



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
JULY 27, 2007**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 07-07-1A  
ACTION REQUESTED - APPROVE**

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS  
JUNE 8, 2007**

Chair Mary Sessom (Lemon Grove) called the meeting of the SANDAG Board of Directors to order at 10:03 a.m. The attendance sheet for the meeting is attached.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBERS COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

**REPORT**

2. WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL SHORELINE MANAGEMENT AND BEACH SAND REPLENISHMENT (DISCUSSION)

Chair Sessom said that beaches are fun and have an impact on our community in a lot of different ways.

First Vice Chair Lori Holt Pfeiler (Escondido) stated that we have been discussing a number of infrastructure areas identified in our Integrated Regional Infrastructure Strategy (IRIS), including storm water runoff, beach sand replenishment, and habitat preservation. We decided that we needed more information on these infrastructure areas to understand how and if SANDAG should be involved. Today we will hear from a panel of experts who will provide their perspectives on shoreline management and beach sand replenishment. We will also hear about short- and long-term next steps. The Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) identified a shoreline preservation objective to preserve and enhance the region's beaches and nearshore areas as environmental and recreational resources.

Shelby Tucker, Associate Planner, reviewed the regional shoreline management activities, and shoreline preservation strategy. She showed the results of the Regional Beach Sand Project (RBSP), a pilot project used to exemplify how to meet the goals of the strategy. She also showed slides of various coastal areas in San Diego before and after sand replenishment efforts. The RBSP did not have any long-term negative environmental impacts and had a positive impact on biological resources as evidenced by a study completed in the City of Encinitas. She stated that other beach replenishment efforts including opportunistic sand programs provide small-scale shoreline maintenance opportunities. She stated that healthy beaches require continued replenishment. She then introduced the panel members: Reinhard Flick, Scripps Institute of Oceanography; Kim Sterrett, California Department of Boating and Waterways; and Sal Giametta, San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau. She noted that Steve Aceti, California Coastal Commission, was not able to attend but submitted comments that were distributed to the Board.

Dr. Flick stated that California has a naturally eroding coast. The beaches form the basis for California's economy and sand replenishment is critical to sustain beaches. He reviewed reasons why we should nourish San Diego beaches. He noted that continued monitoring is critical to knowing the health of the beaches and how they are doing over time. He said that the coast is young, active, steep, and eroding. Rivers and cliffs provide beach sand; however, dams have reduced the amount of sand provided naturally by rivers by about half. He also discussed sand nourishment and retention. Harbor expansion and other dredging projects have provided sand to area beaches to offset the loss of sand. He noted that projected global warming will result in rising sea level which will threaten beaches. His view of the major beach issues included: getting and keeping enough sand on beaches to satisfy recreational and tourist demand, allowing the region to take advantage of economic, habitat, and cultural benefits, and provide some property protection; and find the appropriate balance between sand supply, sand retention, and coast armoring.

Mr. Sterrett stated that the Public Beach Restoration Act (Ducheny) increased the state match available for beach replenishment. Beaches are a vital part of California's economy and are a statewide resource. About 85 percent of beach users were inland residents or out-of-state tourists. Beach users contribute significantly to the State's economy and provide tax revenues. State programs provide restoration and enhancement of this important resource. We have worked with SANDAG in the past and SANDAG has been a leader in this issue. The department has been involved in the San Diego region through the Regional Beach Sand Project (\$6 million), Carlsbad Sea Walls, and Sunset Cliffs protection in the 1980s. Additionally, the department has encumbered \$4.2 million for an Imperial Beach restoration project (a federal project), and the Encinitas and Solana Beach U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) projects. San Diego is a perfect blend of climate and natural resources, and this blend also helps support additional attractions. The beaches do not charge an entrance fee so there is no direct revenue source to maintain them. You can't expect the state and federal government to provide the sole funding sources for beaches in San Diego County. Areas with matching funds will receive a priority. It would behoove San Diego County to come up with a reliable funding source for its beaches.

