MEETING NOTICE
AND AGENDA

SHORELINE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
The Shoreline Preservation Committee may take action on any item appearing on this agenda.

Thursday, February 3, 2005
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

SANDAG, 7th Floor Conference Room
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# SHORELINE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
## Thursday, February 3, 2005

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+ next to an agenda item indicates an attachment

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The December 2, 2004, meeting summary is enclosed.

Members of the public interested in addressing the Committee may do so during this time.

John Robertus, Executive Officer of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, will discuss options for recovering and processing beach quality sand from detention facilities throughout the region.

Based upon discussions from the Committee’s last meeting, staff will give an update on SANDAG’s taxing authority and the process for preparing the quality-of-life measure.

Chris Webb from Moffatt & Nichol will provide the Committee with a progress report on the SCOUP project, including preliminary identification of sand sources, selection of a location for sand placement, placement options, and stockpile areas.

Committee members and CalCoast representatives will discuss the status of state and federal legislation.

It is suggested that the Committee’s next meeting date be scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2005.
January 18, 2004

To: Shoreline Preservation Committee

From: SANDAG Staff

Subject: DECEMBER 2, 2004, MEETING SUMMARY

Members in Attendance
Councilmember Ann Kulchin, City of Carlsbad, Chair
Councilmember James Bond, City of Encinitas, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Jerry Finnell, City of Del Mar
Councilmember Jim Janney, City of Imperial Beach
Mayor Terry Johnson, City of Oceanside
Patrick McCay, U.S. Navy

Advisory Members
Steve Aceti, California Coastal Commission (CalCoast)
August Felando, California Lobster & Trap Fisherman’s Association
Marilyn Fluharty, State Department of Fish & Game
Robert Hoffman, NOAA Fisheries
Dedi Ridenour, Sierra Club
Sherilyn Sarb, California Coastal Commission
Kim Sterrett, State Department of Boating and Waterways

Staff Working Group
Steve Apple, City of Solana Beach
Ray Duncan, City of Oceanside
Don Hadley, City of Oceanside
Steve Jantz, City of Carlsbad
Ed Kleeman, City of Coronado
Danny Schrotberger, City of San Diego
Kathy Weldon, City of Encinitas

Others
Jon Campbell, City of Carlsbad
Bud Carroll, City of Carlsbad
Clif Davenport, California Geological Survey/Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup
Shawn Dressel, HPA
Dick Erhardt, City of Carlsbad
Karen Green, SAIC
David Griffin, California Coastal Commission (CalCoast)
Lawrence Honma, AMEC
Adam Kaye, NCT
1. Welcome and Introductions
   Councilmember Kulchin welcomed everyone and conducted the meeting.

2. Meeting Summary for September 2, 2004
   Meeting Summary from the September 2, 2004, meeting was approved.

3. Public Comment and Communication
   Dan Muslin, TECicon, briefly spoke about the International Coastal Engineering Conference that will be held in San Diego next fall, provided brochures describing the event, and encouraged those interested to attend.

4. Sand Compatibility and Opportunistic Use Program (SCOUP)
   SANDAG staff introduced this item by explaining that the SCOUP is being completed through a contract with the firm Moffat & Nichol. The SCOUP will develop a program and templates that will streamline the process of obtaining opportunistic use sand permits. Staff introduced Chris Webb of Moffat & Nichol. Chris emphasized the importance of using opportunistic beach fill possibilities found in the San Diego region as an example by which to develop an Opportunistic Beach Fill Program that the entire State of California can use. Some of the SCOUP program’s goals include establishing resource agency agreement on an approach for comparing opportunistic sand to the sand currently on a beach, creating a streamlined permitting process, identifying suitable receiver sites, and preparing a CEQA/NEPA document that could be used by any agency applying for permits. As they work to complete these tasks, a representative from Moffat & Nichol will keep the Shoreline Committee informed of their progress.

   Chris then introduced Anne-Lise Lindquist, also from Moffatt & Nichol, who gave a detailed description of the criteria that would be used to determine the best receiver sites in the region. Some of the factors included in the presented criteria were: the site’s need for sand, the site’s proximity to residences, and construction equipment access, among others. A Committee member made the point that it was most likely those living on the access road, and not those directly on the beach, that were complaining about the traffic. The suggestion was made that the criteria be changed...
from “proximity to residences” to “impact to residences.” The Vice-Chair asked if the criteria would be weighted. Chris Webb explained that it eventually would be, and that he hoped to get the Committee’s recommendations regarding which criteria should be put in the matrix. SANDAG staff explained that the purpose behind the criteria was to select the pilot beach. August Felando noted that any impact to biology as a result of beach fill would be a major concern and that he would like to see the concern treated in the same way it had been by SANDAG staff during the Regional Beach Sand Project (RBSP). Chris Webb recommended that data and maps be provided to SANDAG staff.

