

# Managing Dredging Information in San Francisco Bay: an Interagency Solution

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#### The DMMO

# Dredged Material Management Office

- Based in San Francisco Bay
- Members include the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Regional Water Quality Control Board, State Lands Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with participation from Fish and Game, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service

## Purpose

To cooperatively review sediment quality information and make suitability determinations for material proposed for disposal in San Francisco Bay



# Managing Dredging Information

# Data Management (done well) is Hard

- Ideal options involve trained data scientists with knowledge of dredging and passion for data quality
- Software and hardware components are only part of the solution, somewhat limited due to specialties of dredging data

# Success Requires Ownership and Buy-In

- Planning should focus on long-term ownership of the data
- Users should understand the value of well-managed data, and receive sufficient training to capitalize on information availability

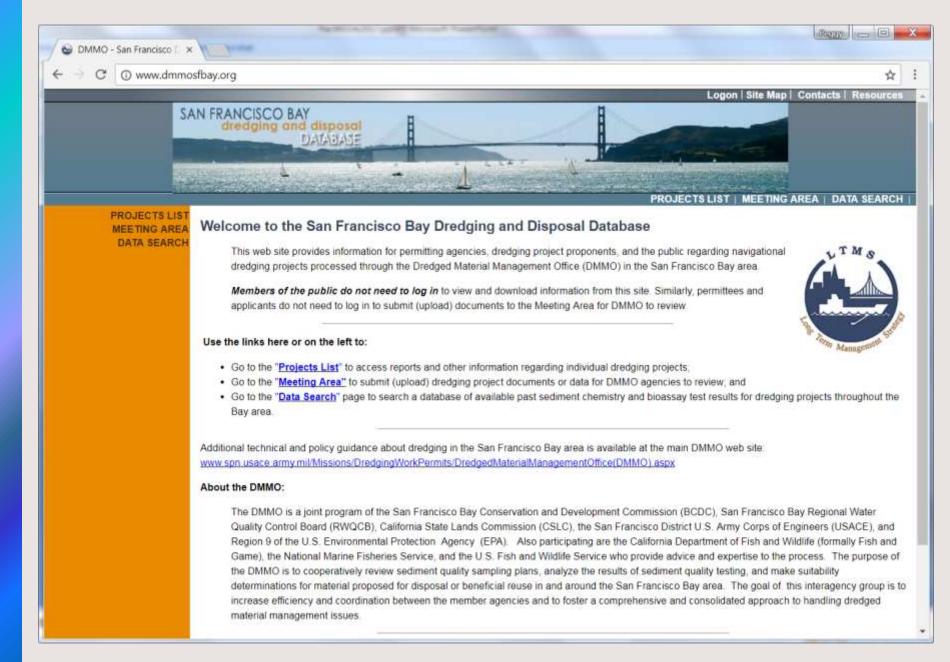
# Data Organization is Key

Know your data, how it is interrelated, and what questions it needs to answer



# Early Project Stages

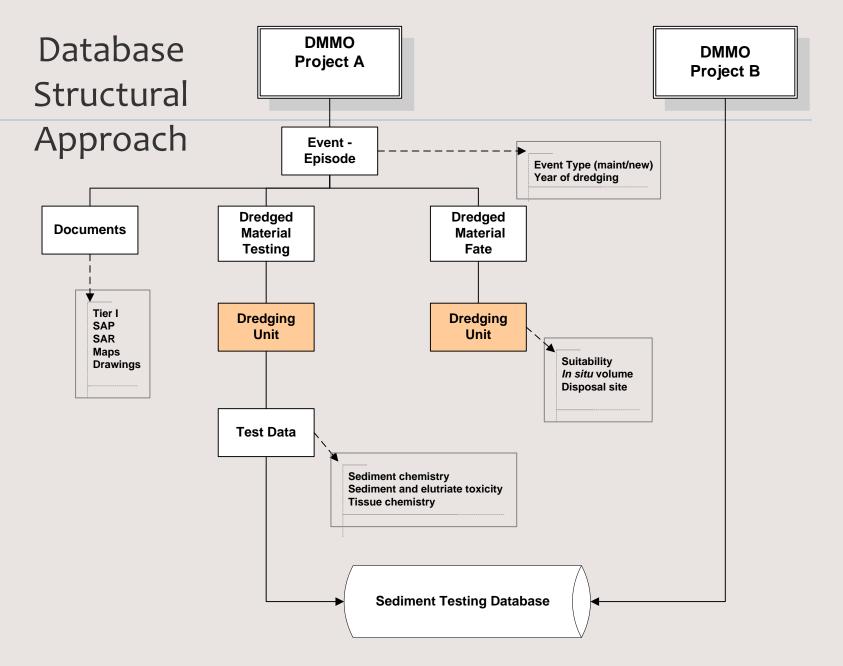
- DMMO Data Problems Defined
  - Lack of access to testing data
- Mission Needs Statement
  - Interviews with the DMMO and selected applicants
  - MNS defined existing workflow and data sources
  - Recommendations for systematic approach
- Historic Data Migration
- Modular Development
- Testing Data Template and QA/QC Requirements
- Lead to Design and Implementation of DMMO Website