Mr. Giametta said that it is our mission to promote the greater San Diego region for conventions and leisure travel. Tourism is San Diego County's third largest economic factor. About \$173 million generated from the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) benefit the treasuries of the cities and unincorporated areas of the county. When we market San Diego as a destination, we can offer something for visitors of all ages and interests. Our beaches continue to play an incredibly important role. Of the activities tourists participated in on trips to San Diego, beaches were visited by half of overnight visitors and a third of all visitors. Beaches were also among the activities that most influenced decisions to travel to San Diego. Of the \$7.7 billion in visitor spending by activity, beaches shared \$1.8 billion or 24 percent of that amount. Images of our coastline beaches and bays feature prominently in our advertisements. Mr. Giametta showed ads in print publications, and a 30-second video spot distributed in the marketplace.

Mayor Pro Tem Carrie Downey (Coronado), member of the Shoreline Preservation Working Group (SPWG) said that she grew up in New Jersey and the beaches there are very wide. She moved to California and the City of Coronado. Until she got to the SPWG she didn't realize that there was an issue with beach sand replenishment. The SPWG is working with staff on

a feasibility study to meet the state Department of Boating and Waterways' requirements that will allow SANDAG to compete for state funds. A component of this study is the development of a regional cost-benefit analysis. The Regional Beach Sand project was funded by federal and state funds. Since no funding has been identified for beach sand replenishment, we are working with local jurisdictions to identify local sources of funds that could be leveraged with state and federal funding. The Coronado City Council voted to work with everyone in the region and support its fair share. Beaches are a regional benefit. Coronado recognizes that it benefits from sand migration, and we all need to cooperate on this issue. The SPWG is not yet ready to make a recommendation and will come back at a future point. It is important that we get a regional concept, not just involving the beach communities. Some of the coastal communities have state and federal beaches.

Mayor Jim Janney (Imperial Beach), member of the SPWG, said that efforts are being undertaken to implement the next phase of the Shoreline Preservation Strategy; however, that will not solve the chronic problem of beach erosion without a long-term regional funding source. Imperial Beach has been pushing for adoption of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) for several years to authorize the ACOE Shoreline Protection and Beach Nourishment project in Imperial Beach. While Congress is on the verge of adopting the Act, obtaining accompanying funding is a challenge. This is a 50-year project that is estimated to cost \$56 million. Funding for this project is obtained through the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, which is now being considered by the House and Senate; however, early indications are not favorable for Imperial Beach to receive funding. The region needs to consider a long-term funding source. Identifying a regional funding source would provide assurances that the region would be able to implement large-scale regional beach replenishment and renourishment projects on a regular basis.

Chair Sessom asked for questions from the Board.

Councilmember Ed Gallo (North County Transit District [NCTD]), stated that people pay to use the beaches in New Jersey, and that helps to keep the beaches in their existing condition. He asked Dr. Flick if beaches are narrow in their natural state. Dr. Flick responded that large coastal construction projects provided 26 million cubic feet of sand that was pumped to the other side of the Silver Strand and moved north into Coronado. That's one of the reasons why those beaches are in their current condition. That illustrates that wide beaches in San Diego County are a byproduct of coastal construction projects. Retention structures also serve to stabilize beaches. We are not doing that to the same degree as we did in the last century and our beaches are being returned to a narrower state.

Chair Sessom asked Mr. Giametta if he had a breakdown of where visitors stay while they are in San Diego County. She wanted to know how many overnight visitors stay in the beach communities and how many stay in other areas. Mr. Giametta responded that half of those stay in hotels and others in private homes. He will get that information to the Board.

Supervisor Ron Roberts (County of San Diego) said that what we haven't heard are the possible costs and possible solutions. The real question is, should we as an organization get involved in this and what is the cost? We have a lot of problems in this region that are equally significant. He wondered about the economic side and thought that would have been an equally important issue to address as part of this presentation.

Chair Sessom said that more work will be done by the SPWG.

Marilyn Dailey (San Diego County Water Authority) asked about the Stone Steps project in Encinitas; how much sand was taken to reach that level, how much it cost, and how long it took. Ms. Tucker replied that sand wasn't directly placed on that beach. It was a side benefit of the 2001 Regional Beach Sand Project caused by the natural movement of the sand.

Councilmember Crystal Crawford (Del Mar) asked how rising sea level would threaten beaches. She also wondered how we should view that loss of beach and rising sea level as it relates to public safety. Dr. Flick stated that we may reach a point where the loss of beach would be very rapid. Over the past 100 years, sea level has risen about 20 centimeters (about 9 inches). Over the past 5,000 years, the rate was ten times slower. The implication is if sea level rises start to approach 50 centimeters (1½ feet), we will lose sand.

