

CRSMP, San Francisco Littoral Cell

Report of November 14, 2012 Workshop Proceedings

Background

This Report of Workshop Proceedings is intended to describe completion of the deliverables in the September 28, 2012 contract between Halcrow, Inc. (a CH2M Hill Company) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), which is the home agency for the San Francisco Estuary Partnership division.

The scope of work for that contract is as follows:

Perform outreach efforts in support of Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan (CRSMP) – San Francisco Coastline

General scope: The Subcontractor shall prepare for and conduct a total of 2 workshops as additional outreach for the development of the CRSMP.

- 1. One (1) workshop will be held with key cities' participants as well as other partners as available (City Workshop). The city workshop would engage key participants from the Daly City, City of Pacifica, City and County of San Francisco.*
- 2. One (1) workshop will be held with the public (Public Workshop).*

The purpose of the workshops will be to get input on the parts of the current plan implementation options that are drawing resistance from each group. The 2-3 hours workshops will be interactive and charrette-style to engage municipalities and the public in developing workable solutions to sticking points. The two workshops will be streamlined to minimize preparatory work by holding them as subsequent events on one day, at the same location. The Public Workshop will be held in the evening, approximately 1 hour after the City Workshop, at the City of Pacifica.

Details: Subcontractor will be responsible to establish the logistics for the workshops (time, date, place, room set-up); develop agendas and materials (along with ESA PWA), invite participants through partner outreach avenues including invitations to city councils, and publicizing the public workshop through the media. In addition, ABAG will summarize the workshops proceedings for incorporation to the CRSMP.

The deliverables for the contract include completion of the City Workshop and Public Workshop, as well as this Report of Workshop Proceedings.

November 14, 2012 Workshop Proceedings

Two public meetings were held on Wednesday, November 14, 2012, with a session focused on municipal and agency stakeholders in the afternoon and a public workshop in the evening. The theme of both workshops was “Your Coast in 50 Years: A Sediment Management Workshop.” The fifty-year theme was chosen to highlight oncoming future changes to the local shoreline and the need to plan for them.

The City/Municipal Workshop was held Wednesday, November 14, 2012, from 1-4 pm, at 540 Crespi Drive (Pacifica Community Center, Card Room) in Pacifica. The Public Meeting and Workshop followed from 5-8 pm.

Pacifica was selected for the meeting location because, outside of the City and County of San Francisco, the Pacifica community is the most involved in the CRSMP process. Pacifica beaches are both highly used by the public and highly affected by coastal erosion. Also, Pacifica and Daly City have fewer resources than the City and County of San Francisco to tackle beach erosion issues. Athena worked with Pacifica City Manager Steve Rhodes to find a location that offered enough space, good acoustics and lighting, and accessibility to all. The Pacifica Community Center is just across the street from Linda Mar Beach, giving a vivid presence to the discussions of beach erosion and protection.



Photo: Sunset at Linda Mar Beach on November 14, 2012 between the City Workshop and the Public Workshop

Attendance

In total, 54 people attended the workshops. The 34 people attending the City Workshop, included city and agency staff, representatives of elected officials, CSMW staff, and the project team for the CRSMP (ESA PWA and ABAG). The City of Pacifica was represented by staff members from its Planning, Engineering, Public Works, and Wastewater departments and one City Council member. Daly City was represented by a Planning Department staffer. San Francisco was represented by a staffer from the Recreation and Park Department of the City and County of San Francisco; two people from the San Francisco Planning & Urban Research Association (SPUR), the nonprofit lead on the Ocean Beach Master Plan; and one person from the National Park Service, which owns Ocean Beach and coastal areas of San

Francisco. Two county supervisors attended for the County of San Mateo. Many state and federal agency staff from the Corps of Engineers, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the California Natural Resources Agency, Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy, NOAA/Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, Caltrans, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), San Francisco State University, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service attended.

Each municipality was asked to designate a spokesperson who could stay for the second, public workshop to describe the work done at the first workshop and answer questions.

Twenty attendees were recorded at the Public Workshop. Most were from Pacifica, which was to be expected given the workshop's location. In addition to citizens from the three cities in the CRSMP area, attendees included two more City Council members and the Mayor of the City of Pacifica, along with numerous representatives of the Pacifica Chamber of Commerce, a reporter, an industrial producer of sand and aggregates, and the municipal staff representatives from the first session. The public workshop attendees had varying levels of background knowledge about coastal processes and this CRSMP. Several had attended the two public meetings in July 2012 in San Francisco and Pacifica, whereas others were new to the issue.

