



# AGENDA REPORT

## CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING

910 Calle Negocio  
2nd Floor  
San Clemente, California  
[www.san-clemente.org](http://www.san-clemente.org)

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**Meeting Date:** September 5, 2023

Agenda Item: 7H

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**Department:** City Manager

**Prepared By:** Leslea Meyerhoff, Consulting Coastal Administrator

**Subject:**

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION FOR IDENTIFICATION OF OFFSHORE SAND SOURCES AND FINDING THE PROJECT CATEGORICALLY EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT UNDER CLASS 6**

**Fiscal Impact:**

Yes. Approval of the grant is anticipated to result in the City obtaining one or more sources of funding that would support implementation of a high priority coastal resiliency task to locate additional offshore sources of beach quality sand deposits.

**Summary:**

Before the City Council is a resolution that would authorize the submittal of a grant application to the California Coastal Commission (CCC) for funding to support the identification of offshore sand sources and to pursue other supplemental grant funding opportunities to support continued San Clemente Coastal Resiliency Plan implementation actions, efforts and projects, and to authorize the City Manager to enter into the grant agreements, if awarded.

**Background:**

In 2022, the City Council reaffirmed that the development of additional coastal resiliency projects that can deliver sand to the City's beaches remains a top near-term and long-term City priority. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Project will begin placing sand on the City's beaches in late 2023. The USACE Project will place 251,000 cubic yards of sand on approximately 3,412 linear feet of beach between Linda Lane on the north and T-Street on the south. Renourishment is planned to occur every six years from 2023- 2073. The City has expressed interest in (1) finding ways to keep the sand in place for as long as possible and (2) supplementing other City beaches with additional sand sources.

**Discussion:**

A key coastal resource in the City remains the sandy beach, which is valuable in terms of public enjoyment for residents and visitors, community well-being, quality of life, and ecosystem services such as storm damage protection and intertidal habitat for plant and animal species.

As a supplemental task, and key recommendation of the 2021 Coastal Resiliency Plan, additional sand sources need to be identified. The USACE project will utilize an offshore sand deposit located north of Oceanside Harbor. However, as a regional coastal resiliency leader, it is essential that the City begin to develop additional beach quality sand deposits in the offshore area that can be used to support beach sand replenishment programs in San Clemente. The

CCC grant would fund the identification of offshore sand borrow sites. In addition, staff will pursue other grant funding opportunities as they arise to fully fund the scope of work.

If a grant is awarded to the City by the CCC, the grant scope of work would include preparation of a focused Local Coastal Program (LCP) amendment to incorporate the findings and recommendations of the offshore borrow site investigation.

***Council Options:***

- Adopt Resolution No. 23-91 authorizing the submittal of a grant application to the California Coastal Commission and entry into a grant agreement, if awarded and finding the project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- Modify and adopt Resolution No. 23-91.
- Continue the item with direction to staff to provide additional information.
- Deny resolution 23-91 and do not authorize the submittal of a grant application.

***Environmental Review/Analysis:***

Applying for grant funding is not a project under CEQA. The project that the grant funding would be used for is categorically exempt under Class 6 (Information Collection, 14 CCR 15306), Section 15306 of the state CEQA Guidelines.

***Recommended Actions:***

Staff Recommendation

Staff Recommends that the City Council:  
Adopt Resolution No. 23-91, which would:

1. Authorize submittal of an application to the California Coastal Commission for a local coastal program grant to fund an offshore borrow site investigation to find additional sand sources that can be used to develop additional beach nourishment projects in San Clemente and pursue additional grant funding opportunities to support coastal resiliency plan implementation;
2. Find the project that the grant funding would be used for is categorically exempt under Class 6 (Information Collection, 14 CCR 15306), Section 15306 of the state CEQA Guidelines; and
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute the grant agreement, if awarded.