Councilmember Crawford asked if sand replenishment will protect coastal areas. Dr. Flick said that sand nourishment in sufficient quantity has been able to offset not just rising sea level but the loss of sand due to storms and a reduction in the natural supply due to erosion, flood control, and water supply reservoirs.

Councilmember Crawford asked if the SPWG will include in its evaluation some projections on these public safety issues, and protection against flooding in the coastal areas. Mayor Pro Tem Downey indicated that the studies the SPWG is doing are related to sand replenishment as a whole, but there are benefits to coastal communities depending on where the sand is placed.

Councilmember Crawford suggested that the benefits to public health be included in the study.

Councilmember Matt Hall (Carlsbad) stated that we could look at the benefit of harbor dredging for sand. The off-shore dredging aspect is beneficial and there are numbers on the impact of that activity.

Mayor Pro Tem Downey suggested that the State consider purchasing dredging equipment. The State is developing a plan that will identify costs associated with owning a dredge but will need buy-in from the region before we get too far down the road.

Councilmember Dave Allan (La Mesa) said he didn't realize there are state-owned beaches in Carlsbad. He asked how many cities actually own their beaches.

Second Vice Chair Jerome Stocks (Encinitas) noted that there is a combination of state-owned and city-owned beaches in various areas. Encinitas owns the fee title of small sections of beach.

Councilmember Allen asked for a report back on how many beaches in San Diego County are state-owned and city-owned.

Supervisor Bill Horn (County of San Diego) noted that he used to own a house in Oceanside that owned beach property. He asked how often the Oceanside Harbor is dredged and if it gets the sand. Mayor Jim Wood (Oceanside) answered that his city has a unique situation.

The federal government indicated it would accept the blame for the loss of sand in Oceanside's harbor and has been providing sand through harbor dredging once a year. He is looking for additional solutions. Other states have various ongoing efforts to try to keep sand on their beaches. He agreed with Supervisor Roberts that he thought he was going to hear solutions and costs.

Pedro Orso-Delgado, District 11 Director, Caltrans, commented on the possibility of getting sand as a result of the development of the I-5 North Coast project to expand some of the bridges within the lagoon. Potentially that will generate some material. We need to place it somewhere and we may not be able to use it for fill. As you continue to develop the strategy, you should maintain a link with Caltrans for this material.

Mayor Lesa Heebner (Solana Beach) said it was interesting that Dr. Flick recommended as much sand as possible. She asked if certain beaches have been identified that are more likely to need sand retention than others, and how does that work into the concept of dumping too much sand. Dr. Flick replied that if wide beaches are desirable and with everything else being equal, then the more sand the better, with a retention system. Some beaches in North County are more prone to erosion rather than the south-facing beaches. The beaches in Encinitas and Solana Beach are probably the most vulnerable as they are exposed and are isolated from the cliff sources. Beaches that are north of Oceanside and south to La Jolla receive more sand. It was his belief that even if you put large amounts of sand on those North County beaches, it will move off shore and it won't be affordable to continue to replenish the sand without some kind of retention efforts.

Mayo Pro Tem Downey agreed that we need to work together with large ongoing projects. Many of us have been completing environmental reviews as part of the opportunistic sand program so that we can take advantage of material that might be available. We have been good at that; however, this won't solve the problem in the long-term.

Councilmember Crawford announced that Councilmember Richard Ernest is here today. He is a former member who is now back on the Del Mar city council. In the past, Councilmember Ernest sat on the Shoreline Erosion Committee and the Shoreline Preservation Working Group and he will be back on that Working Group.

Councilmember Crawford mentioned that Imperial Beach has 2.5 million beach visitors every year. Del Mar has 4,500 residents and 2 million visitors every year. Del Mar owns its beaches but it does not receive money for beach use. It is very expensive for our small community to support this number of visitors. It is a serious concern to figure out how to fund beach sand replenishment. One purpose of this meeting was for the Board to hear some information and give direction on what we might want to do. She asked if we want to update the study that was done in 1993. We have information from the 2001 Regional Beach Sand project. We know the environmental impacts. Some areas require mitigation. We knew that we would need to do this every five years or so. We need to determine how to locate \$50 million to do this kind of project every five years. This will become more pressing to us in the future, and will come faster with increasing sea levels.

