
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

December 2, 2016
CIWQS Place No.: 718831

NOTICE: Regional Monitoring Program Dredger Fee Schedule

Dear Regional Monitoring Program Dredging Participant:

On November 1, 2016, the Steering Committee of the Regional Monitoring Program for Water Quality in the San Francisco Estuary (RMP), in collaboration with the San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI), the Regional Water Board, and the Bay Planning Coalition (BPC), approved the Dredger Fee Schedule for dredging done in the San Francisco Bay Region in calendar years 2017, 2018, and 2019 (Attachment). This fee schedule is reviewed and revised as necessary every three years.

1) Annual Fee Schedule

This schedule applies only to the largest in-Bay dredge disposal clients (see Table 1 in Attachment). The annual fee will be based on the in-Bay dredge disposal volume reported for the prior calendar year multiplied by a cost per cubic yard (cy) of dredged material. The calendar year 2017-2019 multiplier is \$0.80/cy.

2) Project-Based Fee Schedule

The fee for all in-Bay dredge disposal clients not listed in Table 1 will be based on the in-Bay dredge disposal volume reported for the prior calendar year and the sliding fee schedule shown in Table 2 in Attachment.

The fees will be based on in-Bay dredge disposal volumes calculated using post-dredge survey results. If the post-dredge survey volumes for each calendar year are not reported to the Regional Water Board by March 31 of the next year, RMP dredger participants will be billed based on reported bin volumes, which may overestimate the volume actually dredged.

Requirement for Monitoring Dredging Discharges and Participation in the RMP

The Regional Water Board requires everyone who discharges waste materials to the Bay, including those who dispose of dredged material, to monitor the impacts of their discharges pursuant to California Water Code (CWC) section 13267. This monitoring provides necessary information about ambient Bay water quality and potential long-term impacts of dredged material disposal.

Since 1992, many Bay Region dischargers have decided to provide this information through the RMP, rather than through individual monitoring programs. SFEI, located in Richmond, administers the program with oversight by the Regional Water Board and the

DR. TERRY F. YOUNG, CHAIR | BRUCE H. WOLFE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

RMP Steering and Technical Review committees. BPC represents dredgers on the RMP Steering Committee. The Regional Water Board recognizes payments to the RMP as fulfilling the requirement to provide information on water quality impacts under CWC section 13267. Satisfactory payments to the RMP shall be based on the RMP Dredger Fee Schedule Policy as approved by the RMP Steering Committee. Payments must be issued to the Regional Monitoring Program, c/o SFEI, 4911 Central Ave, Richmond, CA 94804.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Christian at (510) 622-2335, or by email, to echristian@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Bruce H. Wolfe
Executive Officer

Attachment: Approved RMP Dredger Fee Schedule for projects in 2017-2019

cc: Lawrence Leung, San Francisco Estuary Institute



4911 Central Ave, Richmond, CA 94804, p: (510) 746-7334, f: (510) 746-7300

www.sfei.org

To: RMP Dredger Participants
From: Philip Trowbridge, RMP Manager
Date: November 4, 2016
Subject: RMP Dredger Fee Schedule for projects in 2017-2019

Background

The RMP Steering Committee adopted a new Dredger Participant Fee Schedule Policy starting with RMP budget year 2005. The primary goal of the revised policy was to develop an equitable fee structure that would achieve the dredging group participation target of 17.5% of the total annual RMP participant fees. RMP dredger participants were divided into two fee-paying categories: Annual Fee participants and Project-Based Fee participants.

The fee structure for dredgers is reviewed every three years with the goal of achieving the dredging group participation target of 17.5% as mentioned above. Dredger fees paid in the past three RMP budget years were cumulatively \$414k below the group participation target. Therefore, RMP staff and the Bay Planning Coalition proposed to increase the per-cubic yard (cy) multiplier for both the Annual and Project-based fees. The BPC also proposed to use in-Bay disposal volumes from the prior calendar year as the basis for the fee calculation, rather than an average of disposal volumes in the five prior fiscal years.

This memorandum presents the new fee formula that will be in place for dredging done in calendar years 2017, 2018, and 2019. The revenue from these fees will be credited to RMP budget years 2018, 2019, and 2020. The new formula was approved by the RMP Steering Committee on November 1, 2016.

New Dredger Fee Schedule – Rates for dredging done in Calendar Years 2017- 2019

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Army Corps will be responsible for contributing funds to the Program through an inter-agency transfer to the U.S. Geological Survey for suspended sediment monitoring. The amount of the contribution was \$250,000 from 1993-2016. For 2017-2019, the amount of the requested contribution will be \$400,000 to adjust for inflation.

Annual Fee Participants

Annual fees apply only to the five largest in-Bay dredge disposal clients (Table 1). The rationale for separating these participants into a separate group was to provide fiscal budgeting certainty to these clients. The fees are calculated as \$0.80/cy times the in-Bay disposal volume reported for the prior calendar year. Annual Fee clients will be invoiced by March of each year for dredging done in the prior calendar year.

Table 1 - Annual Fee Rate for Dredging Performed in 2017 – 2019 (calendar year)

Annual Dredgers
PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO
CHEVRON RICHMOND LONG WHARF
VALERO REFINERY TERMINAL
PHILLIPS 66 CO, RODEO TERMINAL
PORT OF OAKLAND
Fee Formula
Formula: In-Bay Disposal Volume x \$0.80/cy
Invoicing Schedule
In March for dredging done in prior calendar year

Project-Based Fee Participants

The RMP fee for all other dredgers not listed in Table 1 is based on a sliding fee-schedule (Table 2). The fees are calculated as the base fee plus the product of the in-Bay disposal volume reported for the prior calendar year and the appropriate cost per cy multiplier. Project-Based Fee clients will be invoiced by March of each year for dredging done in the prior calendar year.

Table 2 – Project-Based Fee Rate for Dredging Performed in 2017 – 2019 (calendar year)

Disposal Vol. Range (cy)	Fee Rate
< 2,499	\$200 (base fee)
2,500 to 14,999	Vol. x \$0.45
15,000 to 34,999	Vol. x \$0.50
35,000 to 54,999	Vol. x \$0.55
> 55,000	Vol. x \$0.60

Data Source for In-Bay Disposal Volumes

In-Bay dredge disposal volumes used to calculate fees will be the post-dredge survey results provided to SFEI by the Regional Water Board and originally reported to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by dredge permit holders.

If the post-dredge survey volumes for each calendar year ending December 31 are not reported to the Regional Water Board by March 31 of the next calendar year, RMP dredger participants will be billed based on reported bin volumes, which may overestimate the volume actually dredged.

Schedule for Fee Formula Review and Revision

The fee formula for dredger clients will be reviewed in early 2019 to determine if the actual fees paid equal the total amount expected from the dredging sector. The formula and the per-cy multiplier for 2020 may be adjusted at that time. The new fee formula will be distributed to all dredging clients prior to the start of the 2020 dredging season.