October 18, 2022

TO: Zack Wasserman
FR: Andrew Gunther
CC: Larry Goldzband
RE: Minutes from September 15th.

I would appreciate if the following could be appended to the September 15th minutes.

At the September 15th meeting I got a little into the weeds questioning Julie Beagle of the Corps of Engineers about her presentation on strategic placement of dredged material, and just wanted to take this opportunity to clarify for my fellow commissioners the two points I was making.

First, Julie explained the strategic placement experiment will take place one time. Because a key variable affecting the movement of the placed sediment will be wind speed and direction, the results of the single planned event will be greatly influenced by the weather. It would be best if we could repeat this experiment over several years, but that is not funded as part of the current project. This means we may be asked to consider the results with the experiment without the benefit of replication under different wind conditions, and so there will be some uncertainty in that future discussion.

I am very excited that the Corps is conducting this experiment, as I think such strategic placement is a key tool in our toolbox to build the wetlands that will provide future resilience to sea level rise. I will certainly be supporting the continued testing of strategic placement, and other experimental techniques, over the next several years as we learn how to most effectively re-use dredged material. I fully expect we will be using a more diverse array of dredged-material disposal techniques in the future to take advantage of the value of dredged material for building resilient shorelines.

The second point I wanted to make, but I ran out of time, was to note that in the late 1970s the SF District of the Corps of Engineers conducted a tracer experiment similar to what Julie described to us. This earlier experiment involved tracing the fate of dredged material placed at the Carquinez disposal site. I wanted to call this to her attention, as I wasn't sure she knew about this earlier work (and I determined after the meeting that she did not know about it). The proposed tracer study will be extremely valuable to understand the ultimate fate of material placed at the experimental site, and I think it will be very important for the Corps to review the results of the tracer experiment conducted in the late 1970s as part of interpreting the new tracer results.