Sign-in sheets are included in Appendix 1.

Publicity

The meetings were publicized through partner outreach avenues, elected officials, and the media. The Save the Date and meeting announcements were distributed to three contact lists for the CRSMP, directly reaching nearly 250 people:

- The Elected Officials list included 38 elected officials, city managers, and staff from the pertinent cities, counties, and state and federal districts. Elected officials were invited and asked to pass on information about the workshop to their constituents. The workshop occurred shortly after the November election; we invited newly elected representatives, and several attended.
- The Stakeholder Advisory Group included 96 people representing 35 municipal and agency stakeholders (29 city, 5 county, 2 consultants working on municipal or agency planning processes, 26 state, and 26 federal). Key stakeholders such as the City of Pacifica posted the event on the City events webpage.
- The Public Interest list included 101 citizens, non-profit and citizen group representatives, neighborhood councils, and local bloggers. Invitees were asked to share the information with others and help add interested parties to the contact list.

News media: Event listings were placed in all local newspapers – the Pacifica Patch, San Mateo County Times, Pacifica Tribune, and SFGate (online portal for the San Francisco Chronicle). Circulation numbers are not available for the relevant plan area (Daly City, Pacifica, and San Francisco coastline areas).

Partners: Interested parties shared event information on additional blogs: San Francisco Baykeeper (<http://sloaterosionob.blogspot.com>) and the citizen outlet Fix Pacifica (fixpacifica.blogspot.com). Readership information for these blogs is not available.

Proceedings

City Workshop

The City Workshop was designed as an interactive charrette, or participatory planning session, for the CRSMP's Stakeholder Advisory Group (stakeholders with the most background knowledge of the issues). It began with a presentation by the project team on the scope of the San Francisco littoral cell CRSMP; information on wave action and physical processes; and impacts to local reaches, as well as potential solutions. These presentations provided background for the interactive portion of the workshop.



Photo: Doug George explains the City Workshop exercise

Next, Doug George of ESA PWA led participants through the interactive charrette exercise. The objective was to create a vision for coastal protection over the next fifty years. This process created an opportunity for input from local agency staff to ensure that their voices were heard and that they had an equal opportunity to make recommendations for the plan. Another objective of the exercise was to allow for creativity and “outside the box” ideas, to trigger new ways of looking at the issues. The meeting was divided into three groups (one focusing on San Francisco, one on Daly



Photo: At the Pacifica table, City planning and wastewater staff, a Council member, Corps member Tom Kendall, and others discuss the feasibility of various beach protection options.

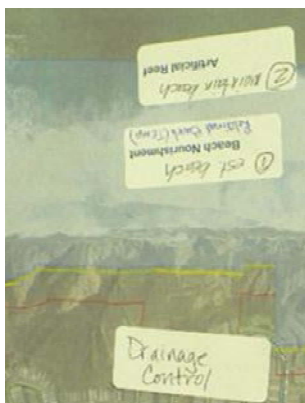


Photo: Close-up of sticky labels placed by one group.

City, and one on Pacifica).

Participants self-selected the geographic area of most interest to them. Each group met around a table with large-scale printouts of maps of the specific area. Groups were tasked with identifying an array of solutions to the potential problems identified in each reach, as discussed earlier in the workshop. They recorded their solutions (i.e. “beach nourishment”) on sticky labels which they affixed to the large maps. Preprinted labels with various options

were provided along with blanks for participants to write in their own solutions.



Photo: Ben Grant of SPUR, Brenda Goeden of BCDC, and others draft ideas for San Francisco.

The exercise generated significant discussion. Many staffers were cautious in suggesting new ideas, although the discussion at the San Francisco table was free-ranging. Each table attracted a mix of local agency staffers with particular expertise on local issues, such as erosion impacts and local infrastructure at risk, and others who were knowledgeable about the technical feasibility of proposed solutions. Each table reflected a microcosm of stakeholders, with numerous perspectives on what was most important to protect. The exercise results reflected a mix of local priorities and initial ideas. By design, they were not vetted for technical feasibility.

After the exercise, each table reported back to the rest of the attendees to receive input on their explorations from others with knowledge of the area who may not have participated in that group. A representative from each table presented the group's products, talking through what was proposed at each reach and displaying the large maps at the front of the room. In general, only minor comments were received from the larger group.