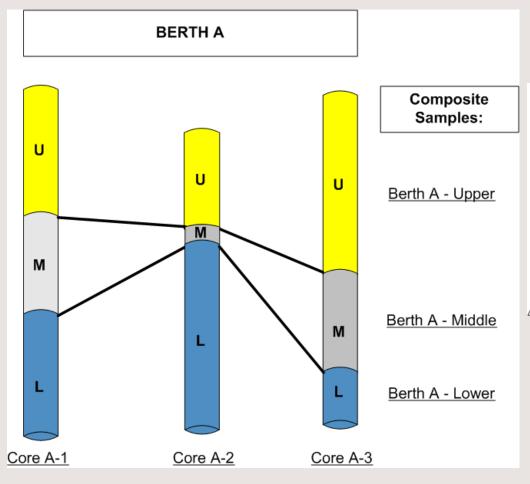


## Features of the DMMO Solution

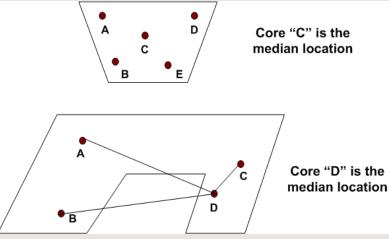
- Provides Access to Active/Historic Project Information
  - Organization is centered on Projects/Applicants
- Supports Internally-Checked Standardized Templates
  - Templates for sediment, elutriate, and tissue chemistry and bioassay data, as well as dredging planning and field data
  - Website includes automated upload and checking of templates
- Facilitates DMMO Meetings
  - Meeting Room features recent documents and approval status
- Supported by Comprehensive Historic Data
  - Website includes standard and custom query functionality



# Dredging Data Complexity: the Composite



- Composite Location
  - Median coordinates



- Composite Depth
  - Average of upper and lower depths



# DMMO Testing Data Template

#### Purpose and Goals

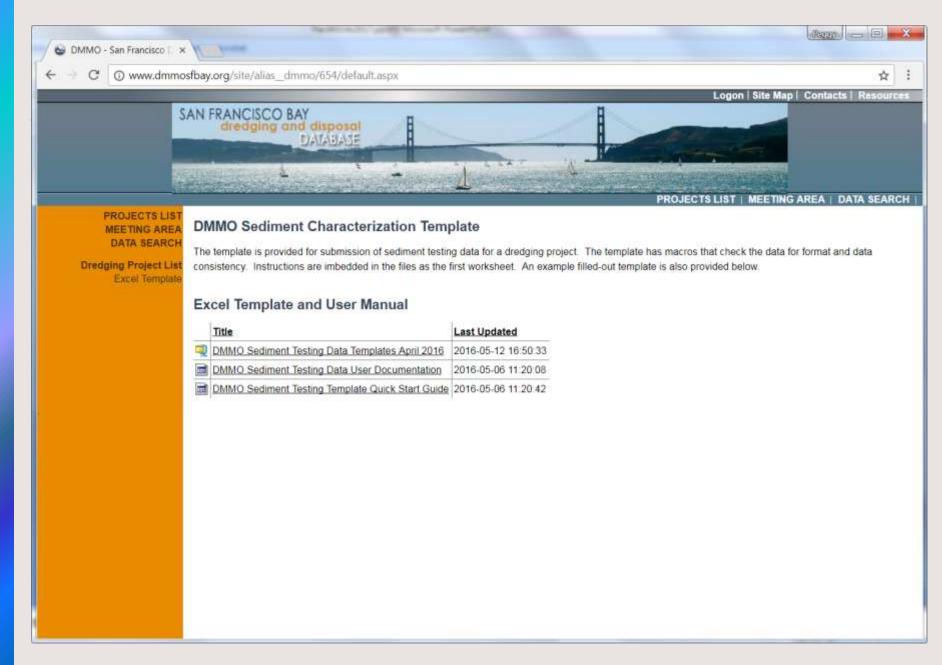
- Incorporate standard, high quality testing data for use by the DMMO, dredging applicants, and the general public
- Reduce the time required to manage the information by DMMO staff

