

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
February 27, 2024

Advisory Committee

ITEM 7a

SANDAG Report/City of Dana Point

Provided on the following three pages is the City's report explaining the SANDAG Project and the details of what we can anticipate as an eventual outcome or end goal of new sandy beaches.

In short, the San Diego Association of Governments is working to create a region-wide sand replenishment project extending from the Dana Point Headlands south to La Jolla. This region of the Southern California coastline is referred to by marine scientists as the Oceanside Littoral Cell, and it is only fitting that San Clemente and Dana Point be included with the San Diego County group.

To this end, both San Clemente and Dana Point have been invited to join forces with SANDAG. It's not a free ride, however. The Dana Point portion is \$124,576.00. This is a lot to ask of a City that doesn't have a lot of beach within the Oceanside Littoral Cell that is under its management. The harbor is operated by the County, then there's Doheny State Beach as you move south, then the County Beach Park before reaching Capistrano Bay Beach.

After lengthy discussion with the Committee and engineers, it was clear that whatever sand is eventually placed on the beaches north of Beach Road will most certainly migrate south to our beach. We are already seeing evidence of this with new sand on our beach from the sand recently placed just to the north of us last fall by the County.

Given this fact of natural sand transport, it would only be fair for the District to cost-share with the City. As a result, the District has offered \$25,000 to help offset the City's cost burden. If you recall, this action was taken at the January Board meeting. Additionally, the County of Orange has also pitched in about \$45,000. Needless to say, the City of Dana Point is very pleased with the assistance and show of support by the District and the County.

To be clear, this first phase of the project will not result in any sand placed on the beach. This is to launch scientific studies to develop a plan for eventual replenishment. We have a ways to go before this can happen, but the good news is that our area is now included in this regional effort, and that the regional conversation is gaining momentum.

To learn more about the SANDAG organization go to:

www.sandag.org

SANDAG REPORT

CITY OF DANA POINT

AGENDA REPORT

ITEM NO. 7a

DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2024

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: BRENDA WISNESKI, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOHN CIAMPA, PRINCIPAL PLANNER

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS REGIONAL BEACH
SAND PROJECT III PHASE I

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the City Council:

- 1) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) for the Regional Beach Sand Project III, Phase I activities; and
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to enter into a future MOU with the County of Orange and a reimbursement agreement Capistrano Community Services District to share in the City's contributions for Phase I; and
- 3) Authorize a budget adjustment as discussed in the Fiscal Impact section of this report.

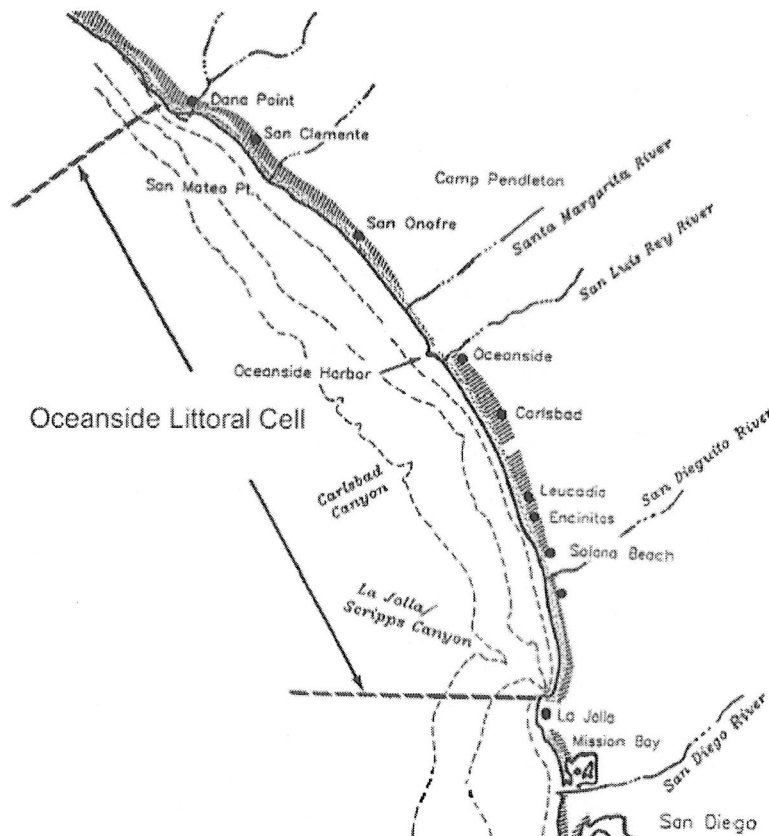
BACKGROUND:

The City of Dana Point has the opportunity to participate in the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Regional Beach Sand Project III (RBSP III) to study the potential to replenish sand on beaches south of the Dana Point Harbor jetty. The City is located in what is referred to as the Oceanside Littoral Cell ("Cell"), a section of shoreline that encompasses intertidal and nearshore movement of sediment. The Cell stretches from Dana Point to La Jolla. SANDAG has been the lead agency for such studies for San Diego, and recently determined that the City of Dana Point's location makes it eligible for participation in RBSP III. Additionally, the participation of Dana Point and San Clemente will aid in cost sharing and improve competitiveness for limited State and Federal funding support.