Photo (left): Daly City planner Tatum Mothershead describes the products of the explorations at the Daly City table during the report-back part of the workshop.

The workshop wrapped up with a presentation on the economic analysis section of the CRSMP. Phil King described how he develops economic valuation data for beaches and coastal infrastructure. Because the exercise session ran long, the intended presentation by Athena Honoré on policy development was tabled for a future opportunity. The workshop concluded with a review of the expected timeframe for development of the draft CRSMP and future public comment and meeting opportunities.

Public Workshop

The Public Workshop convened in the evening after the City Workshop. The objective of the meeting was to present ideas conceived at the City Workshop to the public for a comment opportunity, and also to hear comments about the scope and preliminary work of the CRSMP. The Public Workshop began with the introductory presentations given at the City Workshop. Those introductory presentations were likely especially relevant for the Public Workshop, because most members of the public have little background in the technical issues related to coastal erosion and regional sediment management.



Photos: Evening Public Workshop participants listened to the introductory presentations.

Next, several representatives from the City Workshop presented the explorations their groups had crafted during the earlier workshop. Staffers from Pacifica, Daly City, and SPUR (for San Francisco) stayed for the Public Workshop and described the options discussed at the City Workshop. The maps were displayed on the wall and projected on screen.

After a break, a public comment session was convened. Commenters were provided with cards to record written comments if they did not choose to speak in front of the group. No written comments were received. Speakers were asked to remain within a three-minute time limit to allow time for all. Comments were recorded on an audio recorder for later transcription. Participants were informed that official responses to comments would be provided in written form after the transcription. However, some comments were responded to on the spot. A transcript of public comments, together with responses, follows.

Several representatives of the Pacific Chamber of Commerce attended the Public Workshop, including the group's CEO. The Chamber members asked insightful questions about the economic analysis being performed as part of the CRSMP, and a follow-up meeting was suggested for Phil King to present again to the full Chamber and hear input. That meeting was held on February 21, 2013 (see follow-up activities section for further detail).

Meeting Materials

Attached appendices contain material and presentations from both workshops. Meeting materials include the agenda, sign-in sheets, a packet of read-ahead material and hard copies of various "scenarios" meant to be prompts for potential solutions during the exercise. Presentations include the PowerPoints given by speakers. Some of the presentations featured animations are not captured in the attachments; however, electronic versions are posted on the CRSMP web page, <http://www.sfestuary.org/our-projects/watershed-management/crsm>.

Public Comments and Responses

Comments at the Public Workshop were recorded and transcribed. Responses have been drafted and reviewed for accuracy by the project team (ESA PWA and ABAG staff) and members of the Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup. **The following comments have been condensed for brevity and clarity.** The full transcript of comments is posted at <http://www.sfestuary.org/our-projects/watershed-management/crsm/>.

Comment 1a. Richard Harris, San Francisco Public Golf Alliance: We are concerned about the Sharp Park Golf Course: the economic analysis didn't include the Golf Course, and the cost to replace the golf course would likely be \$10-20 million because it was built by probably the greatest golf course architect in world history (Alastair Mackenzie, generally recognized as such in golf circles). That property is designated a historical asset under CEQA by the City of San Francisco.

Response: Thank you for this comment. Dr. King will account for the economic value of the golf course in his analysis, though a full feasibility study is beyond the scope of his report.

1b. We would like to see beach nourishment, reconstruction, maintenance of the levee, building of the levee, in that area to protect the golf course and the surrounding neighborhoods. I will be making written comments as well. I would like to know if there was a representative of the City and County of San Francisco, as a landowner of that property, in earlier discussion.

Response: Thank you for the input regarding Regional Sediment Management tools you'd like to see implemented at Sharp Park. Yes, a representative of the City and County of San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, the agency that owns and manages Sharp Park, participated in the City Workshop. (Please note that the response given to this question during the workshop was in error.)

1c. We are concerned that ESA PWA has been a paid consultant to a private entity, the Wild Equity Institute and the Center for Biological Diversity, in an advocacy paper in which ESA PWA recommended

the closure of the golf course. We think that in this position with ESA PWA representing a private party which has taken an adverse position on this particular point is a conflict of interest, and we are uncomfortable with that. We'll raise that issue as well.

