



# **ENVIRONMENTAL WORK WINDOWS in San Francisco Bay**

## **Long-Term Management Strategy for the Placement of Dredged Material in the San Francisco Bay Region**

*Brian D. Ross, EPA Region 9  
Dredging & Sediment Management Team*

*BPC Decisionmakers' Conference  
San Francisco, October 22, 2002*

# Environmental Work Windows in the 2001 Management Plan

- **Are a major step forward:** they *eliminate* the need for consultation on many projects (otherwise all jobs would consult)
- **Are environmentally protective:** driven by special status species, but protect others as well
- **Have different restrictions** for dredging areas vs disposal sites
- **Do not “ban” work outside the windows:** project-specific consultation can allow work outside a window, if justified
- **Are not etched in stone:** the programmatic windows can be modified to reflect new data about species, impacts, or operations



## Summary of Disposal Work Windows

Location & Designation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bar Channel (SF-8)												
Carquinez (SF-9)												
San Pablo (SF-10)												
Alcatraz (SF-11)												
Suisun (SF-16)												
Beneficial Reuse Sites												

## Disposal Work Windows

Species	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chinook Salmon	SF-9 & SF-16												
Steelhead Trout	SF-9, SF-10, & SF-11												
Recreational Marine Fishes	SF-10 & SF-11												
California Brown Pelican	Within 300' of known roost site												
California Clapper Rail, Snowy Plover, Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse, Delta Smelt	Beneficial Reuse Site												
Delta Smelt	Suisun Bay & marshes (not SF-16)												
Least Tern	All eelgrass beds, or within 3 miles of nesting area at Alameda Naval Air Station												

(For more information, see Appendix F or the LTMS EIS/EIR)

WORK WINDOW

MINIMIZED DISPOSAL

CONSULTATION REQUIRED

## Dredging Work Windows by Area

Site	Species	Jan	Jan	Feb	Feb	Mar	Mar	Apr	Apr	May	May	Jun	Jun	Jul	Jul	Aug	Aug	Sep	Sep	Oct	Oct	Nov	Nov	Dec	Dec		
		1-15	16-31	1-15	16-28	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31		
SF Bay Bridge to Sherman Island	Steelhead Trout	WORK WINDOW										CONSULTATION REQUIRED															
	Chinook Salmon Juveniles	WORK WINDOW										CONSULTATION REQUIRED															
Carquinez Bridge to Collinsville	Sacramento Splittail	WORK WINDOW																									
	Delta Smelt	WORK WINDOW																									
	Longfin Smelt	WORK WINDOW																CONSULTATION REQUIRED									
Pindole Shoal Suisun Bay Channel	Chinook Salmon (Adults)	WORK WINDOW										CONSULTATION REQUIRED															
San Pablo Bay	Longfin Smelt	CONSULTATION REQUIRED		WORK WINDOW														CONSULTATION REQUIRED									
North San Pablo Bay, Napa & Petaluma Rivers	Sacramento Splittail (Juveniles)	CONSULTATION REQUIRED		WORK WINDOW														CONSULTATION REQUIRED									
Napa & Petaluma Rivers, Sonoma Creek	Steelhead Trout	WORK WINDOW														CONSULTATION REQUIRED				WORK WINDOW							
San Pablo Bay & South SF Bay	Western Snowy Plover	WORK WINDOW																									
North SF Bay & San Pablo Bay shallow berthing areas	Dungeness Crab	CONSULTATION REQUIRED								WORK WINDOW								CONSULTATION REQUIRED									
Richardson Bay, North & South Bay	Pacific Herring	WORK WINDOW				CONSULTATION REQUIRED				WORK WINDOW																	
Waters of Marin County from the Golden Gate Bridge to Richmond-San Rafael Bridge	Coho Salmon	WORK WINDOW										CONSULTATION REQUIRED										WORK WINDOW					
Central SF Bay	Steelhead Trout	WORK WINDOW										CONSULTATION REQUIRED															
	Pacific Herring	WORK WINDOW				CONSULTATION REQUIRED																					
Berkeley Marina to San Lorenzo Creek within 1 mile of coastline	California Least Tern	CONSULTATION REQUIRED				WORK WINDOW										CONSULTATION REQUIRED											
South of Highway 92 Bridge (San Mateo-Hayward)	California Least Tern	CONSULTATION REQUIRED										WORK WINDOW										CONSULTATION REQUIRED					
In Areas with Eelgrass Beds	California Least Tern	WORK WINDOW																									
Baywide in Areas of Salt Marsh Habitat	California Clapper Rail	WORK WINDOW																									
Baywide within 250 feet of Salt Marsh Habitat	California Clapper Rail	CONSULTATION REQUIRED		WORK WINDOW														CONSULTATION REQUIRED									
In and Adjacent to Salt Marsh Habitat	Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse	WORK WINDOW																									
Within 300' of known roost site	California Brown Pelican	CONSULTATION REQUIRED												WORK WINDOW												CONSULTATION REQUIRED	

(For more detailed information, see Appendix F of the LTMS Management Plan or the LTMS EIR/EIS.)

