

DredgeFest California

Summer 2016

The Event

DredgeFest California is an event about the past, present and future of the human manipulation of sediments in California's Bay-Delta.

- Two day-long tours of dredged landscapes—from navigational dredging of the bay to levees in the watery tracts of the delta.
- Five-day workshop which engages local stakeholders, experts (from academia, industry, and government), and students in an intensive futures-oriented visioning and visualization process. Participants will join for periods ranging from a single afternoon to the full week.
- This is the fourth DredgeFest.

DredgeFest California will address local conversations about sediment management in the context of climate change, sea-level rise, wetland restoration, the cultural landscape heritage of the Bay-Delta, and public waterfront access.

These issues are critical to the present and future health of California's Bay-Delta. The 2015 State of the Estuary report notes:

"Innovative thinking about sediment sources, transport and delivery to the Estuary is now an urgent priority. Restoring processes of sediment movement in the watershed and creating methods to deliver sediment... are both valuable approaches for restoring this fundamental physical driver. Like fresh water, sediment is a precious resource that is essential for keeping the Estuary healthy."

The Motivation

Sediment management is significant, yet often poorly understood by the public. We believe it is critical to plan, design, and manage sediment projects in a broad, systemic context. Practices such as beneficial reuse that accomplish this deserve deeper study.

We believe that sediment projects have the potential to not only satisfy immediate economic needs, like the provision of navigation through channel dredging, but also to create additional long-term value for the cultural, ecological, and economic contexts that they are embedded in. We seek to build public constituencies for this potential value and to facilitate the envisioning of these potential futures.



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The Format

DredgeFest California has two primary components, each with a different purpose.

Guided Field Tours:

- Two tours, one focused on the bay and one on the delta.
- Open to the public.
- Led by members of the DRC with guest experts.
- Offers a behind the scenes look at landscapes that are shaped by dredging, levee-building, subsidence, and other sedimentary processes.

Dredge Futures Workshop:

- An intensive futures visioning process using scenario planning and spatial modeling
- Aimed at local stakeholders; experts (from academia, industry, and government); architecture and design students.
- Facilitated by the DRC. Drop-in format is an option for participants.
- We are currently looking for workshop participants. Interested parties should contact Brett Milligan (bmilligan@ucdavis.edu) and Rob Holmes (rob.holmes@ufl.edu).



The Products

- Long-term design scenarios will be useful to stakeholders and experts, serving as the basis for further collaboration and partnerships.
- Scenarios will range in scope and scale. They will study and visualize the implications of possible future shifts in sediment management policy, physical movement of sediment, beneficial reuse, and alternative dredging techniques.
- A particular focus will be paid to creating drawings and diagrams that allow a broad range of stakeholders and members of the public to participate in discussions on sediment design and management.
- These outcomes will be communicated through publications and an exhibition of visual works.

About Us

- The Dredge Research Collaborative is an independent 501c3 nonprofit.
- Mission to advance public knowledge about sediment management; to provide platforms for transdisciplinary conversation about sediment management; and to participate in envisioning and realizing preferred sediment futures.