an unused City of Warrenton wastewater lagoon presents a promising option for siting and constructing an upland disposal facility. Key considerations in identifying this site included its estimated capacity to hold 200,000 cubic yards of material, which could meet the lower ports' needs for the next 5 to 15 years; relatively close proximity to the lower ports, which affects transportation costs of moving dredged sediments to the facility; the site's existing engineering to handle wastewater solids, which could reduce the cost of constructing a facility to hold contaminated sediments; and the City of Warrenton's desire to find a new use for the lagoon.

### Next steps

The next steps for this project involve conducting a Feasibility Study (FS) to determine whether the City's unused wastewater lagoon can be used for construction and operation of a regional upland disposal facility for contaminated sediments. The attached Request for Qualifications (RFQ) outlines basic components of the FS, and based on responses, a detailed Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued and a consulting firm will be selected to do the work. Below is an estimated timeline for these steps, as well as critical needs for LCSG assistance and guidance.

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| January 2009 | Issue the RFQ to identify firms interested in conducting the FS. RFQs are a good way to understand initial interest and options for the scope, cost and timeline for conducting a FS.   |
| February     | Review RFQ responses, decide on the scope, cost and timeline of the FS, and seek funding to support the FS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A selection team will review the RFQ responses (due February 20) and identify top candidates. The selection team will likely include representatives from the LCSG, Estuary Partnership, CREST, Port of Astoria, Oregon DEQ, Oregon DSL, NOAA and possibly others.</li><li>• Based on RFQ responses, the selection team will decide on the scope, cost and timeline for conducting the FS. With that information, we will approach potential funding partners for contributions to the FS cost. Initial cost estimates range from \$300,000 to \$500,000, depending on the level of detail the FS could provide to prepare us for the facility design/construction phase.</li></ul> |

- March Provide an update at the LCSG's meeting on the scope, cost and timeline for the FS, potential funding partners and funding sources, and remaining needs. Seek assistance and guidance from LCSG members.
- March/April Once funding commitments to support the full cost of the FS are confirmed, we will issue a RFP to the firms who submitted top-ranking responses to the RFQ to solicit detailed proposals for conducting the FS.
- The selection team will review the RFP responses and help select the top firm.
- April/May Enter into a work agreement with the selected firm to begin the FS.
- The Estuary Partnership has offered to enter into a contract with the firm on behalf of the LCSG and to oversee the FS process, with ongoing assistance from selection committee members.
- Summer/fall Conduct the FS to determine whether the unused City of Warrenton wastewater lagoon can be used to construct and operate an upland disposal facility, and to identify issues, challenges, costs and timelines for designing and constructing the facility.
- Fall/winter If we determine that it is feasible to construct the facility, we will seek congressional and other funding to support construction.
- Congressional representatives have indicated that there is a possibility of some federal funding to support construction, particularly if we have a local match, but congressional funding for conducting the FS is unlikely.

#### LCSG assistance

LCSG assistance is currently needed in two critical areas:

- Funding for conducting the FS – We expect that the FS could cost \$300,000 to \$500,000, depending on the level of detail it will provide in preparation for the facility design phase. Through the RFQ, we will determine the exact scope and cost of the FS and then seek funding partners to contribute to the cost. The RFP will not be issued until we have confirmed funding commitments to support the full cost of the FS. LCSG assistance in identifying potential funding sources and partners is needed.
- Technical oversight/management of the FS – To effectively oversee the FS process on behalf of the LCSG, the Estuary Partnership will need a technical expert with experience working on design and construction of an upland disposal facility or a similar project. We are talking now with Estuary Partnership Board members about their ability to loan a qualified staff person to assist with this project, but any suggestions or assistance LCSG members might be able to offer would be very helpful.

We have made good progress on this project over the last two years, and we've now identified a promising opportunity to address a regional need, support our local economies and improve the lower Columbia environment. We can only move forward if we find ways to meet these needs, and we appreciate your ongoing support and any assistance you can provide.

#### For more information

Please contact Mikell O'Mealy, LCSG Program Manager, at 503-229-6590 or [mikell.omealy@state.or.us](mailto:mikell.omealy@state.or.us), with any ideas, suggestions or questions about this project, our next steps and these critical needs.