Gary Gallegos, Executive Director, noted that staff was directed to review three issues: stormwater management, beach sand replenishment, and habitat preservation. In January we shared a global analysis that if we were to do a sand replenishment project every five

years and estimated using 2006 dollars, escalated at 3 percent, from 2010-2030 the region would need to invest about \$180-million. We will come back for a more in-depth discussion about where you want to go on all three of these issues.

Chair Sessom asked if beach sand replenishment is a regional issue, and she answered that it is. The question is what role SANDAG should play in sand replenishment. We know what the costs are, but we need to know the implications of various efforts.

Chair Sessom noted there were several requests to speak.

Councilmember Joe Kellejian, City of Solana Beach, said that there are many benefits associated with the region's beaches, including recreational, economic, infrastructure, and property protection. Of importance to Solana Beach are the public safety benefits. Areas in the city are more prone to bluff collapse than others along the coastline. He stated that he has been involved in the SPWG and has worked on several programs related to beach sand replenishment. The SPWG has seen a preliminary figure of \$25 million to do a project within the next 30 months. That would take care of us for about five years. Because residents of Solana Beach understand the importance of the beach areas, they approved an increase in the TOT tax from 10 percent to 13 percent. Two-thirds of that increase is for beach sand replenishment and shoreline maintenance. He suggested that other jurisdictions consider increasing their TOT for this purpose. Even a small increase of 1 percent would be helpful and assist in making us less reliant on state and federal resources. This TOT money can be used for matching funds.

Ray Duncan and Don Hadley deferred their time to Oceanside Councilmember Esther Sanchez.

Councilmember Sanchez, a member of the SPWG, said that we recognize beach erosion is a regional issue. A trip to the area's beaches also means people are going to other area attractions. We know that people who come to Oceanside come to different parts of the county. This is part of a process. Sand replenishment has been recognized as the best alternative to address the erosion of our beaches. The beaches are a significant part of our economy. The plan with the federal government does not cover the entire beach area. The City of Oceanside is setting up a workshop to talk about raising funds for this issue. We need to address this now.

Don Hadley, Oceanside Harbor Master, commented on the federal responsibility for shoreline restoration and replenishment. We are working with the US Corps of Engineers on two levels, but we can't wait to receive funding from the federal government.

David Nydegger, Chief Executive Officer Oceanside Chamber of Commerce, stated that the number one reason why folks come to San Diego is for our beaches. Last year, Oceanside had over 5 million visitors. In 2003, the University of California at San Marcos (CSUSM) conducted a survey that indicated of the beach visitors to Oceanside 28 percent were from cities in the county (excluding Oceanside). About 42 percent were from California and the rest were from outside the local area. There was a recent article in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* newspaper that said there is only one river that has not been dammed and that is the Santa Margarita River. Rivers that are dammed do not bring sand to the beaches at river's mouth.

Clifton Davenport, Project Manager for the California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup (CSMW), said this group is a task force of state, federal, and local agencies related to sediment issues. The primary vehicle is the master plan. The CSMW has been partnering with SANDAG and the SPWG on this issue using sediment for sand replenishment. The Sand Compatibility and Opportunity Use Program was developed for statewide application, and establishes regulations between the source and receiver beaches. He said that there must be a regional consensus. SANDAG was chosen for its past and current sand replenishment efforts. He hoped we can work together to find a solution for sand replenishment.

Robert Hoffman, Natural Marine Fisheries Service, agreed that because of human activities (e.g., dams) much of the sand that should have been going to the beaches does not reach it today. Beaches are important for a variety of reasons for the greater San Diego region. We need periodic sand replenishment projects. He clarified that it is not eel grass that is impacted from beach replenishment but surf grass. He suggested using smaller chunks of sand rather than larger ones.

Chair Sessom opened the floor for discussion by the Board.

Mayor Wood said that he didn't want to negatively impact the existing agreement between Oceanside and the federal government. This is a regional problem. The money is always the issue. We looked at various efforts and know that other states have addressed this issue in a variety of ways. He would be interested to hear about them. We all understand what is necessary but the question is the cost. He thanked the Oceanside speakers.