Response: The letter submitted by the commenter, and responses from ABAG and the Corps of Engineers, are posted at <http://www.sfestuary.org/our-projects/watershed-management/crsm>. In short:

- 1. We appreciate you expressing this concern. As there was some confusion, we wish to clarify that ESA PWA was retained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as consultants to develop the CRSMP. The Corps has investigated and dismissed the conflict of interest claim and will not be taking further action.*
- 2. The Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup (not ESA PWA) will be making final decisions about what is recommended in the Plan after full consideration and further input by concerned parties.*
- 3. The public workshop fulfilled its mission by bringing to our attention particular community concerns that we will track and have reflected in the final Plan.*

Comment 2. Mark Stechbart: I'd like to expand upon the ethical and possible conflict of interest of ESA and Bob Battalio and Peter Baye. In February 2011, their client Wild Equity made a presentation to the City and County of San Francisco that called for letting the westside levee deteriorate and for building two levees on the north side and south side of the golf course in the name of preservation. Wild Equity wants it to be an open space wetlands snake and frog preserve, with no golf, just an open space park. That would materially affect Pacifica's efforts to make Main Street a reality and anchor it for a visitor-serving community amenity. I'm on the Chamber of Commerce's government affairs committee, and six other members of the Chamber are here. The Chamber is on record that maintaining the golf course is a vital activity consistent with environmental regulations.

However, I think Battalio's position is conflicted. He made 200 pages of argument in the February report to let the golf course go. In fact, Wild Equity has a map on their website that shows the western levee gone, the north and south levee for neighborhood preservation next to the golf course, and uncontrolled flooding from the sea and from inland water. That same map shows up on the littoral study on page 41 of SF Estuary user files [referring to the read-ahead packet distributed before the meeting, available at http://www.sfestuary.org/userfiles/workshop_packet_final_small.pdf]. Who approved that? Why are reefs proposed for defense of Rockaway, but not for defense of the Golf Course? Why did Wild Equity's apparent material end up in this report? Who did it, and who knew about it? And when? When was the contract signed, and when did ESA start? When was the Wild Equity contract done, arguably Feb 2011. I think this should go to an ethics officer immediately, or an inspector general to the extent the contracting agency has one, or the state attorney general's office. I think in the meantime ESA should be suspended from the project, pending an adjudication. That concludes my statement.

See response to Comment 1c.

Comment 3a. Jim Wagner, Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors: I want to reiterate that our Sharp Park Golf Course is indeed historical; there are many historical sites on that property, including the Sharp Park internment camp from World War II. I find it odd that on some portions of the coast shown on the maps, we see mitigation measures to stop erosion, and then at the Golf Course itself we see managed retreat proposed.

Response: A scenario for managed retreat at Sharp Park was shown in the meeting materials because it is one of the few places where managed retreat is technically feasible (because of the larger setback area than in other parts of the plan area). As workshop participants stated, other aspects of the area (such as public use, economic value, and historical value) pose some issues for managed retreat. These scenarios were presented for discussion and to provide context. The CRSMP will reflect comments received.

3b. I'm concerned that the managed retreat scenario at Sharp Park, to give up the Golf Course, will be considered accepted by all.

Response: It is important to recognize that any scenarios presented in these workshops, and indeed any tools presented in the CRSMP, will not automatically translate into concepts accepted by all. There are many steps between potential projects presented in the CRSMP and a project being constructed: local jurisdictions would have to sponsor a project, develop the project design, find funding sources, complete feasibility studies, initiate environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and secure permits from regulatory agencies. Many of these processes involve public comment, and only after those steps were complete could a project be accepted and implemented.

3c. I know Dianne Feinstein recently touted a fundraising effort to build levees in the South Bay to protect all the high tech companies, and maybe we should do something similar here.

Response: The CRSMP will include an examination of potential funding sources for future Regional Sediment Management projects.

Comment 4. Bill McLaughlin, Surfrider Foundation, San Francisco Chapter: I care about all the beaches in this management plan, and we understand there are major challenges because we have a lot of stuff that's been built too close to the water. Our position is to try to preserve and protect beaches as much as possible. We have the science before us, so now is the time to plan ahead. With a spirit of good faith and compromise we can come up with some reasonable solutions to these challenges.

Response: Thank you for the comment. The goal of the CRSMP is to provide reasonable solutions to all of these challenges.

A comment letter from Surfrider was also received and is posted at <http://www.sfestuary.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/SFLittoralCellCRSMPPublicCommentSurfriderFollow-Up040913.pdf>.