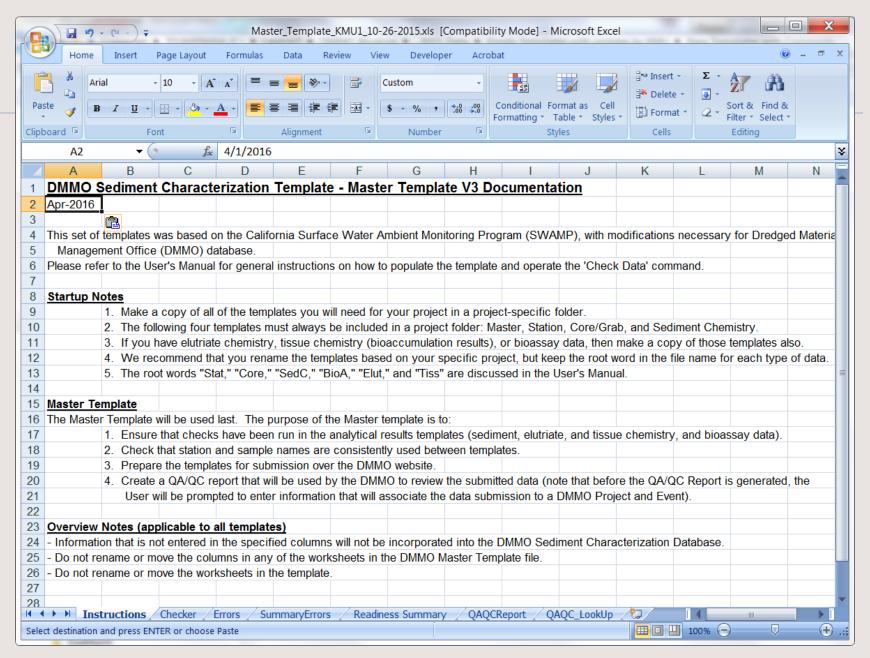
## Includes Laboratory and Field Collection Information

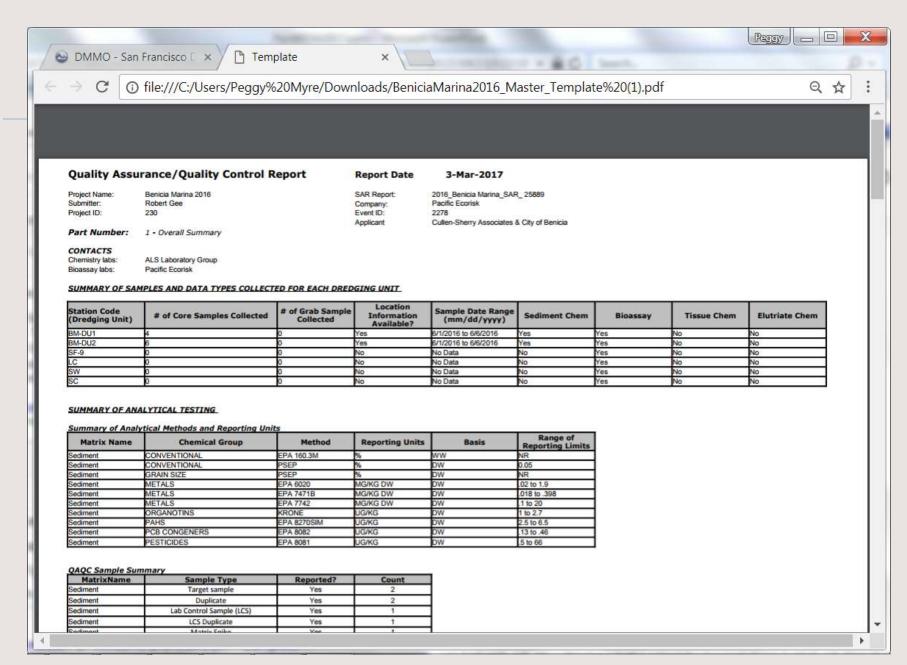
- Laboratory templates include internal checks for formatting and QA/QC sample types
- A final Master template checks between templates so that Composite field and laboratory samples are linked

