

DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

LOWER COLUMBIA REGIONAL UPLAND DISPOSAL FACILITY

December 2009

Background

Since 2007, the Lower Columbia Solutions Group (LCSG) has been working on a solution to help lower Columbia ports dredge and dispose of sediments that are too contaminated for in-water release. These sediments must be disposed in an up-land permitted facility to protect aquatic species and water quality. The partners recognize that pesticides, metals and other contaminants originating throughout the Columbia River watershed move down through the system and settle out at the mouth of the river, leaving lower Columbia ports with the costly problem of dredging and disposing of these materials, most of which they did not produce. Given the importance of the lower Columbia ports to the regional economy and to local communities, Oregon and Washington partners endorse a regional solution.

Phase 1 – Design a regional upland disposal facility

In 2010, LCSG partners intend to design and permit an upland disposal facility that can be used by multiple ports, located in an area that makes sense considering sediment transportation costs, environmental considerations and community interests. The facility will reuse a City of Warrenton wastewater lagoon that has been pre-selected with facility siting criteria and is already partially engineered to handle contaminated material. When built, the facility will hold approximately 200,000 cubic yards of material to meet the lower ports' needs for the next five to 15 years, at which point the facility will be capped to provide the City with land for redevelopment. Facility design and permitting will cost \$400,000, including project management, community involvement and initial analysis of redevelopment uses. State, local, federal and non-profit partners are contributing.

Phase 2 – Facility construction

Construction of the facility and use by lower Columbia River ports is planned for 2011. The LCSG will raise local contributions and work with the region's Congressional delegation to secure the approximately \$5 million needed for construction.

Job creation/retention

This project is essential to maintain economic operations at the Port of Astoria, which is currently unable to dredge contaminated areas for lack of an upland disposal facility. The Port of Ilwaco and others are expected to need upland disposal options in the near future. Local communities and regional shipping and tourism operations depend on these ports and their ability to dredge their docks and mooring basins, and this regional facility will provide the opportunity to regionally share and manage costs associated with dredging and disposal. Without it, economic benefits associated with cruise ship visits, groundfish, salmon and crab fisheries, and the lower Columbia maritime industry will be lost.

Long term sustainability

By providing a safe place to dispose of contaminated sediments that is consistent with local land uses, this project will support a healthier river environment and the long term economic sustainability of the lower Columbia community.

A “green” solution

By reusing an existing City of Warrenton wastewater lagoon that is already partially engineered to handle contaminated material, this project will conserve resources and land, providing a “green,” win-win solution for the City, ports and the local community. In addition, the design phase will include research on the use of potential alternative energy project components and bio-remediation technologies to remove contaminants from sediments.

Status and next steps

LCSG partners have committed \$50,000 in local contributions and are seeking additional state and federal funding to design and permit the facility in 2010. When funding is secured, the LCSG will hire an engineering firm to develop designs and permitting materials.

LCSG members are also preparing a FY 2011 congressional appropriations request to support construction of the facility in 2011, and will continue raising additional local and state contributions as match.

Signatories

The following signatories commit to continue working collaboratively to advance this project, seek additional funding for Phase I and Phase II, and provide technical assistance and other resources as available.

Port of Astoria, Oregon

- The Port of Astoria will contribute \$10,000 to support Phase I and provide staff resources to help seek additional funding partners.
- The Port supports this project as a critical solution to enable dredging in mooring basins and docks and to maintain economic operations.



Jack Crider, Executive Director
Port of Astoria

Port of Ilwaco, Washington

- The Port of Ilwaco will contribute \$5,000 to support Phase I and assist in seeking additional funding partners.
- The Port supports this project as an opportunity to regionally share and manage costs associated with dredging and disposal of contaminated sediments, and as a way to maintain economic operations at lower Columbia ports.



Jim Nava, Executive Director
Port of Ilwaco

City of Warrenton, Oregon

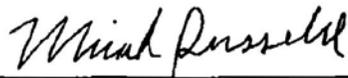
- The City of Warrenton will contribute \$25,000 to support Phase I and assist in seeking additional funding partners.
- The City will maintain ownership of the site and facility and explore options for beneficial redevelopment of the site after the facility is closed and capped.
- The City supports this project as an opportunity to regionally share and manage costs associated with dredging and disposal of contaminated sediments, and as a way to maintain economic operations for the lower Columbia community.