Comment 5. Bill Meyerhoff, Pacifica Manor District and Chamber of Commerce member:

I noticed I think on one of the slides a sticker for zoning changes. What does that mean, for both individual properties that border the coastline, and for areas with mixed residential and commercial?

Response: Zoning changes were discussed at the municipal workshop held during the afternoon session (same day). They referred to disallowing new buildings in the coastal zone, setbacks, and adding allowances for new construction in other areas to balance out development opportunities lost at the shoreline.

Comment 6a. Chuck Gust, property owner at Rockaway Beach (Nick's Restaurant): Is anyone here aware of what Arcata did some 15-20 years ago, taking the energy out of the wave action and trying to subdue the erosion that was going on up there?

Response: Those dolos structures are designed to minimize wave closures of the navigable channel into Humboldt Bay. The Bay's north jetty and south jetty are armored with those.

6b. You also mentioned sediment coming down from the streams and going into the drainage systems instead of feeding the coast. Years ago, ranchers and farmers were asked to create sediment ponds to take sediment out of the streams. So now that we look back, was that not such a good idea?

Response: Correct, and this of interest to a range of communities and agencies. The resource conservation service has long focused on retaining sediment. Trapping fine sediment (mud) can maintain clearer water in streams and improve habitat quality for fish, but then you also lose coarse sediment (sand) that would have been delivered to the coast.

6c. How do sea walls, or offshore reefs, work?

Response: Offshore reefs promote premature breaking of incoming waves, which results in calmer conditions between the reef and shore than there would be with no reef. Beyond the ends of the reef, the incoming waves refract into the area behind the reef, which reduces their heights and creates alongshore currents in the surf zone that drive sand toward the middle of the calmer stretch of beach. In other words, because the wave energy dissipates and the waves refract, they change into a converging pattern, so the sand tends to come together to a point. Both of these effects have the potential to reduce wave-caused beach erosion. For example, sand has accumulated behind the submerged breakwater seaward of the Santa Monica Pier forming wider beach.

A seawall has the opposite effect: With a seawall the waves reach the shore unabated, and all of the energy dissipation at high tide is against the wall. This causes scouring of the sand, potentially to the point where there is no beach left during higher tides.

6d. We have been preserving our property with riprapping. I think really it's a tremendous challenge to property owners anywhere on the coast. We believe that sand vanished prior to the rock being dumped there. A contractor suggested to us that a way to lock the riprap in is to lower it in the ground and put a pier so that the rock would create its own wall by locking itself into those piers. Piers in the bedrock or the clay would take a long time to move. This would eliminate a lot of that encroachment the riprap has

now taken on the beaches. But that was laughed at when it was proposed to the Coastal Commission. Maybe an interim solution at Sharp Park and some other areas would be to hold back a lot of that riprap and lock it in until some of these projects can be funded and put together. I know there's other issues with that as far as encroachment goes.

Response: That's called a toe wall, and it has been done in other places. From a structural standpoint, it's not an outrageous idea, although it has pluses and minuses. The tangent wall (vertical cylinders) in front of the trailer park area, mostly gone now, was similar but extended up higher.

Comment 7a. Courtney Conlon, head of Pacifica Chamber of Commerce: Referring to Richard Harris's earlier comments: when you convene the next set of CRSMP meetings, will they include and get input from private property owners and the business community?

Response: Input from private property owners and the business community is vital to the CRSMP. The plan process will continue to reach out to these groups with additional public meetings before the Plan is finalized, through media outreach including blog posts, and through outreach to partners and interested organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce that also communicate with citizens. The public is welcome to contact us at any time with ideas or concerns.

7b. What studies are looking at our vital commercial and recreational sections, which have provided such an integral economic base for the sustainability of our community and our tourist industry? We may not be as big as Southern California beaches described in the earlier presentation, but we have a vital and vibrant commercial and tourist industry that we would like taken into consideration with all of the plans going forward.

Response: Receiving further input into the draft economic analysis was one of the goals of this Workshop. To gain more insight from the community regarding tourist industry contributions to the coastal economy, a follow-up meeting with the Pacifica Chamber of Commerce and project economist Dr. Phil King was held in February of 2013. See below for further information about input received during that meeting.