#### Other Features

- ► Compatible with California valid value standards (e.g., CEDEN)
- Includes full documentation









#### Projects

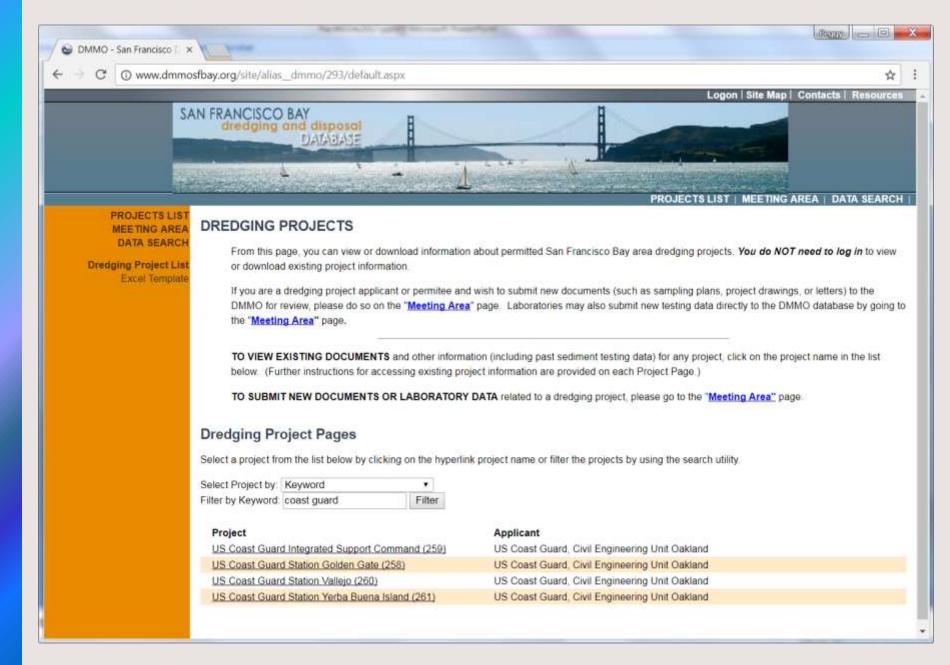
- A project can be an applicant (e.g., Port of Oakland) or a federal navigation project (e.g., Pinole Shoal)
- One cycle of application, testing, dredging and disposal is called an "Event"