***Attachment:***

1. City Council Resolution 23-91, Authorizing Application to the California Coastal Commission for a Local Coastal Program Grant for the Identification of Offshore Sand Sources
2. Draft Grant Proposal – SC Sand Source Investigation, Preliminary Scope of work

***Notification:***

None

## RESOLUTION NO. 23-91

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION FOR A LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM GRANT TO FUND AN OFFSHORE BORROW SITE INVESTIGATION TO FIND ADDITIONAL SAND SOURCES THAT CAN BE USED TO DEVELOP ADDITIONAL BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECTS IN SAN CLEMENTE AND PURSUE ADDITIONAL GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT COASTAL RESILIENCY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION; FINDING THE PROJECT TO BE FUNDED BY THE GRANT CATEGORICALLY EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) UNDER CLASS 6 (INFORMATION COLLECTION, 14 CCR 15306), SECTION 15306 OF THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, coastal erosion is a very significant problem in the City of San Clemente that threatens the public beaches and coastal public access, key public facilities, existing structures, and critical public infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the upcoming United State Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) project is intended to reduce coastal storm damage to property and infrastructure along the shoreline for 50 years; improve public safety in the study area by providing a wider sandy beach which will serve as a natural wave buffer; and reduce coastal erosion and shoreline narrowing to improve public recreational opportunities for beach users within the City and region; and

WHEREAS, the USACE project includes a 50-foot-wide beach fill along a 3,412-foot-long stretch of shoreline placing 251,000 cubic yards of compatible sediment on the beach every six years; and

WHEREAS, material will be dredged from a borrow site located within the Oceanside Littoral cell located off the coast south of the project site; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has expressed interest in pursuing additional sand replenishment opportunities to supplement the planned USACE project; and

WHEREAS, beach nourishment is consistent with Federal, Statewide, regional and local shoreline management goals which recognize the importance of public beach restoration along the South Orange County shoreline as the preferred method of addressing the critical coastal erosion problems caused by a lack of sediment supply; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of beach sand replenishment and retention

projects, construction of more hard shoreline protection devices is expected to occur; and

WHEREAS, providing a wide sandy beach is a proven, viable nature based, green, soft solution as a means of advancing natural infrastructure protection; and

WHEREAS, the City's preferred sea level rise adaptation strategy is beach nourishment because it provides a wide variety of public benefits and can protect critical public infrastructure in the City; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Orange County Regional Coastal Sediment Management Plan identified a data gap with respect to the lack of existing information to help the City find additional sources of sand that can be used to supplement beach nourishment in the city and potentially the greater South Orange County region; and

WHEREAS, there is some preliminary data available indicating that there are additional offshore sand resources that should be further investigated to determine the quality and quantity of beach sand deposits that may be available for use in the City.

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of San Clemente, California, does hereby find, determine and resolve as follows:

Section 1. That the foregoing recitations are true and correct and incorporated herein.

Section 2. Locating additional offshore sand sources would be of great benefit to the City and to the region.

Section 3. Conducting this analysis promotes the long-term vision of the City and supports important City Council priorities.

Section 4. That the City Council authorizes staff to submit a grant application to the California Coastal Commission to obtain funding to advance key implementation strategies in the City's 2021 Coastal Resiliency Plan.

Section 5. That the project that the grant funding will be used for, if awarded, is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 6 (Information Collection, 14 CCR 15306), Section 15306 of the state CEQA Guidelines.

Section 6. That the City Manager is authorized and directed to execute the grant agreement and such other and further documents as are necessary and proper to accomplish the intent of this resolution if the grant submittal is successful.

Section 7. That staff is authorized and directed to take such other and further actions as are necessary and proper to implement the project to be funded by the

grant.

Section 8. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of September, 2023.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk of the City of  
San Clemente, California

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor of the City of San  
Clemente, California

STATE OF CALIFORNIA     )  
COUNTY OF ORANGE     ) §  
CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE    )

I, LAURA CAMPAGNOLO, City Clerk of the City of San Clemente, California, do hereby certify that Resolution No. 23-91 was adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of San Clemente held on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of San Clemente, California, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK of the City of  
San Clemente, California

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth A. Mitchell, City Attorney

### **Proposed San Clemente Sand Source Offshore Investigation**

The City seeks to identify potential offshore borrow sites and verify suitability of material to support beach restoration efforts in San Clemente and potentially greater South Orange County. Particular emphasis will be placed on delineating the material with the best grain size characteristics for beach nourishment.

A geophysical investigation will be conducted in a four-phase approach which will take up to 18 months to complete. Receiver site characteristics will be defined as part of the first phase. The second phase consists of evaluation of existing information (literature review) to identify potential borrow sites and to guide subsequent field data collection efforts. Once the candidate sites are identified, marine geophysical (seismic reflection profiling) surveys will be performed. The results of the marine geophysical surveys will be interpreted and used to develop a focused vibracore sediment sampling and analysis program. Depending on the nature of available historical information, geophysical surveys may not be warranted at all candidate borrow sites.