WORK WINDOW

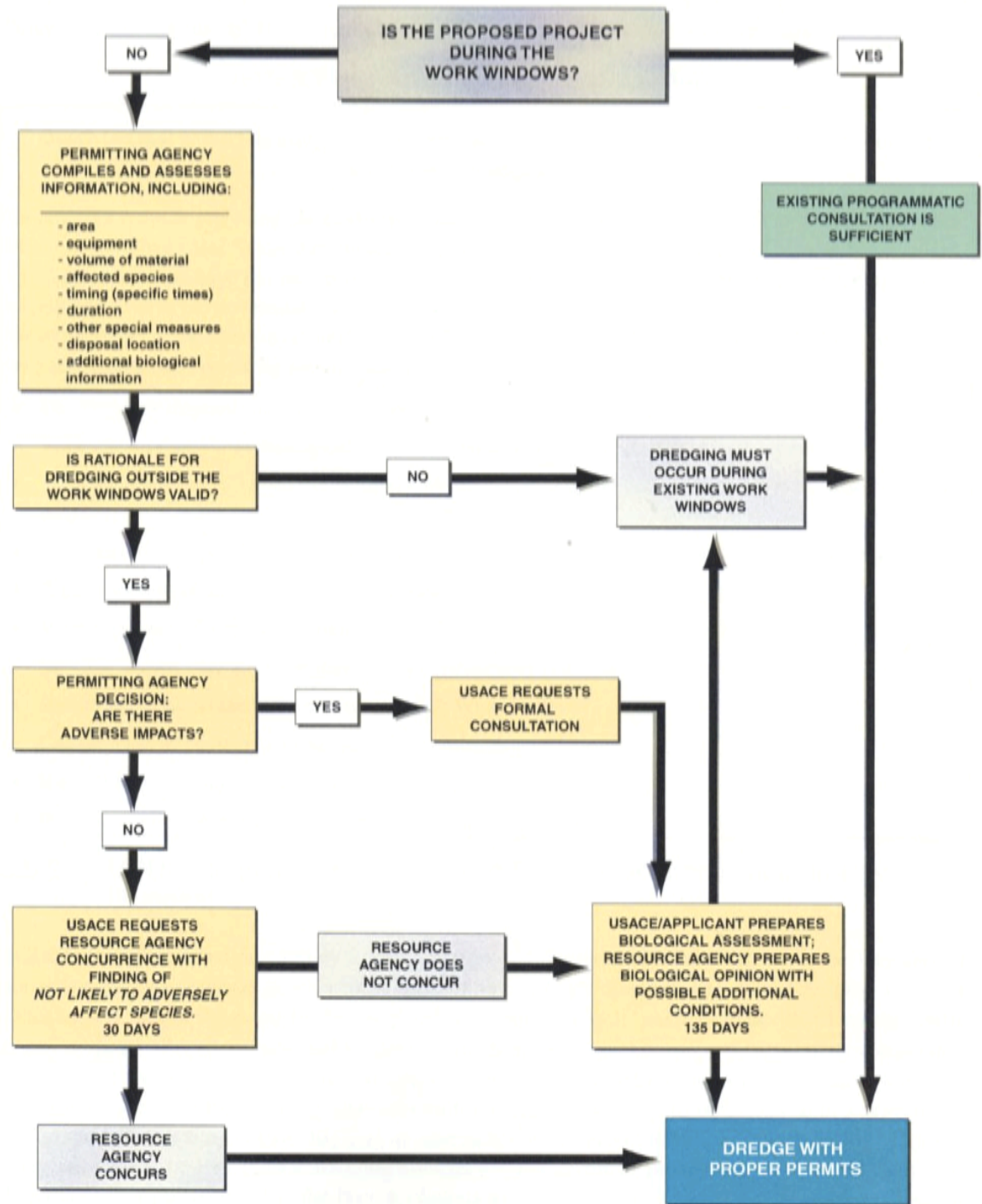
CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- **In 2002, 6 of 8 USACE maintenance dredging projects met the Programmatic Windows.**
- **The other 2 were approved with minimal extra conditions, following the “informal consultation” process.**



For projects that need to work outside established Windows, informal consultation may be enough.

The challenge has been getting private applicants to “try” the process, rather than assume they’ll be denied.