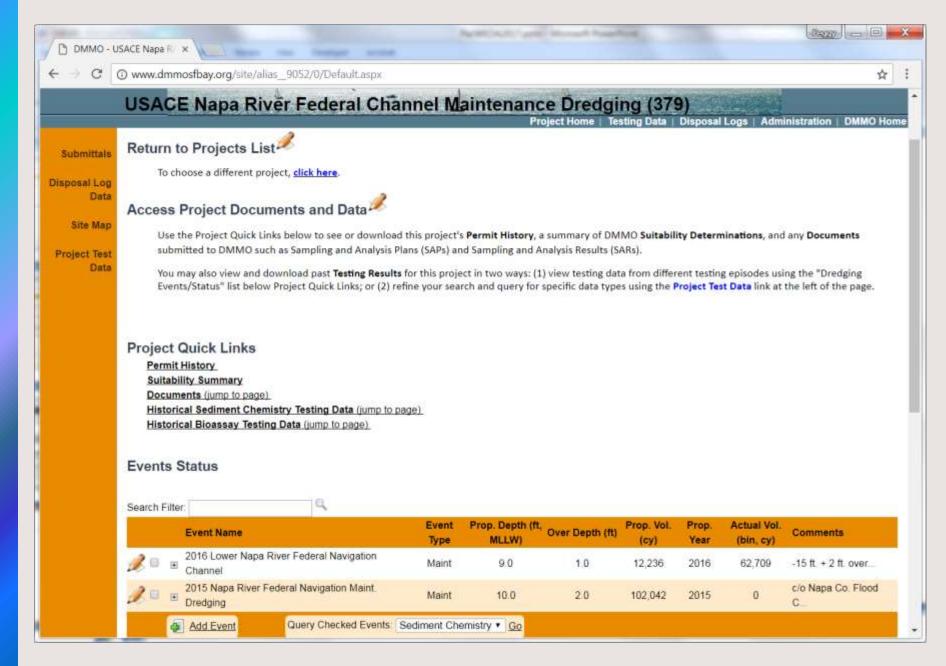
## Upload Data and Documents

Includes both document and template upload procedures

# Meeting Area

- Provides area for DMMO to review data and documents prior to a DMMO meeting
- Sediment Testing Database Query and Download







