



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 3, 2022

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Energy and Climate Division, Sustainability and Resilience Department

SUBJECT: Update On Recent Activities And Accomplishments Of The Beach Erosion Authority For Clean Oceans And Nourishment

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive a presentation from the Beach Erosion Authority For Clean Oceans And Nourishment (BEACON) on recent activities and accomplishments.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Santa Barbara is a founding, dues-paying member of BEACON, a Joint Powers Agency (JPA) of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, as well as the six coastal cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Ventura, Oxnard, and Port Hueneme. BEACON is responsible for regional sediment management, sea-level rise adaptation, beach restoration, and protecting ocean water quality along the shoreline of the two counties. Santa Barbara County Supervisor Gregg Hart, who serves as Chair of the BEACON Board of Directors and Marc Beyeler, BEACON's Executive Director, will report on the recent activities and accomplishments of BEACON and answer questions from Council.

Background:

BEACON has been operating as a JPA since 1987, with an original focus on mitigating beach erosion. Since its formation, BEACON has evolved and strengthened its complementary goals of addressing beach erosion, beach restoration, protection of coastal water quality, planning for regional sediment management and, most recently, planning for regional sea-level rise adaptation. BEACON's goals and objectives, along with implementation priorities, are contained within the [BEACON Strategic Plan 2021-2026](#).

BEACON has managed many regional sediment management projects and programs, including creation of the Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan (CRSMP), support for long-term monitoring of beach conditions, and development of an opportunistic regional beach nourishment permit framework. BEACON is coordinating closely with its local member agencies in the development of regional sea-level rise adaptation projects and has been a strong partner in local member agency efforts to develop and fund resilience shoreline improvement and restoration projects. Past projects include the Rincon Oil Piers Reef Demonstration Project, the Surfers Point Living Shoreline and Managed Retreat Project along the main Ventura waterfront, and the redesign of select debris basins along the south coast of Santa Barbara County to introduce innovative debris basin design elements to promote sediment transport.

Additionally, BEACON supports and assists local member agencies with planning and implementation of resilience projects at locations such as Goleta Beach with Santa Barbara County Parks, at Carpinteria City Beach with the City of Carpinteria, at Mondo's Cove with Ventura County Parks in Ventura, and at Hueneme City Beach with the City of Port Hueneme and Ventura County Channel Islands Harbor.

Recently, BEACON partnered with the City of Santa Barbara to obtain California Coastal Commission funding to create a Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program for the coastal areas spanning Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The monitoring program is key to implementing local jurisdictions' adaptation programs with a data-driven approach, including tracking how soon actions are needed and the effectiveness and impacts of adaptation projects as they are implemented and was identified in the City's Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan as the highest priority action to implement. Between 2022 and 2025, BEACON will manage the development of the regional monitoring program through a stakeholder process and conduct two years of pilot monitoring.

BEACON has become an essential tool in the governance toolkit available to local governments to address regional solutions to coastal erosion and sea-level rise.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The City of Santa Barbara pays annual membership dues that fund the operation of BEACON. The City of Santa Barbara dues for FY2022 were \$42,243. The BEACON Board is proposing to increase the City's FY2023 dues to \$44,397 in order to account for inflation. These new rates are scheduled for final approval at BEACON's upcoming board meeting in May.

Dues have historically been paid entirely by the Waterfront Department's operating budget and are included the Waterfront's budget for the next fiscal year. BEACON's staff leverage the member dues with grant funds from a range of agencies, including the California Ocean Protection Council, California Department of Boating and Waterways, California Coastal Conservancy, and California Coastal Commission to conduct projects and studies.

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