

## **Report on Regional Upland Disposal Planning**

Prepared for Lower Columbia Solutions Group

September 24, 2007 meeting

### **Background**

In April 2006, the LCSG charged a subcommittee with exploring potential projects to address contaminated sediment issues in the Lower Columbia. The subcommittee considered potential projects and identified an important role for the LCSG to play in developing a Regional Upland Disposal Plan that identifies shared upland disposal sites for contaminated sediments, located in areas that make sense for Lower Columbia ports (considering transportation and disposal costs), nearby communities and the environment. Ports, the Army Corps of Engineers and other regulatory agencies could all contribute to the plan and address the regulatory, financial and community-interest issues related to upland disposal. This work could be an important component of regional sediment planning and management generally.

In February 2007, the LCSG endorsed the subcommittee's recommendations to move forward with collecting baseline information to support development of a Regional Upland Disposal Plan. LCREP offered initial funding and the subcommittee solicited proposals for the work. In May, CREST was hired to interview ports and collect baseline information, and this summer, the subcommittee discussed results. At the September 24 meeting, CREST will present their findings to the LCSG and the subcommittee will recommend next steps.

### **Findings**

Please see the attached report from CREST, entitled "Baseline Information Findings to Support a Regional Upland Disposal Plan," dated September 7, 2007 (note: only print through page 19 of this report). Also attached are other work products, including a "Regional Upland Disposal Plan Outline" and "Potential Funding Sources for development of a Regional Upland Disposal Plan."

### **Next steps**

Now that we understand the dredging and disposal activities of each Lower Columbia port, the subcommittee is preparing to take the next step in research and analysis to determine the value of developing a Regional Upland Disposal Plan. Next steps will include (1) identifying potential upland disposal sites in the Lower Columbia that could be permitted to handle contaminated sediment, and (2) determining whether it would be cost effective for ports to use shared upland disposal sites. The subcommittee is developing a scope of work and budget for this next step of analysis, and hopes to complete this task by the end of the year.

### **LCSG role**

This work will provide specifics on funding needs associated with disposal of contaminated sediments in the Lower Columbia and potential opportunities for sharing and reducing those costs. As this moves forward, the subcommittee sees an important role for the LCSG in identifying funding opportunities to support regional upland disposal planning and in facilitating discussions among the ports and others on sharing some of the costs.

Please come to the September 24 meeting prepared to share your thoughts on regional upland disposal planning and potential benefits to ports and other users in the Lower Columbia.

### **Contacts**

If you have questions or ideas related to this work prior to our September 24 meeting, please contact Mikell O'Mealy at the National Policy Consensus Center, at 503-229-6590 or [mikell.omealy@state.or.us](mailto:mikell.omealy@state.or.us). If you have questions about the attached reports prepared by CREST, please contact Lora Eddy at CREST, at 503-325-0435 or [lleddy@columbiaestuary.org](mailto:lleddy@columbiaestuary.org).