Comment 8a. Eric Ruchames: I have lived in town for about forty years and lived on the beach and seen a lot of this happening, seen the sand disappear for no reason. My concern is that reports like this tend to take on a life of their own and then become instruments of policy. But they're only as good as the questions that get asked. I think there's a lot more art to this than science, because what was once standard practice is now no longer done. It's an extraordinarily difficult thing. I don't think that our economic impact study is nearly broad enough to be valuable to policymakers. To simply limit it to city owned facilities that are on the shore, really misses the point of a coastal community. Down the road when policymakers have to make choices, they need to have seen the whole picture, not just what the cost of a pump station was but how about the cost to the neighborhood or the impact to the whole economy and the community.

Response: The economic analysis for the Plan will accept additional input, but may be limited in the range of issues it takes on, due to resource limitations. It's important to note, however, that the Plan will be a guidance documents, and all decisions about implementation of specific projects will be made locally. A community will undoubtedly factor in residents' concerns before implementing a plan. The purpose of this CRSMP is to inform the community of future coastal erosion, what is the impact to the community if such erosion occurs, what actions the community can take in response to the erosion, and what permits will be required.

8b: Regarding the solutions proposed for various reaches, to casually say that from this street to this street is going to be managed retreat, overlooks the fact that people who live there are going to suddenly find out they can't live there anymore, and they need to be brought into this process. There has to be some continuity between the stretch of land, and it makes sense to do certain things and not do certain things, not just because of a political point of view. There has to be some coherent concept to it that I don't see yet in the presentations from earlier today. If it doesn't help us with funding sources, then it's just a lot of time and effort that is not going to be well spent.

Response: The explorations presented at the Workshop were initial concepts, which do not reflect the level of vetting and technical analysis that will be seen in the CRSMP or in community-driven projects. The Plan will examine potential projects on public lands that can be completed with public funds. The extent to which public funds can cover solutions for private parcels will be determined at the local jurisdiction level. One of the benefits of a CRSMP is that it provides some groundwork for potential future funding.

Comment 9. (name not provided) Why doesn't the plan area include Montara, El Granada, Moss Beach, Half Moon Bay and the rest of the south coast? Is this being done statewide in sections? Obviously the Pacific Ocean runs all the way down, and you need an integrated approach.

Response: Multiple CRSMPs, in various stages of completion, are being undertaken up and down the California coast. Eventually the Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup, a combination of federal and state agencies, will look at the entire coastline as a functioning unit by weaving together all these plans into the California Sediment Master Plan. Regionally, CRSMPs are being developed in small sections, such as Orange County, San Diego County, Santa Barbara and Ventura County (go to the CSMW website – <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/csmw/default.aspx> – to see the complete list). The CRSMP areas are defined both by the geographic boundaries of each littoral cell (a sand circulation unit in the ocean bounded by headlands and submarine canyons) and by political boundaries (which are relevant to governance issues). The San Francisco littoral cell extends from the southern Golden Gate down to Point San Pedro. Another cell starts a little bit further south, extending from Half Moon Bay to Moss Landing (covering the Santa Cruz Littoral Cell). CRSMPs will be developed for each of the cells, as each has different needs and geologies. Current funding levels do not allow for all littoral cells to be studied at once; the San Francisco Littoral Cell is the current priority and a CRSMP for the Santa Cruz Littoral Cell will be undertaken as resources permit.

Comment 10a. Chuck Gust: Are the Southern California beach nourishment projects being studied to see if they work? How do you know that what you're doing down there is going to be the right thing in the next 5-6 years?

Response: San Diego County went through a similar CRSMP process, which put forward several recommendations based on the needs of that particular region. Beach nourishment projects like that one involve adaptive management, an iterative decisionmaking process for uncertain or evolving conditions, based on monitoring over time. Essentially: do something, learn from it, adjust, and move to the next step.

10b: Is the Coastal Commission involved in this?

Response: Coastal Commission staff participate in the CSMW workgroup and the Stakeholder Advisory Group that is advising on development of the CRSMP. However, it's important to note that policy decisions of the Coastal Commission are separate from their participation in the CRSMP process.

Comment 11a. Len Stone, Mayor of Pacifica: Where did CRSMPs come from? Was there an Assembly bill that was passed? Is there legislation or a particular body that set them in motion?

