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SanDag Selects Oceanside's RE:BEACH As The Regional Sand Retention Pilot Project

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Oceanside, CA – June, 2025 – On Thursday, June 5th the SANDAG Shoreline Preservation Working Group (SPWG) selected the City of Oceanside's RE:BEACH project as the region's representative pilot project that seeks to employ the use of innovative sand retention techniques to restore beaches. The designation fulfills a key goal identified in the 2001 SANDAG Regional Sand Retention Strategy. With this designation, SANDAG will incorporate RE:BEACH into future updates of its shoreline policy and planning documents, collaborate with the City of Oceanside during the environmental compliance process to identify impacts and mitigation for the RE:BEACH project, support the City of Oceanside with its efforts to seek construction funding, and align the implementation of SANDAG's third Regional Beach Sand Project (RBSP III) and RE:BEACH.

"The design is exciting... We want to build a state of the art, science-based system that all our coastal systems can use. We recognize millions of people rely on access to the ocean for their wellbeing, and this is critical for that to be an accessible resource in Oceanside and beyond." – Eric Joyce, Deputy Mayor, City of Oceanside

The SPWG has 13 voting members including elected officials from the coastal and bayfront cities and County of San Diego, as well as representatives from the Port of San Diego and U.S. Navy. Additionally, the SPWG has several non-voting advisory members who are representatives from community organizations, environmental groups, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and state and federal agencies.

At its June 5 meeting, the SPWG approved the designation, based on RE:BEACH's potential to inform the whole region about responsible sand retention. SPWG members recognized Oceanside's pilot project as an innovative solution that aims to add additional tools to the coastal management toolbox in a location that has historically struggled to maintain sandy beaches despite past nourishment efforts. The project's robust baseline monitoring program, recently funded by a \$1.835M grant from the California Coastal Commission, was also praised for its potential to enhance the understanding of shoreline dynamics both locally and regionally.

“We are proud that RE: BEACH will deliver a wide, sandy beach that Oceanside’s residents and our region’s beachgoers will enjoy in just a few years. This affirms our vision that RE:BEACH will benefit the entire region. We are grateful to SANDAG for helping develop and establish partnerships with our neighboring cities to learn together from this important pilot.” – *Jonathan Borrego, City Manager, City of Oceanside*

RE:BEACH represents a bold, science-driven approach to address the chronic coastal erosion and limited sediment supply issues in Oceanside. The project includes the design and construction of a multi-purpose offshore artificial reef and two headlands, supported by nearshore and onshore beach nourishment. This SPWG’s decision builds on recent momentum to update regional sediment transport knowledge. In 2023, the SPWG formed a Sediment Management Technical Taskforce (SMTT) to update the understanding of how sediment moves within the Oceanside Littoral Cell. Over the course of a year, the SMTT-Oceanside Littoral Cell met with key researchers from Scripps Institution of Oceanography and UC Irvine highlighting state of the art research and observations on sediment dynamics. Topics ranged from existing regional shoreline monitoring programs, current understanding of how sediment moves within the littoral cells, lagoon inlet maintenance and challenges, and a review of the existing SANDAG Shoreline Policy documents.

“What we learn from RE:BEACH could transform the methods on how we manage our dynamic beaches across the region. As the region’s pilot project, it offers a unique opportunity to share insights on both the project development process and implementation aspects of the novel concept design with all of San Diego’s coastal communities.” – *Jayme Timberlake, Coastal Zone Administrator, City of Oceanside*

With the selection, SANDAG will incorporate RE:BEACH into future updates of its shoreline policy and planning documents. Updates to SANDAG’s shoreline policy documents would be brought to the SPWG members for review and to seek recommendations for approval by the Regional Planning Committee and SANDAG Board of Directors.

For more information about RE:BEACH, visit rebeach.org.