



Staff Report

TO: Board of Harbor Commissions

FROM: John Moren, Director of Operations
THRU: James B. Pruett, General Manager

DATE: October 18, 2023

SUBJECT: Surfers Beach Replenishment Pilot Project Update

Recommendation/Motion:

Recommendation: Board Receive presentation and discuss opportunities for outreach and community involvement in the Surfers Beach Pilot Restoration Project and authorize an amendment to the contract with consultant Brad Damitz for an amount not to exceed \$38,400 for interim Project Management, and approve an increase in Capital Expenditure Appropriations of this amount to be funded by available working capital.

Policy Implications:

Consistent with the District's goal to use excess sediment build-up from within the Harbor for beneficial re-use one Surfers Beach.

Background/Discussion:

The goal of the Surfers Beach Restoration Pilot Project is to remove sediment which has built up inside the Pillar Point Harbor (PPH) outer breakwater and move it to Surfers Beach for beneficial re-use. In addition to addressing coastal erosion and public access issues at Surfers Beach, this project would also address the issues associated with the shoaling that has occurred inside of the Harbor since the outer breakwater was constructed. The anticipated outcome is that the project will address impaired public access/recreational impacts and damages from coastal storms.

The proposed project is located at Pillar Point Harbor and Surfers Beach in City of Half Moon Bay just south of the Harbor and west of the unincorporated community of El Granada. The proposed Project would involve dredging of up to 100,000 cubic yards of clean sand accumulated along the inside of Pillar Point Harbor's East Breakwater and a one-time placement of that sand to form an elevated berm along an approximately 1,000-foot-long section of shoreline at Surfers Beach in Half Moon Bay. The purpose of the project is to address erosion at Surfers Beach by restoring sandy beach area using clean sand dredged from navigable areas of Pillar Point Harbor, including the boat launch ramp. The project will also involve a large eelgrass mitigation effort, relocating eelgrass in the east basin prior to dredging and establishing a large eelgrass restoration area at the Harbor's west basin. This beach

restoration project is designed to protect highly eroded portions of shoreline and Highway 1 and other coastal infrastructure. The project is expected to result in creation of beach habitat, restore coastal access, and safe navigation within the Harbor.



Photo showing the proposed Surfers Beach placement area.

Summary of Recent Updates:

- The Project is being planned for a construction start date in late spring/early summer and is on track to meet that schedule.
- California Coastal Commission approved the Project at their September 06, 2023, hearing. Other permits are still under review but should be finalized soon.
- Permitting agencies have reached agreement on a final eelgrass mitigation concept for the Project. District consultants are currently revising the PPH Harbor-wide Eelgrass Mitigation and Management Plan to address these final changes.
- CEQA review and requirements have been met.

- Draft Final Design Plans were prepared by ESA. These plans will require another update to reflect the changes to the Eelgrass Mitigation and Management Plan that is currently being revised.
- Numerous planning tasks, coordination, and surveys are required prior to construction. Many of these are included in the Scope of Work for interim project management in the attached Proposal from consultant Damitz. The remaining tasks will occur in the pre-construction phase once the bid process is completed and contractor selected. For a complete list of tasks and current project status refer to the 9/12/2023 project update memo:
<https://www.smharbor.com/files/5fa64bebe/Memo+-+Surfers+Beach+Upate+Sept+2023.pdf>

Opportunities for Public Involvement:

During the September 20, 2023 District Board of Harbor Commissioners meeting, Commissioners encouraged that the Project include significant public outreach and opportunities for community involvement, and requested that this be discussed at a future Board Meeting. In response, District staff asked consultant Brad Damitz to provide an overview of the current plans for public outreach and community involvement in the Surfers Beach Project.

Existing plans include:

- Continued public presentations and Project updates at District Board of Harbor Commissioners Meetings.
- Interpretive signage and extensive outreach prior to and during construction with Project information and updates via Harbor District’s email outreach list, website, and social media platforms.
- Develop/implement a post-construction surfing conditions monitoring program that requires volunteer involvement of local surfers. This includes at least 2 public workshops with the local surfing community, Surfrider Foundation members, and others. Surfers would fill out and submit monitoring forms that will be compiled and analyzed. The data will be used to assess changes to surfing conditions following project construction, and results will be included in an annual monitoring report.

Some other ideas for community involvement, for further discussion, include:

- Host Surfers Beach Project public meeting(s) prior to construction with detailed presentations on project engineering, plans and methods, background and history, eelgrass mitigation and management at PPH, and other aspects of the project.
- Coordinate citizen science efforts to assist with ongoing monitoring of the Project following construction. This could be done using an existing community beach monitoring platform such as CoastSnap or through other means.
- Planting of native plants at Surfers Beach: A large scale native plant restoration project is not recommended for Surfers Beach, given the high coastal erosion

rates at the site and the temporary nature of the Project. However, planting of short-lived native perennials, such as pink sand-verbena and beach saltbush, that are adapted to unstable beach habitats could provide a heavy dispersal of seeds to downcoast beaches, thus allowing the restored beach to serve as a “seed feeder beach”. Teachers/students and community members could assist with the collection of seeds, cultivation, and transplanting of native plants.

- Volunteer involvement in eelgrass mitigation project could consist of assisting the eelgrass biologists with tying eelgrass plants into bundles in preparation for transplanting.
- Prepare a media release and host a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Surfers Beach or boat launch ramp when project is completed.

Summary/Recommendation:

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Attachments:

- 1) [Proposal from Damitz for project management for planning phase, permitting, and bid process.](#)