Response: In the '90s, different types of sediment management plans in California attempted to address coastal erosion on a site-specific basis. Proponents of these efforts came to understand that a more holistic view could determine the cause of local problems: Is there some sort of regional imbalance such as the loss of sediment to the coast? There was a realization that we needed to start looking at things more regionally in order to understand causes of coastal erosion, and that such understanding would result in developing cost-effective responses that would address both the bigger and local problems. In 1999 I believe, the Corps of Engineers and the Natural Resources Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding to implement a paradigm called Regional Sediment Management: trying to balance excess sediment areas with areas of sediment deficit. As a result of that, the Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup was formed. Early CSMW work included getting scientists and consultants to determine how to start beach nourishment projects, understand regulatory requirements, and understand and mitigate environmental impacts. A series of public workshops was held along the California coast from San Diego to Eureka for people to express beach-related concerns and provide feedback. The single most repeated comment was, "our region is not like the next region, we have our own set of problems, and we need solutions that are specific to this particular region." This gave rise to the Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan approach. Each plan was focused on a physical boundary or a political division that included at least a significant portion of a littoral cell as the minimum functional planning area.

11b. Is there federal funding?

Response: Both federal and state funds are used to develop CRSMPs. There may potentially be both state and federal funding for projects that implement concepts from the CRMSMP.

Comment 12. Courtney Conlon: What kind of representation did you get from the business community? We haven't felt included up to now.

We're glad you're here. We reached out to the participants in the CRSMPs first by developing a Stakeholder Advisory Group, with local agencies, regional entities, and NGOs with expertise on regulatory and other practical considerations. Second, we held a series of public meetings for local residents. The biggest challenge has always been to get the word out and get the people to attend. From our statewide perspective, the meetings for this CRSMP have done well at getting to the public.

Comment 13. Richard Harris: This is a question for Bob Battalio about the cliff erosion at Mori Point that he referred to. There was some beach buildup at Salada Beach and sand appears to be proliferating. How significant is that beach buildup? Is it also feeding some kind of development of a bar offshore, and what are the implications of that for the survival of the existing levee at Salada Beach?

Response from Bob Battalio: We are not collecting new data offshore for this project, although we do have some existing data from USGS. Having witnessed the sand accretion, I think that it's been beneficial to the area in terms of widening the beach and dissipating the waves. At one point the sand came up pretty high against the levee, and it looked like that resulted in the waves running up close against the levee and allowing it to overtop (very lightly). That could be considered negative. Overall, I think the sand accretion is probably a positive for protecting spots behind the levee. The wider beach dissipates the incident waves and actually protects the levee. If you had this natural accretion, it would be similar to a beach nourishment operation in terms of placing sand.

Comment 14. Stan Zeavin: I would like to make a statement. I'm a resident here, and I don't know how this is all going to play out, but I can't believe there isn't a person in this room who doesn't want to get as much information as they can before these decisions have to be made. The bottom line is we all, everyone sitting here, everybody in California, are going to have to pay for whatever is done, and we need to know where the money is best spent. People are going to be unhappy in certain areas and very happy in others and there's a point where, me personally, I don't want to pay for something that's going to cost \$100 million to protect if it would cost \$50 million to move the people. I don't know how this is going to work, I don't know how they're going to make the decisions, but let's collect the data and then have this discussion.

Response: Thank you for sharing this perspective. There will be additional public meetings and a formal public comment period once the CRSMP is drafted.

Press Coverage

Reporter Jane Northrup of the Pacifica Tribune attended the meeting and covered it in an article posted on November 20, "Different ideas for controlling erosion of Pacifica's coast floated at workshop" (http://www.mercurynews.com/pacifica/ci_22037282/different-ideas-controlling-erosion-pacificascoast-floated-at).

Project team members noted that Jane did not fact-check her material with them despite their availability at and after the meeting. The article presented the CRSMP project as recommending managed retreat at Sharp Park, which would be of concern to many residents. The article did not capture the nuance that any discussions of managed retreat were framed as discussions, scenarios, and explorations; nor was the article clear there was no draft plan yet at the time of the workshop.

Follow-Up Activities: Pacifica Chamber of Commerce Meeting with Members of CRSMP Team, February 21, 2013

Athena Honore, ABAG project manager, and Phil King, Ph.D., project team economist, met with the Pacifica Chamber of Commerce on February 21, 2013 to follow up on interest expressed at the November 14, 2012 Public Workshop. The 8:00 am meeting was well-attended, with 16 attendees including two members of the City Council. Chamber of Commerce members are local business owners, including several local hotels directly connected to the tourism and beach-related economies.

Athena gave a background overview of the CRSMP, simplified to fit the time available at the meeting. Discussion included local versus regional aspects of the plan; how local projects might flow from the plan and what associated opportunities for public comment and input would be; potential state and federal funding opportunities for beach restoration work; various approaches for beach protection (armoring, sediment nourishment, managed retreat); and upstream impacts to sediment availability such as sand mining.