SPECIAL REPORT 262

**A Process for Setting,  
Managing, and Monitoring  
Environmental Windows for  
Dredging Projects**



Marine Board  
Transportation Research Board  
Ocean Studies Board  
NATIONAL ACADEMIES

**Many of the steps recommended in the NAS report have already been taken by LTMS.**

**The Environmental Windows Working Group is building on, but moving beyond, this report.**

# The LTMS Environmental Windows Working Group

- **Involves all interested parties**
- **Has developed a “Manifesto”**
- **Is addressing both short-term and long-term issues**



# The LTMS Environmental Windows Working Group

## Short-Term Focus:

- **Specific projects having trouble meeting the existing Programmatic Windows**
- **Assistance with the “informal consultation” process**



# The LTMS Environmental Windows Working Group

## Long-Term Focus:

### ➤ UPDATE THE SCIENCE

- Existing Windows are mainly based on potential presence of sensitive species
- New studies might allow more precise management (longer “open” Windows)



# The LTMS Environmental Windows Working Group

## Long-Term Focus:

### ➤ OPERATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

- Identify operational or technological measures that could allow work to continue even when sensitive species are known to be present



# The LTMS Environmental Windows Working Group

## Long-Term Focus:

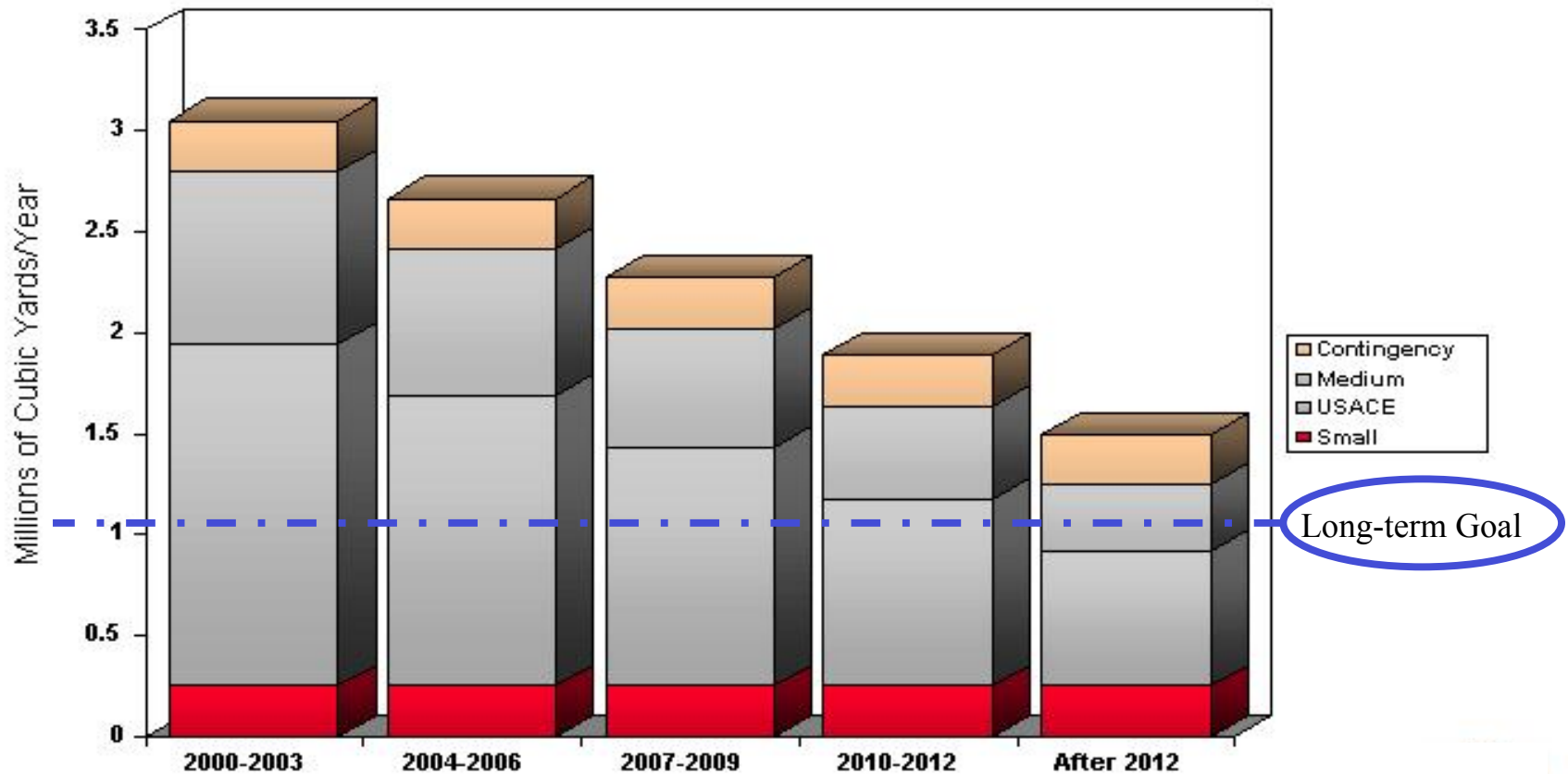
### ➤ OTHER FACTORS

- Issues that, if addressed, could make it easier to work within established Windows
- For example: USACE contracting processes; more “Tier I” decisions; earlier coordination with DMMO



# Transition to the LTMS “40/40/20 Plan”

## Transition Targets





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