

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
November 14, 2023

New Business

ITEM 10a

Sand Replenishment – Regional Efforts

City of San Clemente

- USACE 50 Year Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project: This project is anticipated to begin late November/early December and involves dredging 251,000 cubic yards of sand from an offshore site and pumping it onshore in the City. This is a federally authorized 50-year project with planned renourishment events occurring every six years through 2074.
- Nature Based Coastal Resiliency Project Feasibility Study: The City initiated this study in November 2022 to identify companion strategies to retain sand and optimize the effectiveness of the 50-year beach sand project. The City conducted a public workshop in September 2023 to get community input on preliminary draft design concepts and the comment period on the design concepts is open through 11/17/23.

****Note: The District attended the San Clemente workshop in September and listened to the Moffat & Nichol presentation and will continue following this study.**

- Offshore Borrow Site Investigation: The goal of this effort is to find beach quality sand in large volume to support long term beach nourishment in the City and region. The City is seeking support from the USACE and the CCC to provide necessary funding to conduct this effort which is anticipated to get underway in late 2023 or early 2024.

City of Oceanside

- RE:BEACH Project: This is an international design competition initiated by the City in 2023 to identify optimal strategies for promoting coastal resiliency in the City by adding sand to the City shoreline and keeping the sand in place. Three teams are competing for the opportunity to advance their designs. The City has assembled a “jury” of coastal professionals to provide input. Two public workshops have been held to date and a third is planned for December 13, 2023. The City Council will select one team in January 2024 to advance to the next stage of engineering design, environmental review and permitting.

****Note: The District was invited to a special meeting with the Australian firm to hear their sand and beach-building strategy that has been in use for years ‘down under’.**

County of Orange

- Orange County Sand Compatibility and Opportunistic Use Program (SCOUP): The County is working to develop a formal opportunistic sediment reuse program for all beaches in Orange County. The SCOUP program is still in early stages of development and is approximately 1 year away from being completed. The County is working to define the parameters of the program and will conduct environmental review and permitting processes over the next 12 months.

*****Note: The District attended a recent SCOUP webinar to learn more about how this might impact our beach and will continue to follow the progress. On page three is a summary of that meeting to provide a bit more depth into the program.***

- County of Orange, Regional Coastal Resiliency Strategic Plan: This document is in process and is the culmination of a two-year process to solicit public input on key regional coastal resiliency goals. No schedule for public input or additional stakeholder meetings has been identified by the County as of the date of this report.

SANDAG (San Diego Area of Governments)

- Regional Beach Sand Project (RBSP) III: SANDAG is gearing up to implement a third project beginning in early 2024. SANDAG is coordinating with all stakeholders in the Orange County portion of the Oceanside Littoral Cell to gauge their level of interest to participate. Interested parties will be asked to sign an agreement with SANDAG for the Phase I planning effort expected to be initiated in late 2023 or early 2024.

*****Note: The District has been in contact with SANDAG to express interest in the project for the Orange County portion. There will be some upfront costs for participation but we haven't progressed that far yet and will continue to monitor this project.***

- Sediment Management Technical Taskforce - Oceanside Littoral Cell: SANDAG has established this Task Force to provide regional coordination and collaboration opportunities for stakeholders in the Oceanside Littoral Cell (Orange County & San Diego County) in support of the planned RBSP III. The next meeting will be January 18, 2024.

California State Lands Commission (CSLC)

- The State is currently developing a Shoreline Adaptation Report that is in the draft stages for public comment at this time. All interested stakeholders have been invited to review the draft report and provide input.

*****Note: The District submitted its comments based on a comprehensive review by the Advisory Committee team of coastal planners, policy experts, coastal engineer, and coastal attorneys.***

Opportunity Sand Grab Online (SCOUP) by Orange County Parks & OC Public Works

Executive Summary:

Don Russell & Jack Tarr in attendance on behalf of the Capistrano Bay District.

- 14 people in attendance with the dominant attendees being very proactive San Clemente stakeholders including City of San Clemente consultant.
- **Purpose:** The purpose of the meeting was to give participants with emphasis towards public agencies an update on status of trying to establish a “Global Permit” for opportunities to place sand as opportunities arise primarily in regard to the Army Corp permitting process. The County represented they are about 1 year away from having this accelerated permitting available. This would be a permit that would already be “in-place” for immediate use if the sand became available. This is a collaborative initiative between the State and Federal authorities. However, the standard sediment compatibility and pollution testing for the sediment will still be required.
- **Funding:** The standard funding has traditionally been from Local, State or Federal Grants that can take months and years to compete for. Orange County has no funding to offer, in advance, but in the case of the Capistrano Beach Park, identified some internal funding and is seeking other grants for future phases. This “dialing for dollars” process would appear to be a significant barrier to entry. It also “pits” neighboring communities against each other in competition for grants and may or may not coincide with the timing of an “Opportunity Grab” of available sediment.
- **Sediment Source Identification:** The County is engaging with other municipalities to identify potential sources of sediment.
- **Opportunity Grab Decision Priorities:** The County will be the primary decision-maker as to what Community gets priority over available sand. Detail criteria for how the County would decide who gets priority type of decision was not discussed and seemed to be subjective.
- **Organizational Structure:** At this time, this initiative is being processed by well-meaning government employees between several government departments. The “group” by their own acknowledgement does not have a title nor a definitive budget and is a loosely formed group but providing a sincere effort.