Dr. King gave a presentation on methods to determine the economic value of beaches and beach-related activity. The presentation was the same as that given at the November 14, 2012 workshops (most of the February meeting attendees had not seen it before). Participants offered several suggestions for fleshing out the beach value calculations. Specific comments included:

- Dr. King requested more detailed patronage numbers from four hotels around Rockaway and Linda Mar Beaches. Participants described international tourists. How far do people travel to come to these hotels because of the draw of the beach?
- Members noted the active surfing community, including daily surfers as well as three surf contests each year that may draw a few thousand people. These events may not have been accounted for in the draft economic analysis.
- Chamber members noted that people go to the Taco Bell at Linda Mar Beach, which some consider “the most beautiful Taco Bell in the world,” expressly to be able to enjoy the view. Chamber members would consider those patrons to be beach users although they may not have met Dr. King’s original criteria. Chamber members think other coastal restaurants draw patrons specifically to experience the ocean, and that those should be included in valuing the beaches.
- Chamber members noted that Fall (Sept-Oct) is the warmest season and beach attendance counts should be conducted during those times. Spring and summer weather on the coast is often cold.

- Some Chamber members questioned Dr. King’s working definition of who is “on the beach,” as some people walk alongside the levee trails nearest the beach (especially at Mori Point) or park near the beach to look out but don’t get out of their cars because it’s too cold or windy.
- The heavily used, quarter-mile long pier was noted as a significant draw, especially during crab and salmon season. Pacifica Beach Coalition may have more information about the numbers of fishers at the piers.
- Pacifica also recently got some credentials to have film crews in town – this may increase attendance.

The meeting concluded with a review of the expected timeline of plan completion and ways people could get involved in the public process, to comment or to follow the progress of the CRSMP.

Conclusions

Did the workshops meet their intended goals? They were designed as interactive, charrette-style workshops to engage municipalities and the public in developing solutions to sticking points. While it remains too early to tell which ideas generated at the workshop are feasible, several significant benefits from holding the workshop are noted here.

One of the “sticking points” was concern from staff and elected officials in the City of Pacifica that they had not been engaged early enough in the process. Although the project team had been working closely with multiple departments at the City of Pacifica, the elected officials did not feel like they had been engaged. We were pleased to note that four out of five City Council members, including the Mayor, attended one of the November 14 workshops, and those concerns were not expressed again. We were able to engage staff and elected officials in the process of designing alternatives and answer their questions. We also were able to work with representatives from elected officials for San Mateo County, who were new to the process. The future opportunities for comment were also emphasized.

Both the City of Pacifica and City of Daly City had expressed the desire for further opportunities to provide input into the draft Plan, and the workshop gave them ways to do that.

The Public Workshop helped to crystallize areas of concern to the general public; it identified one major area of concern related to the Sharp Park area (the Chamber of Commerce members and others requested that golfing be continued there). Developing workable solutions to these sticking points is an ongoing process at the time of this report; however, the Plan draft will be informed by these concerns, and the project team has the advantage of clear feedback from the public at an early stage.

The Public Workshop also served as an opportunity to clarify the CRSMP process for citizens, which was a valuable opportunity that benefited the overall CRSMP process.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Meeting Materials

- Agenda
- Sign-in Sheets
- Pre-Workshop Information Packet: This document provides background information on conditions in the CRSMP area and potential tools. These were distributed to contact lists and attendees were encouraged to read them before the workshop. Print copies were distributed at the workshop.
- Scenarios for Discussion: Additional handouts provided at the City Workshop only (to complement scenarios provided as page 40-41 of the Read-ahead Materials packet), as food for thought during the group exercise.

Appendix 2: Presentations

- Initial presentation (Doug George). The initial presentation for the second, Public Workshop is not included because it is the same as the initial presentation for the first, City Workshop with just a few words changed.
- Tools, alternatives, scenarios (Bob Battalio)
- Presentation of city explorations from City Workshop – this was a compilation of work done at the City Workshop, presented to the Public Workshop.
- Economic Analysis (Phil King)
- [Policy Development (Athena Honore)] – this section was removed from the agenda for lack of time. It was not shown at either workshop.

Appendix 3: Follow-Up Meeting Materials, Pacifica Chamber of Commerce 2/21/13

- Introductory presentation (Athena Honore)
- Economic Analysis (Phil King)