#### **Phase 1. Receiver Site Characterization**

- **Define Receiver Site Characteristics:** Obtain and analyze surficial sediment samples at up to three candidate receiver sites to determine sand characteristics (grain size distribution). Samples will be obtained from the back beach to a depth of 30 ft, Mean Lower Low Water. This information will be used to evaluate compatibility of potential source material.

#### **Phase 2. Evaluation of Existing Information and Plan Formulation:**

- **Evaluate Existing Information:** Collect and review existing data for potential offshore sand borrow sites from various sources including federal and state agencies, universities, local cities and counties to evaluate potential candidate sand sources for beach nourishment (e.g., Fischer, et al, 1983; Osborne, et al, 1983; Orange County, 2013, URS, 2009; US Army Corps of Engineers, 2012.)
- **Identify Candidate Borrow Sites:** Select up to three potential borrow sites to investigate. The sites will be selected based on proximity to proposed receiver sites, potential to provide required sand volume, potential to yield suitable material, and likelihood of being able to utilize the borrow site (e.g., environmental issues, permitting issues, jurisdictional conflicts). The number of sites investigated may be adjusted based on available budget.
- **Prepare Field Investigation Plan:** Develop plan for geophysical investigation of the potential borrow sites, including acquisition of necessary permits.

#### **Phase 3. Marine Geophysical Surveys:**

- **Conduct Geophysical Survey Program:** The need to conduct geophysical surveys will be evaluated based on the nature of historical information for each candidate site. Conduct marine geophysical surveys at the candidate sand source sites as warranted. The surveys will be designed to focus on the upper 30 ft of sediment, as dredging operations will likely be limited beyond this depth.
- **Preliminary Interpretation:** The results of the marine geophysical surveys will be interpreted and used to focus the sediment sampling effort undertaken during the next phase (Phase 4) of the investigation.

- Final Evaluation of Results: Upon completion of the vibracore sediment sampling activities (Phase 4), additional interpretation of the geophysical data shall be conducted using this “ground-truth” information.

**Phase 4. Sediment Sampling**

- Prepare Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP): Prepare a SAP designed to evaluate compatibility of potential source material. The plan will include sample locations, physical (grain size) and chemical testing protocols, and quality assurance/quality control procedures. The results of the receiver site characterization conducted in Phase 1 will be included in the plan. A draft plan will be submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) standards, and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for concurrence before finalizing.
- Conduct Sediment Sampling Program: Conduct a vibracoring program to confirm the interpretation of the marine geophysical surveys (or historical information) and determine the physical (grain size distribution) and chemical characteristics of the sediment at each candidate borrow site. The coring apparatus will be capable of achieving 20 ft penetration in suitable sediments.
- Evaluate Borrow Site Sediment Characteristics: The cores will be handled, tested, and evaluated in accordance with the Sampling and Analysis Plan.

**References**

Fischer, P.J., Kreutzer, P.A., Morrison, L.R., Rudat, J.A., Ticken, E.J., Webb, J.F., Woods, M.M., Berry, R.W., Henry, M.J., Hoyt, D.H., and Young, M., 1983, “Study on Quaternary shelf deposits (sand and gravel) of Southern California”, Submitted to State of California, Department of Boating and Waterways, Beach Erosion Control Project, FR 82-11, 66 p.

Orange County, 2013. Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup. 212 pp.

Osbourne, R.H., N.J. Darigo, and R.C. Scheidemann, 1983, “Report of Potential Offshore Sand and Gravel Resources of the Inner Continental Shelf of Southern California”, prepared for Calif. State Dept. of Boating and Waterways, Sacramento. University of Southern California, Dept. of Geological Services, Los Angeles, CA, 302 pp.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2012, San Clemente Shoreline Feasibility Study – Geotechnical Appendix” U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District.

URS, 2009, “Geotechnical Assessment-Offshore Sand Sources-Regional Beach Sand Project II-San Diego, CA”. report prepared for SANDA and Moffatt & Nichol, San Diego, CA, 20pp+app.

**Preliminary Cost Estimate**

Phase 1. Receiver Site Characterization	\$35,000
Phase 2. Evaluation of Existing Information and Plan Formulation	\$70,000
Phase 3. Marine Geophysical Surveys	\$265,000
Phase 4. Sediment Sampling	<u>\$390,000</u>
Total Cost	\$760,000