



# AGENDA REPORT

SAN CLEMENTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Meeting Date: April 16, 2019

Agenda Item 6-0  
**Approvals:**  
City Manager [Signature]  
Dept. Head [Signature]  
Attorney [Signature]  
Finance [Signature]

**Department:** Public Works  
**Prepared By:** Tom Bonigut, Public Works Director

**Subject:** **APPROVE LETTER REQUESTING FEDERAL FUNDING SUPPORT FOR BEACH SAND REPLENISHMENT.**

**Fiscal Impact:** None with this action.

**Summary:** This action requests City Council approval of a letter to the City's congressional representatives concerning funding for beach sand replenishment.

**Discussion:** The City has been in a process for many years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps of Engineers) to pursue a Federally-sponsored beach sand replenishment project along a portion of the City's shoreline. The San Clemente project was authorized in the 2014 Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) which makes the project eligible for Federal funding, subject to future approved Federal budgets. Following the WRRDA authorization, the City and Corps of Engineers executed a cost sharing agreement for the Preliminary Engineering and Design (PED) phase, which is the precursor to project construction (i.e. actual sand replenishment). The City has fully funded its local sponsor share of the PED phase cost with a combination of City General Funds and State grant funds, and certain required habitat and coastal resource monitoring and survey activities have begun. However, the PED phase is in danger of being suspended because the Corps did not receive requested funding to complete PED.

The cities of Solana Beach and Encinitas are also in process with the Corps to pursue sand replenishment, but they have not been able to start PED due to lack of Federal funding support. Recently staff of the three cities met to discuss this issue, and agreed that it would be appropriate to engage our elected congressional representatives to raise awareness of this issue, and to request support to secure funding for these beach sand replenishment projects, which meet the Corps of Engineers criteria for funding. In addition to the PED phase, the City has secured significant grant funding from the State for the construction phase which, combined with City funds, would make the San Clemente project ready to implement if Federal funds would be allocated to this sand replenishment effort.

## **Recommended**

**Action:** STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the City Council approve and authorize the Mayor to sign the attached letter to the City's congressional representatives to request Federal funding support for the Corps of Engineer's San Clemente beach sand replenishment project.

**Notification:** None.

**Attachment:** Proposed letter.

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April X, 2019

Dear Senator/Representative:

The cities of Solana Beach, Encinitas and San Clemente are writing to express our united request for your support for our efforts to secure funding for the Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) phase of our Federally-authorized shore protection projects. We each have been pursuing our Corps projects for more than 15 years to improve coastal resiliency. Our communities need protection from sea level rise, climate change and severe waves that rode our coastlines. As you know, one project lies within the City of San Clemente and the other covers both the cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach. While the East and Gulf Coasts have projects funded largely from post-disaster funds allocated to the Army Corps of Engineers, the West Coast has been ignored.

The coast of California receives high-energy long-period swells, as well as winter storms and strong onshore winds that contribute to the severe erosion that has plagued the coastline for decades. As a result, crumbling bluffs in our communities have delayed passenger and freight trains as well as military cargo and have regrettably caused the recent death of 5 individuals. While the Los Angeles District and the South Pacific Division of the Corps have given us support throughout the lengthy study process, we have been stymied by the White House Office of Management and Budget which says our benefit-cost ratio is not high enough. It is ironic that, as we built closer to the coast and more densely, OMB would presumably have to find some other objection to support their unwillingness to expand the half-century-old Federal coastal storm damage reduction program to the West Coast.

The effects of sea level rise are being felt now in our communities and as mitigation costs grow substantially into the future, the coast of California cannot wait any longer to further improve its resilience initiatives. It is our duty as elected local officials to identify solutions to the issues listed below for our coastal constituents and the millions of Americans who visit our state every year. The following priorities are of greatest concern along our coastline:

- **Shoreline erosion**
  - Without our beaches for residents and tourists to visit, our coast loses valuable revenue and taxes that spread inland
- **Tidal flooding**
  - Tidal flooding directing influences traffic congestion, declining home values and damages water quality
- **Bluff collapse**
  - Collapses have caused deaths of numerous individuals and continue to delay both passenger and freight trains passing through Southern California

Your continued support is critical to ensuring that the Federal government invests in our pro-active efforts to increase resilience in our communities today that will pay off long into the future, benefiting our constituents and their businesses by lowering insurance premiums, improving quality of life and certainty in the risk-value of property.

Sincerely,

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David Zito, Mayor  
City of Solana Beach

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Catherine Blakespear, Mayor  
City of Encinitas

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Steven Swartz, Mayor  
City of San Clemente