

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review Beach Nourishment Issue Paul Michel, Superintendent, MBNMS December 15, 2017





Recap

- Identified Priority Issue in Scoping and SAC input
- August GF-MB Joint SAC mtg presentation on Surfers Beach/Pillar Point beach nourishment issue and regulatory framework
- October MB SAC mtg discussion on Harbors & Dredge Disposal Action Plan (2008) and Overview of Needs and Issues
- Today: more SAC input and potential recommendation(s) for MPR

Background/Need

- MBNMS (Absolute) Prohibition in Terms of Designation
- Regulation forces placement in EPA-ACOE sites or above MHW
- History: Harbors' dredge and disposal needs largely met
- Pillar Point-Surfers Beach unique and challenging
- Perceived Need to “fix” the regulation to allow for use of clean sand (dredged from harbors, placed in Sanctuary) for beach nourishment (primarily at Pillar Point)
- MBNMS/GFNMS Response: Assessing Options

MBNMS Dredged Material Disposal/Beach Nourishment Regulatory Assessment: Options For Moving Forward

Option 1:

Clarify the term “dredged material” in Terms of Designation thru an “interpretive rule” to be consistent with Clean Water Act, Ocean Dumping Act and USACE and USEPA policy and regulations (eg define and distinguish between beneficial reuse and disposal)

[Assumes that interpretive rule-making does not trigger opening Terms of Designation]

Conduct a 30-day scoping and determine need for EIS, finalize rule



Option 2:

Re-Open Designation Document and Initiate rulemaking process to modify MBNMS regulations and terms of designation to allow reuse of dredged material “clean sand” (below MHW) from harbors for beach nourishment.

- Initially considered, but deemed **not a preferred option** due to significant hurdles and risks associated with reconsidering the Terms (e.g. oil and gas development, sewage outfalls).

Option 3:

No Action. Status Quo. Continue existing practices allowing for placement of dredged clean sand above MHW and prohibit dredged sand placement below MHW.

- Allows continued beach nourishment practices at Monterey and Santa Cruz
- Allows for continued maintenance of Moss Landing opening
- Allows for current proposed project at Pillar Point (placement of clean harbor sand above MHW)



Sanctuary Advisory Council GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Greater Farallones NMS Advisory Council Recommends MBNMS Definition of Clean Dredged Materials

At its March 2nd, 2016 meeting, the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council recommended that Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary articulate a definition of beneficial reuse of clean dredged materials from harbors or other appropriate materials from other sources at the San Mateo County Surfer's Beach site. The SAC urged an expeditious response to this because of community concerns.

