

Introduction

As a deep-sea port and Pacific trade gateway, Port Metro Vancouver has a responsibility to dredge for navigational purposes to ensure that tenants and customers have access to terminals for trade and commercial purposes. In addition, as a member of the Lower Mainland community, Port Metro Vancouver must consider the needs of communities who use the river for small business and recreation and whose activities do not fall under the port authority's mandate.

In 2008, Port Metro Vancouver developed a Capital Dredging Program following user consultation. The Capital Dredging Program addresses the port authority's responsibility for deep sea and domestic shipping channels that support international and domestic trade. Dredging in this context must be commercially viable and will be completed on a cost-recovery basis.

Following discussions with tenants in 2008, Port Metro Vancouver developed a dredging policy that also reflects a commitment to social responsibility to help address the issue of ongoing maintenance dredging for all users through the Local Channel Dredging Contribution Program.

Policy statement and objectives

Port Metro Vancouver is committed to undertaking and managing port-related dredging in a holistic manner consistent with its philosophy of sustainability, and in support of its corporate objectives.

The port authority's dredging policy objectives are:

1. To provide for dredging in support of international and domestic trade in a manner consistent with the purposes of the Canada Marine Act, its commercial obligations and the principle of self-sufficiency.
2. To provide for the development of a Local Contribution Program to support the dredging requirements of local communities on the Fraser River, in a manner consistent with the Port's commitment to community partnerships.
3. To provide for the development of management program that recognizes dredge material as a resource rather than a waste product and maximizes its use.

The policy itself is comprised of three programs: dredging, local contribution and materials management.

Dredging Program

In support of international and domestic trade, Port Metro Vancouver will only dredge deep sea and domestic channels and develop a 10-year Dredging Program designed to maximize the use of Port Metro Vancouver's assets. This program will be guided by the port authority's dredging philosophy.

Local Contribution Program

In support of riverfront communities, the port authority will develop a 10-year Local Contribution Program that will provide financial or other contribution to dredging projects in support of riverfront communities.

Dredge Material Management Program

In supporting the use of dredge materials as a resource rather than a waste product, the port authority will develop a 30-year Dredge Material Management Program that will maximize the commercial value of sand and other material.

The port authority's dredging policy refers to three kinds of navigation channels: deep sea, domestic and local.

- Deep sea channel refers to a navigation channel that is maintained to serve ocean-going vessels.
- Domestic channel refers to a navigation channel that is maintained predominately to serve the barge and towboat industry.
- Local channel refers to the portion of a waterway that is maintained predominantly for community, recreational or marina use.

Local Channel Dredging Contribution Program

This program will be based on the following criteria:

4. Port Metro Vancouver's contribution may only be provided to an organization(s) that represents the interests of those communities as identified in Port Metro Vancouver's list of eligible communities, and which have registered with the B.C. Corporate Registry as a Society or B.C. Company.
5. Community plans must be sustainable and long term (8 to 10 years)
6. The contribution is not to exceed \$500,000 per "local channel" over a 10-year period
7. The total cost of the contribution program is not to exceed \$7 million over a 10-year period.
8. Advanced funds will be available to eligible communities. These funds can be used for activities directly related to preparing a full application for funding.

Port Metro Vancouver will also provide support to communities mobilizing toward sustainable dredging plans as part of our commitment to playing a leadership role on this important river community issue. Applications will be available in 2009.