#### Projects

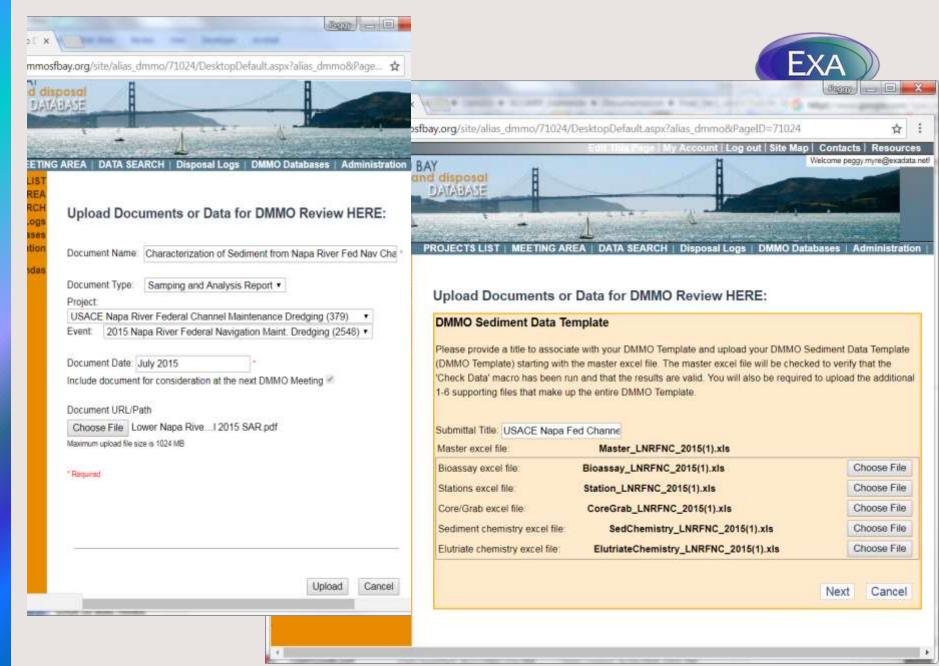
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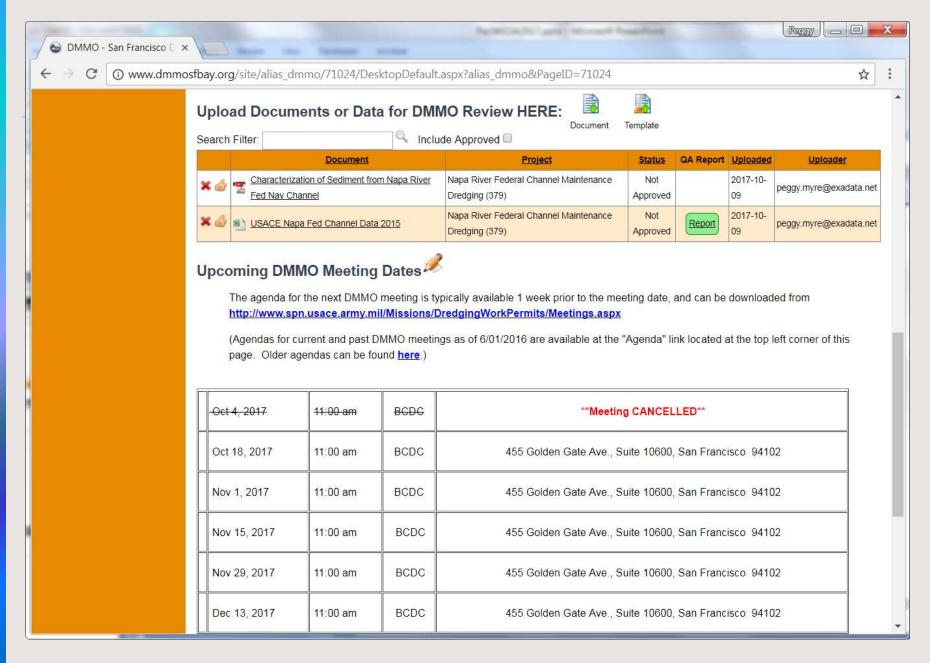
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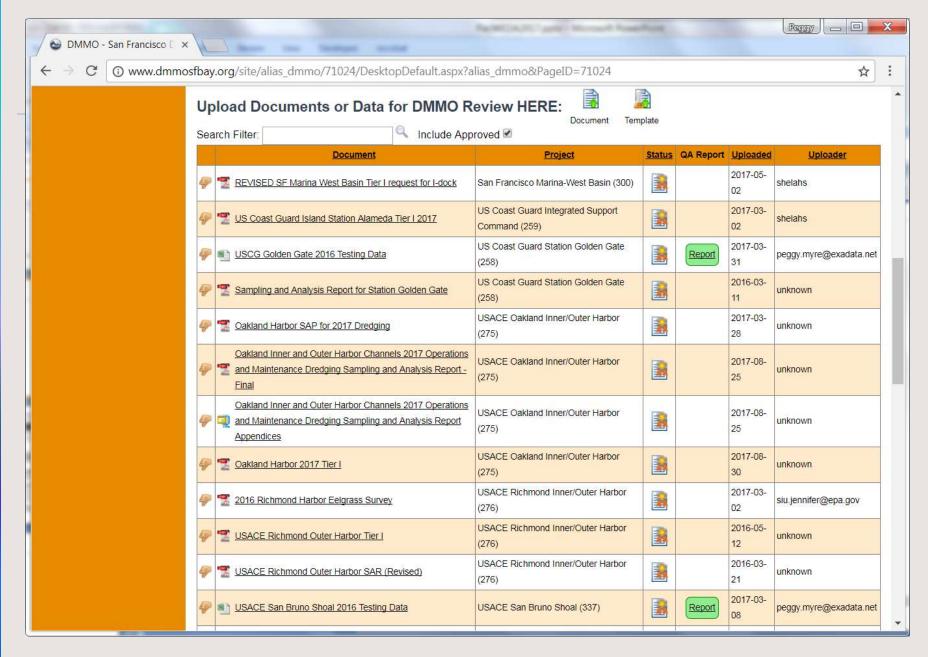
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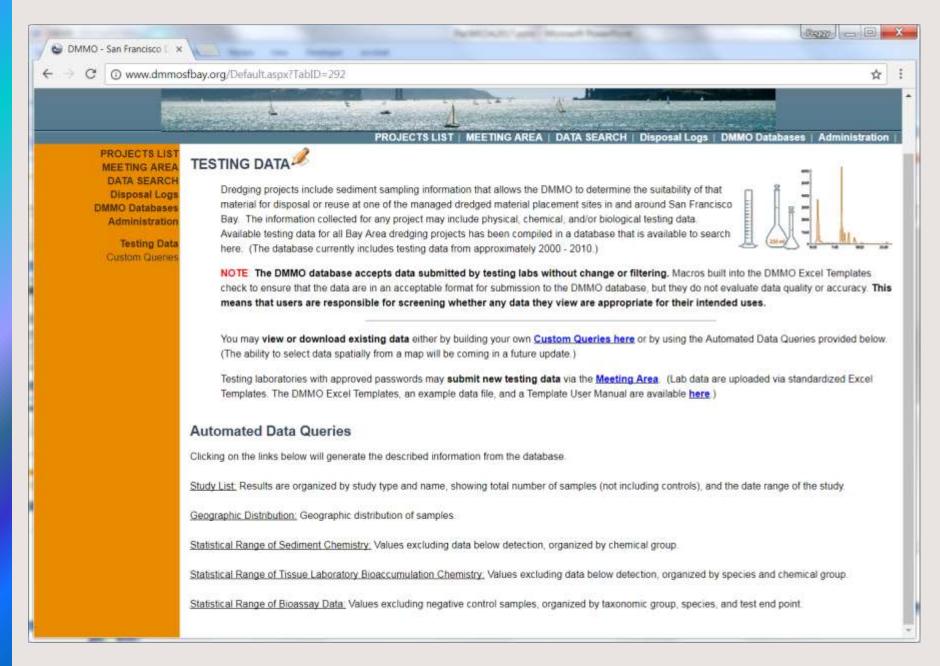