Bob Maxfield, City Manager
City of Warrenton

Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force

- The Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force will contribute \$10,000 to support Phase I.
- CREST will also continue to provide technical expertise to guide the project and staff resources to seek additional funding partners.
- In 2007 and 2008, CREST provided technical expertise to lead LCSG partners in researching and selecting sites for the regional upland disposal facility.¹
- In early 2009, CREST provided technical expertise to assist LCSG partners in pre-selecting engineering firms and contractors to conduct Phase I of the project.
- In September 2009, on behalf of the LCSG, CREST submitted pre-proposals to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for grant funds to support Phase I.
- CREST supports this project to remove contaminated sediments from the Columbia River estuary, create a healthier river environment and support the long term economic sustainability of the lower Columbia community.



Micah Russell, Executive Director
Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force

Columbia River Business Alliance

- The Columbia River Business Alliance will provide ongoing technical assistance to enhance sustainability measures associated with the facility, including the potential use of bio-remediation technologies to remove contaminants from sediments.
- The Columbia River Business Alliance supports this project as a collaborative solution for improving the Columbia River environment and the long term economic sustainability of the lower Columbia community.



Peter Huhtala, Executive Director
Columbia River Business Alliance

Clatsop County Economic Development Resources

- Clatsop County Economic Development Resources will continue to provide valuable guidance in seeking additional funding partners for the project.
- Clatsop County Economic Development Resources supports this project as a solution to support the ports and the long term economic sustainability of the lower Columbia community.

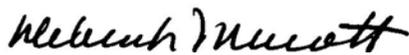


Rick Gardner, Executive Director
Clatsop Economic Development Resources

¹ See the October 2008 CREST report, entitled *Selection of an Upland Disposal Site for Contaminated Dredged Material in the Lower Columbia River*, at www.lowercolumbiasolutions.org.

Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

- The Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership will provide technical expertise to assist the project and will seek additional funding partners.
- In 2007, the Estuary Partnership provided \$10,000 to enable collection of baseline information to support the development of a regional upland disposal plan.
- In 2008, the Estuary Partnership provided \$7,000 to support the identification of potential sites that could be permitted and used by ports as shared upland disposal facilities for contaminated sediments.
- In early 2009, on behalf of the LCSG, the Estuary Partnership issued a Request for Qualifications to pre-select engineering firms and contractors to conduct Phase I of the project. Members of the Estuary Partnership Board of Directors assisted with the review and selection of contractors.
- The Estuary Partnership supports this project to remove contaminated sediments from the Columbia River estuary, create a healthier river environment and support the long term economic sustainability of the lower Columbia community.



Debrah Marriott, Executive Director
Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

Oregon Business Development Department

- The Oregon Business Development Department supports this project a critical solution for maintaining economic operations and retaining jobs in Oregon's lower Columbia communities.



Lynn Schoessler, Deputy Director
Oregon Business Development Department

Oregon Department of State Lands

- The Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) will continue to provide technical assistance for the design and permitting of a regional upland disposal facility to ensure compliance with state regulations.
- In early 2009, DSL participated in the review and pre-selection of engineering firms and contractors to conduct Phase I of the project.
- DSL supports this project as a sustainable solution for improving the Columbia River environment and supporting the long term economic sustainability of the lower Columbia community.



Stephen Purchase
Oregon Department of State Lands

Steve Purchase, Assistant Director, Land Management Division

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

- The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will continue to provide technical assistance for the design and permitting of a regional upland disposal facility to ensure compliance with state regulations.
- In early 2009, DEQ participated in the review and pre-selection of engineering firms and contractors to conduct Phase I of the project.
- DEQ supports this project as a sustainable solution for improving the Columbia River environment, protecting water quality, and supporting the long term economic sustainability of the lower Columbia community.



Nina DeConcini, Northwest Region Administrator
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Lower Columbia Solutions Group

- The Lower Columbia Solutions Group will continue to provide project management services to support LCSG partners in collaboration for this project.
- The LCSG will also continue to seek additional funding partners to support Phase I and Phase II of the project.
- The LCSG is committed to this project as a regional, sustainable solution for lower Columbia ports and communities.



Greg Wolf, Convener
Lower Columbia Solutions Group