



October 8, 2024: Gavin Archbald, H. T. Harvey & Associates Bringing Upland Soil to the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge for Wetland Habitat Restoration

Information Shared in Meeting Chat

- Luke Bailey: Thank you for this webinar! Do you have a tentative idea of when Pond A12's levee will be breached?
- Nikki Roach, SF Bay Joint Venture: Curious how free dirt market and sedimatch (SFEI sediment tool) are used by restoration practitioners? What is the utility of having two tools? Is there a way to better collaborate here to get more soils/sediment into restoration projects?
 - Chris Barr (Deputy Complex Manager, USFWS San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex): Sedimatch is way to show the sites looking for sediment. The "Dirt Market" is how dirt can get to the identified site. Project agreements are needed between landowner and the group providing the beneficial reuse free dirt.
 - Nikki Roach, SF Bay Joint Venture: Sedimatch also shows folks who have sediment to give out too -- including upland soils...so just curious about potential for better coordination between these tools! and thanks Chris :)
 - Dave Halsing (SBSP Restoration Project): The "Free Dirt Market" isn't a "tool", per se. It's a way we casually refer to the agreements we have and processes we use to find and accept clean fill material. Sedimatch is an actual tool that could be useful in that search and in the matchmaking needed to make it make sense for the source project/provider and a potential reuse project.
- Jen Siu: How much volume can the SBSRP project stage until ready to use??
- Haymar Lim: Any idea how the cost of trucking over soil would compare to moving Army Corps of Engineers dredged material upland?
 - Brenda Buxton (past State Coastal Conservancy lead on Shoreline Project and SBSRP): Re: Q about moving ACOE dredged material — it's extremely difficult to move dredge material overland because it has to be dried out prior to transit (which requires space and many months). Dredge material works best if you can transport it over water...difficult to do in far south Bay due to shallow water.

- Loren Roman-Nunez: Sorry if this was mentioned, but how is potential recruitment/spread of invasive plants factored into restoration with obtaining soil from private construction projects or other sources?
 - Carole Foster (Valley Water): Valley Water has had stream-sourced material denied due to potential for invasive plants in the creek to spread at the salt pond restoration site. The reason being that our material only met foundation reuse criteria, so would have needed to be stockpiled at the salt pond, increasing the potential for spread of invasives. In contrast, if our material would have been clean enough to qualify for surface reuse, we may have received approval even with invasives at the source site if we could have pushed the material directly into the salt pond, as long as the invasive species would not be likely to survive in saltwater. So to answer your question, yes, the presence of invasives are taken into consideration if applicable.
- Ava Samuels: With respect to erosion, are there risks of erosion, like storms and coastal flooding, that would require projects to be supplemented with soil fill after a project is completed or would natural sediment processes be sufficient?
- Haymar Lim: Do the reduced QAPP standards for foundational soils factor in potential impacts of groundwater rise?
 - Maximilliano Busnardo (H. T. Harvey & Associates): Good question. The Master QAPP doesn't directly address invasive plant potential in the soil; it is focused on contaminant screening since it was developed in response to RWQCB/BCDC permit conditions around soil contaminant quality for protection of aquatic life. However, the terrestrial soils imported to date under the Master QAPP that H. T. Harvey has been a QAO for, by and large have come from subsoils below ~3 ft depth and deeper- this is because the upper topsoils typically do not meet the contaminant screening criteria. Therefore, weed seed is unlikely to be present in these subsoils.
- Samantha Greene: Was all the ravenswood dirt from private projects free?
- Gillian Bogart: Can you speak a bit about what geotechnical specifications are and how they are determined (of course it's different for different sites). what qualities are you looking for in soil or sediment that you bring in?
 - Maximilliano Busnardo (H. T. Harvey & Associates): The Geotech specs are prepared by Geotech engineers for the levee soils to ensure those soils meet engineering requirements for flood protection; they specific characteristics such as texture and compaction.
- Jen Siu: Can we get link to conceptual model document?
 - Ariel Ambruster (SBSP Restoration Project): Restoration Project documents library link: <https://www.southbayrestoration.org/docs>