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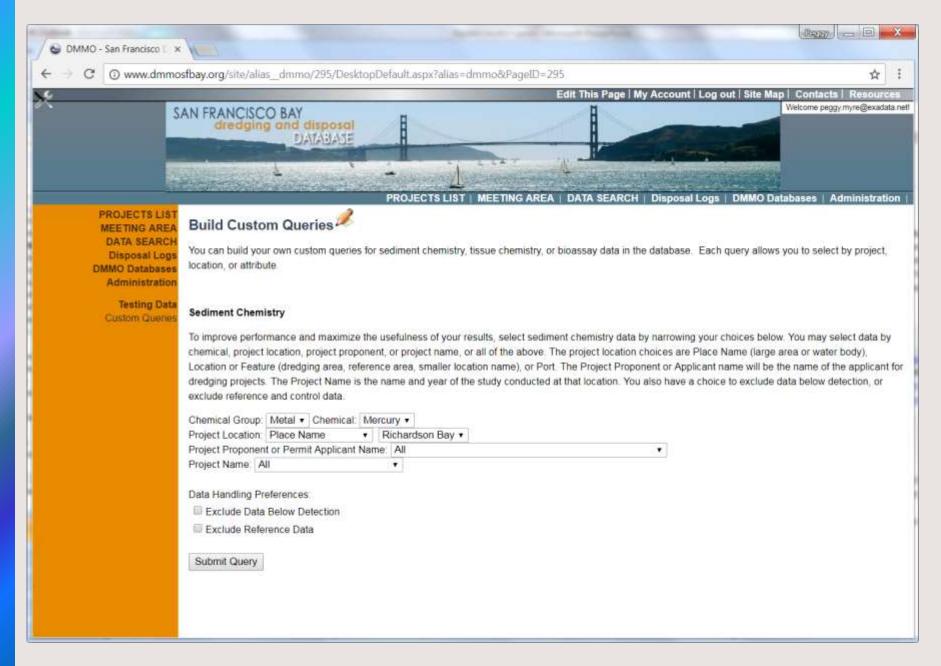
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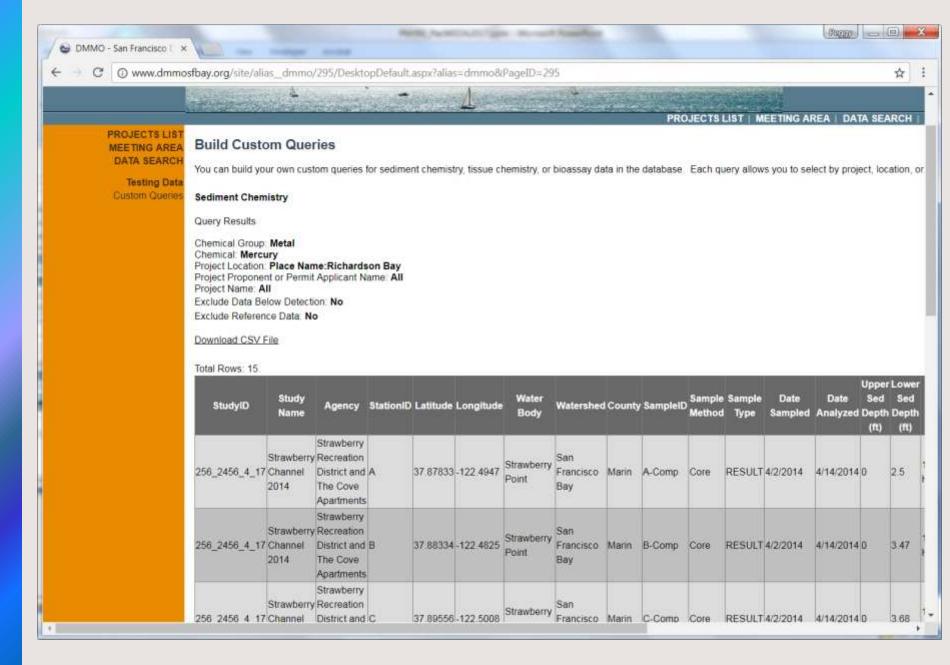
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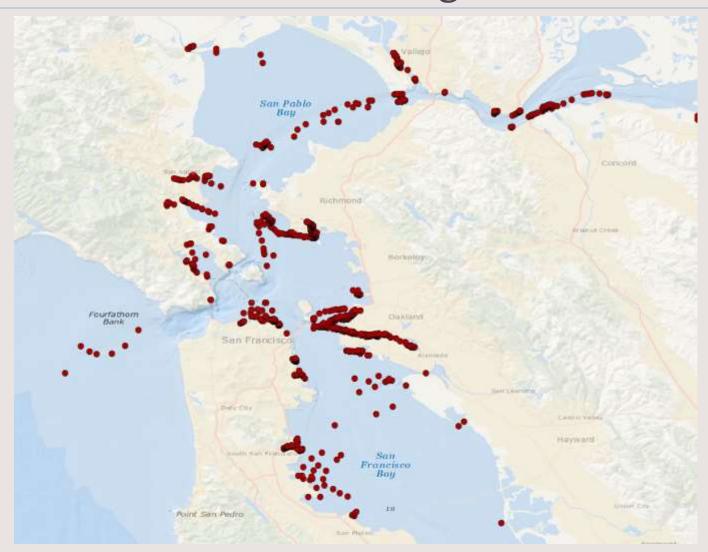


