

Development of a Sediment Management Strategy for Implementing a Regional Remediation Program at the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles

Matt Arms, Port of Long Beach
Kathryn Curtis, Port of Los Angeles
Steve Cappellino and Shelly Anghera, Anchor QEA

# **Balancing Port Operations and Environmental Stewardship**

 Balance the need to maintain and grow operations in a large industrial port complex with the need to preserve and enhance the harbor's ecosystem health

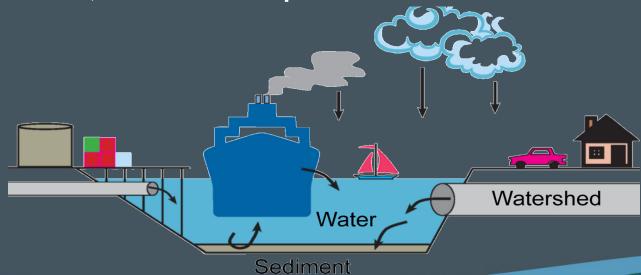


### **Geographic Setting**



#### **Potential Sources of Pollutants**

- Sources inside ports: stormwater, ships, and existing legacy sediment contamination
- Sources outside ports: Dominguez Channel, Los Angeles River, storm drains, treatment plants, and air deposition



### Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

- Clean Water Act regulation
  - Requires states to develop TMDLs for water bodies listed as "impaired" for one or more pollutants
  - Impairment can be related to water column, sediment, or fish tissue
- LA/LB Harbor Toxics TMDL promulgated in 2012
  - Metals/organic compounds
  - 20 year compliance timeframe
  - Reopener in 6 years

Dominguez Channel and Greater Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbor Waters Toxic Pollutants Total Maximum Daily Loads



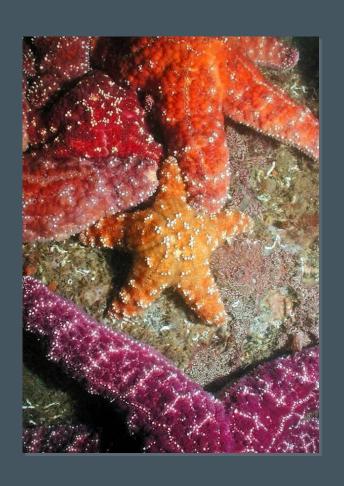
PREPARED BY CALIFORNIA RECHONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD LOS ANGELES REGION AND

> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9

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#### LA/LB Harbors Toxics TMDL

- Sediment quality impaired
  - Sediment-bound contaminants
  - Benthic health impacts
  - Sediment toxicity
- Fish tissue quality impaired
  - Fish tissue for human consumption
  - Sediment contaminant limits for fish tissue



# Effects Range Low Values for the Protection of Benthic Health



# Fish Contaminant Goals for the Protection of Human Health



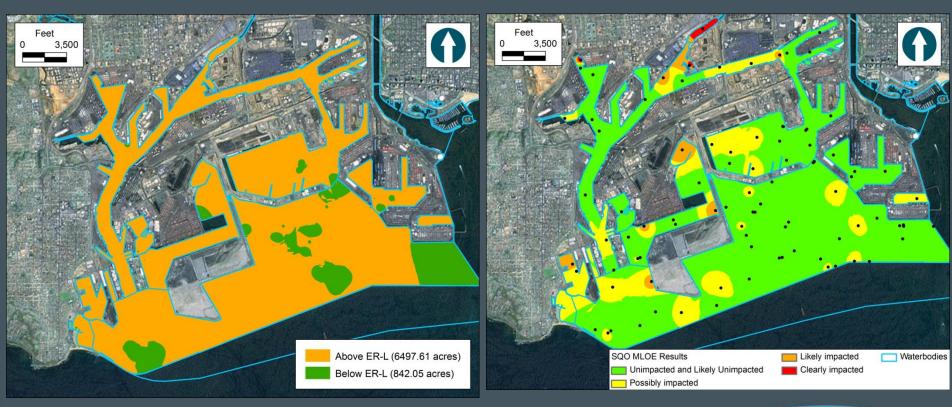
### **Approach Moving Forward**

- Ecologically meaningful
  - Ensure ongoing sources are stopped
  - Ensure actions will result in measurable recovery of beneficial use
  - Ensure actions do not cause more damage
- Economically responsible
  - Ensure responsible parties share in implementation
  - Alignment with ongoing port development projects
  - Low risk of recontamination
  - Measurable environmental improvement

## **Bedded Sediment Compliance: Benthic Health**

**ERL Sediment Target** 

SWRCB's SQO Part 1 Assessment



# **Bedded Sediment Compliance: Fish Tissue for Human Consumption**

Fish Contaminant Goal Sediment Target

Total PCBs > 3.2 µg/kg

Potential areas for management through SWRCB's SQO Part 2 Assessment process



### Sediment Management Strategy

**Monitor Sediments** 

Conduct SQO Evaluation

Confirm Chemical Stressor

Confirm link to sediment

Stressor Confirmation Not Necessary

Site Characterized To Determine Effective Management Alternatives

Alternatives include: MNR, ENR, source control, remediation, capping, revision of targets, revision of compliance timelines



Commence Management Actions





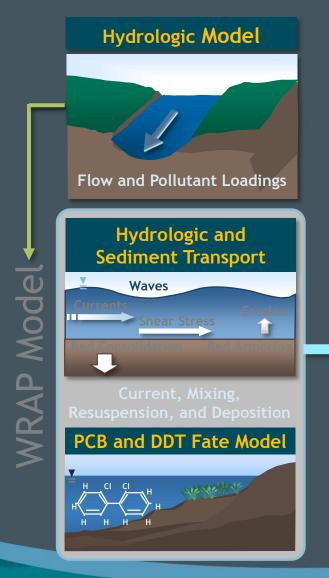
Confirmation of Effectiveness of Management

#### **Current Efforts**

- Agency Coordination
  - Harbor TechnicalWorking Group
- Special Studies & Monitoring
- Modeling

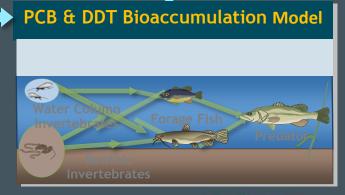


### **Model to Guide Management Actions**





Water column and sediment bed concentration



#### **Potential Management Solutions**

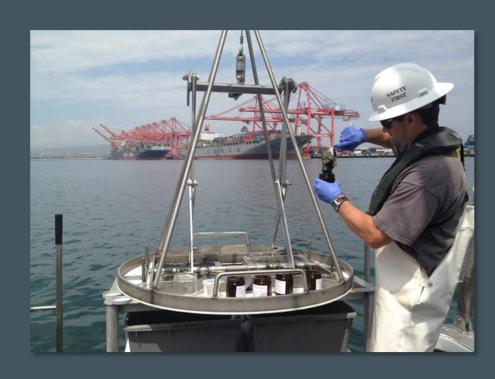
Source reduction - stormwater treatment

- Natural recovery
- Enhanced natural recovery
- Dredging and removal with onsite or offsite disposal/beneficial reuse
- Capping
- In-situ treatment



#### **Confirmation of Effectiveness**

- Confirm post-dredge surface
- Continued regional monitoring
- Ongoing adaptive management
- Ongoing coordination with regulators
- Set expectations for regulators and contractors



### QUESTIONS?