Councilmember Jim Madaffer (City of San Diego) asked how we ensure that we get an adequate amount of sand. Dr. Flick replied that that was a simple engineering question when a project is first designed.

Councilmember Madaffer agreed that this is a regional issue. He would like to see a model of what would happen if nothing was done. Dr. Flick said that the Scripps Institute of Oceanography did some future modeling and it is on the Scripps' Web site.

Councilmember Madaffer said he would like to see that. Dr. Flick emphasized the importance of a monitoring effort to periodically measure the beach profile. Without that basis we won't know in the future how our beaches will respond.

Councilmember Madaffer stated that this issue ties in with what we need to do in a quality of life initiative to take on the issues of beach sand, transit, and housing.

Second Vice Chair Stocks noted that in the mid-1950s the County owned most of the beaches, and then it made the decision to give them to the state. The City of Encinitas has a long-term lease to operate the beaches and spends about \$1 million per year. In 1998, voters raised the TOT to dedicate 2 percent to beach sand replenishment. In 1991, we were able to contribute our local match for the San Diego beach project. Solana Beach and Del Mar did this as well. This is something the public generally supports. He would love to see a 2030 model of sand erosion and what that would mean economically. We could make a

good argument for negotiation with the federal government that Oceanside traps sand that could move south. He thanked the members of the SPWG for their work.

Mayor Jim Desmond (San Marcos) said that he would like to see some solutions such as cliff development, sea walls, and the undamming of the rivers. We need to have money go to solutions so we don't do this again. He suggested obtaining studies done on other devices that will help reduce beach sand erosion.

Mayor Janney noted that the state of New Jersey goes to the federal government and fights for something and gets it. We need to go fight to obtain money for this issue. We should go to Washington, D.C., as a united group to seek funds for sand replenishment.

Mayor Heebner agreed the 2030 model will be interesting to see. We are in the midst of a compromise with property owners that might serve as a model. She would be interested in seeing a whole series of scenario solutions and ways to pay for them.

Action: This item was presented for information only.

3. UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Friday, June 22, 2007, at 9 a.m.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

DGunn/M/DGU

## ATTENDANCE SANDAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING JUNE 8, 2007

JURISDICTION/ ORGANIZATION	NAME	ATTENDING
City of Carlsbad	Matt Hall (Member)	Yes
City of Chula Vista	Cheryl Cox (Member)	Yes
City of Coronado	Carrie Downey (1st Alternate)	Yes
City of Del Mar	Crystal Crawford (Member)	Yes
City of El Cajon	Mark Lewis (Member)	Yes
City of Encinitas	Jerome Stocks, 2nd Vice Chair (Member)	Yes
City of Escondido	Lori Holt Pfeiler, 1st Vice Chair (Member)	Yes
City of Imperial Beach	Jim Janney (Member)	Yes
City of La Mesa	Dave Allan (1st Alternate)	Yes
City of Lemon Grove	Mary Sessom, Chair (Member)	Yes
City of National City	Ron Morrison (Member)	No
City of Oceanside	James Wood (Member)	Yes
City of Poway	Mickey Cafagna (Member)	Yes
City of San Diego - A	Jim Madaffer (1st Alternate)	Yes
City of San Diego - B	Toni Atkins (Member B)	Yes
City of San Marcos	Jim Desmond (Member)	Yes
City of Santee	John Minto (2nd Alternate)	Yes
City of Solana Beach	Lesa Heebner (Member)	Yes
City of Vista	Judy Ritter (Member)	Yes
County of San Diego - A	Ron Roberts (Member A)	Yes
County of San Diego - B	Bill Horn (Member B)	Yes
Caltrans	Pedro Orso-Delgado (Alternate)	Yes
MTS	Harry Mathis (Member)	Yes
NCTD	Ed Gallo (Member)	Yes
Imperial County	Victor Carrillo (Member)	No
US Dept. of Defense	CAPT Steve Wirshing (Member)	No
SD Unified Port District	Sylvia Rios (Member)	No
SD County Water Authority	Marilyn Dailey (Member)	Yes
Baja California/Mexico	Luis Cabrera Cuaron (Member)	No
Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association	Robert H. Smith (Member)	No