# Content of the Testing Database

Database Element	Number of Records
Studies (Project/Event)	240
Cores	4,423
Composite Samples (including reference)	2,159
Chemistry Records	
Sediment chemistry	146,080
Elutriate chemistry	5,867
Tissue chemistry	127,455
Bioassay Record	
Replicate results	36,182
Summary results	14,797



# Station Distribution in Testing Data





#### What Has Worked

## Improved Information Sharing

 Document management prior to, during, and after dredging projects has facilitated DMMO discussion and decisions

# Project Tracking

Easy viewing of dredging events and episodes within a project,
with suitability, summary volume and disposal information

# Readily-Available Historic Information

- Streamlines historic review of a proposed dredging site
- Bay-wide regional use of testing data

# Long-term Planning

Discussions with SFEI for assistance in data management



#### Lessons Learned

# Ownership is the Key to Longevity

- Discussions continue on long-term plan for managing data
- Important to have participants that understand data science
- Build in training for data providers and users

#### Enforcement

The system does not work without incoming information

# A Living Project

- The database must reflect updates to dredging regulations, testing methods, and other regulatory changes
- Hardware, software, and internet security issues are never static and must be considered in long-term planning



#### **Take-Home Points**

#### A Successful Data Management Approach

- Needs Assessment Know your data
- Planning Data management plan, short- and long-term
- Ownership and Buy-in Data providers and users

#### Data Management Plan: Phases or Modules

- Data migration
- System design and development
- ▶ Testing, documentation, long-term maintenance

#### Data Organization and Personnel are Key

- What information do you have, how is it interrelated, and what questions does it needs to answer?
- Involve data scientists who understand dredging and are passionate about data



# Acknowledgements

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