SANDAG's first RBSP occurred in 2001 and resulted in sand deposits of two million cubic yards on beaches in San Diego County. In 2012, SANDAG implemented RBSP II which placed 1.5 million additional cubic yards of sand in the region. SANDAG's Shoreline Preservation Strategy identified a regional (Oceanside to La Jolla) need for approximately 30 million cubic yards of sand to address existing and future public beach restoration and

indicated a necessity to increase frequency and magnitude to meet regional coastal resiliency goals.

Figure 1: Oceanside Littoral Cell



Beach nourishment is a key strategy being utilized by several other cities in the region and aligns with State guidance that promotes beach sand replenishment as natural infrastructure and is a preferred “soft” or green coastal resiliency solution. Wide beaches help protect coastal communities and critical public infrastructure, including coastal transportation facilities, by acting as a buffer to alleviate the effects of strong storm events, high tides, King Tides, and rising seas.

DISCUSSION:

The overall objectives of RBSP III are to:

(1) Identify beach erosion areas that may impact critical public infrastructure - SANDAG will conduct a Phase I study for RBSP III that will use information from SANDAG’s Round 1 California’s Senate Bill 1 - Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grant to identify transportation, critical public infrastructure, and other facilities that may be impacted by sea-level rise and may benefit from the project.

(2) Evaluate the economic costs and benefits - As part of the RBSP III, Phase I tasks, SANDAG will prepare an economic analysis including quantification of costs and benefits of beach sand replenishment. The economic analysis will include preliminary cost estimates of a range of project alternatives that may include sand retention, a benefit-to-cost analysis of project alternatives, and a discussion of economic effects. This economic analysis will be summarized in the feasibility study and included as an appendix to the final document.

(3) Complete a feasibility study for a future regional beach nourishment project and alternatives; and

(4) Create a plan for surveying offshore sand borrow sites to ensure adequate quantities of sand are available to continue to nourish the region's beaches. The eventual implementation in a future phase of RBSP III would involve dredging beach-quality sand from identified offshore borrowing sites and placing it on eroded beaches.

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Action Document A) is required for the City to be a part of the RBSP III planning effort. The MOU would appropriate City funds not to exceed \$124,576.32 to allow for the preliminary planning activities for the RBSP III feasibility study and economic analysis. The City is coordinating with the Capistrano Shores Community Services District ("Beach Road"), along with the County of Orange through Supervisor Katrina Foley and OC Parks Department to share in the required local contributions to the Phase I effort, and future Phases of the project. SANDAG has directed that they will only enter into an MOU for this phase with the City; therefore, separate cost-sharing agreements will be drafted and submitted to Council for approval at an upcoming meeting. Beach Road's Board of Directors and Supervisor Foley verbally committed \$25,000 and \$49,788.16, respectively for their share of the total cost.

SANDAG has selected AECOM Technical Services, Inc. as the contractor to manage the RBSP III Project and has indicated that Phase I tasks will be initiated in early 2024, and that the full Phase 1 scope of work will be completed within 12-18 months after receipt of all funds from cost-sharing / participating entities.

A meeting will be scheduled with interested stakeholders to review the draft Phase I deliverables and solicit feedback. Comments from stakeholders may also be submitted in writing and revisions to the Phase I deliverables will be made as needed. Comments from SANDAG staff and interested stakeholders will be integrated into a final version of Phase I deliverables which will be incorporated into the RBSP III Feasibility Study.

Participation in RBSP III Phase I activities does not commit the City to work on any portion of RBSP III beyond Phase I per the terms of the MOU. It is anticipated that SANDAG will allocate cost sharing for RBSP III, Phase II tasks according to the length of shoreline nourished or based on a cubic yard volume of sand to be collected and distributed. Once SANDAG determines each jurisdiction's proportional share, Staff will return to the City Council with information on the funding amount and request City Council confirmation of interest in participation and payment of the next phase cost share. If the City remains interested in participating in the next phase of the RBSP III, a second MOU with SANDAG would be required.