

SECTION 9.0 SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

9.1 Structure and Resources to Implement PHSMP

This section outlines the basic programmatic structure and activities in place to carry out the PHSMP. The success of any sediment management program, including the one planned for Portland Harbor, depends on efficient and effective coordination with all programs that have a role in sediment-related issues. Such coordination will ensure technical, policy, and training resources are consistent, and scientifically credible tools are used when performing the RI/FS work and associated data evaluations.

DEQ already has the resources in place to continue with implementation of the PHSMP. The internal team that was assembled to develop the PHSMP will remain intact and continue working on implementation. The team includes management support, a toxicologist, cleanup site project managers, a public involvement coordinator, and project coordinator. Additional resources from other DEQ programs, such as water quality, will support the work performed by this core team, specifically in the areas of beneficial uses and coordination with dredging activities.

In recognition of the various cross-program and organizational issues surrounding sediment management, DEQ has formed an internal Sediment Strategy Group. The group includes representatives from both the policy and regional areas at the management and staff level. DEQ cleanup, water quality, and waste management programs are all represented. Emerging sediment coordination issues are discussed and resolved.

9.2 Sediment Management Activities Requiring Coordination

Several work groups were instrumental in developing the PHSMP. Participants in the work groups included DEQ, EPA, federal and state natural resource agencies, and members of the Portland Harbor Group. A similar structure of work groups or advisory committees will continue during plan implementation, and will include a broader range of stakeholders such as tribes and environmental and community groups. These work groups will function to provide review, oversight, and input during the implementation of the PHSMP. Issues that will be addressed by work groups include:

- Overall implementation of the PHSMP
- Development of the RI work plan for harbor-wide investigation
- Development of SQGs and associated harbor-wide RI tasks
- Development of TTLs, TSCs, and associated harbor-wide RI tasks.

The technical work groups will provide a forum for multi-party resolution of technical issues, as well as organizing training opportunities for staff and contractors.

DEQ's site-specific project support to this effort will include: risk assessment support, technical assistance with study design and data interpretation, review of sampling and analysis plans, and oversight (internal consulting) for sampling, analysis, and testing activities.

Interagency and inter-program coordination on a number of sediment-related issues will occur. This includes, but is not limited to, cross-program coordination in the areas of dredging and water quality certification, total maximum daily load (TMDL) issues, and relations with wetlands, coastal zone, and

estuary programs. Interagency coordination includes conduct of annual technical and policy review meetings, development and approval of regional sampling and analysis protocols, participation on the Regional Dredging Team, resolution of state lands issues, and relationships with a variety of natural resource trustees (e.g., USFWS, NOAA, NMFS, Tribes, ODFW) on such topics as endangered species, assessment of natural resource injury and damages, mitigation and restoration, etc. In addition, the PHSMP will interact with other regional programs, as necessary, to ensure that each program's goals are complimentary and that the approaches used to reach the goals are consistent. Other regional programs include the Willamette River Task Force, Willamette River Restoration Committee, and the Lower Columbia River Estuary Program.

DEQ is committed to enhancing the level of participation by the natural resource agencies and tribes during PHSMP implementation, building on relationships established during development of the draft plan. A financial and participation agreement between DEQ and the natural resource trustees is being negotiated, providing the trustee agencies full participation in implementation and ensuring that cleanups in the Harbor are protective of natural resources.

In discussions during plan development, trustees have identified the following objectives:

- Ensure all actions protect and resolve injured resources;
- Resolve PRP liability at the end of the process;
- Ensure that any cleanup is protective of natural resources;
- Provide enough information from investigations to assess effects on ESA listed species;
- Incorporate resource needs into the remedial process;
- Ensure funding so trustees are able to participate in process;
- Stipulate trustee participation and influence in decision-making process; and
- Allow for tolling of time limitations and temporary stay on trustee enforcement.

The objective is to reach agreement among DEQ, the trustees, and responsible parties. DEQ and the other trustees are working to identify tribes who may have trustee interests, and will encourage additional trustees to come forward and join the trustee group. However, DEQ will continue to contact and meet with individual tribes to ensure their specific natural resource issues are addressed.

Facilitating community outreach and participation activities will be an important component of the program. DEQ is committed to developing and maintaining a sound working relationship with the broader Portland Harbor community as the PHSMP is implemented. DEQ will build on the community-based work accomplished during plan preparation by sponsoring grants that community groups can use to support their participation in the program and public education. Coordination with tribes will include, as appropriate, providing resources to facilitate tribal participation and input.