5. Beach Sand Replenishment Impacts to Biological Resources
The Vice-Chair introduced Karen Green, SAIC, who presented the research prepared for the City of Encinitas to determine the biological benefits and consequences of the Regional Beach Sand Project (RBSP) in the Encinitas area. Green’s study compared resources before and after the Regional Beach Sand Project (RBSP). Green explained that “before” data was limited to what had been collected as part of the environmental review process. To improve the chances of finding differences related to sand nourishment, resources at sites that did and did not receive sand also were compared. As part of the study, sand and beach width characteristics were measured. Samples of invertebrates were collected through shovel samples, bird use was measured during high and low tide, and the physical characteristics related to grunion use were evaluated.

Green explained 22 species of invertebrates were collected on the surveyed beaches. Findings showed there was a greater variety of species in spring and also the amount and variety of species increased directly with an increase in the amount and depth of sand. Additionally, the study analyzed the number and variety of bird species present on the studied beaches. Findings showed there was increased bird use on all receiver beaches. Green also studied the effect that the RBSP had on grunion habitat. Green explained that grunion swim on shore during high tide, burrow into the sediment in the upper-inner tidal area, and deposit their eggs, incubate for 10-14 days, hatch, and swim back into the water. Pre-project conditions showed only a short duration of the habitat necessary to support grunion spawning. After the project, the habitat has become more suitable for grunion spawning, and is available throughout the year.

In closing, Green summarized the functions of sandy beaches and noted that, as sand gets deeper and wider, which is what happened on all studied receiver beaches after the RBSP, invertebrates are able to develop sooner and with greater variety. Additionally, bird use increases at both high and low tides and the habitat becomes increasingly suitable for grunion spawning throughout the year. Green’s PowerPoint, which is available upon request, incorporated a number of tables and graphs which further detail these summarized findings. The full report will be delivered to Encinitas in the next couple of weeks, and will be posted on the City of Encinitas’ Web site.

Dedi Ridenour, Sierra Club, asked if there was an optimal depth for invertebrate productivity. Green offered the conservative estimate of 18 inches and explained that it is difficult to develop a good estimate due to the number of variables that have to be taken into consideration, including the stability of the beach.
6. Potential Beach Replenishment Funding Strategies
SANDAG staff introduced this item by explaining the Committee’s ongoing discussions regarding funding for future beach nourishment. Staff then gave a brief background on TransNet and also discussed some of the possibilities that may result from its passage. Staff explained, when the TransNet measure was initially developed, there was discussion about whether it would be a transportation-only measure or if it would incorporate other quality-of-life issues such as habitat preservation improvements. Polling showed that a transportation-only measure would have a greater chance of passing. As a result, the Board decided to move forward with a transportation-only measure. Due to the interest in issues that were not addressed in TransNet, the Board is beginning to think about what might be included in a quality-of-life measure, how much it would be for, and also how long it would be in effect. Some suggestions of issues that might be included in a quality-of-life measure have been: habitat conservation beyond that provided in the TransNet measure, water quality improvements, and beach sand improvements.

The Vice-Chair recommended the Shoreline Committee should take an active role in talking to the Board about a property based tax that would allow for an annual five dollar fee to provide for beach sand maintenance. He believes it is time that something happens to ensure the beaches will remain attractive and functional in the future.

Steve Aceti, Calcoast, noted that a quality-of-life tax would be appealing; however, when beach replenishment is grouped with other issues, passing it becomes more difficult. He also noted there has been a good track record for passing specific bond measures dealing with beach sand. Councilmember Kulchin noted that attitudes about saving the beaches may change if the public were aware of just how much the region's beaches help to fund San Diego's economy. Steve Aceti explained that, in his opinion, a transfer tax would be the best option to obtain funding. Dedi Ridenour, Sierra Club, asked if it would be possible to secure funding for beaches if they were considered as parks. Her feeling was that, just as taxes pay for the maintenance of grass at parks, the sand on beaches also should be maintained.

Discussion of this item will be continued at the beginning of the next meeting.

7. Legislative Update
This item will be discussed at the next meeting

8. Next Meeting Date
Councilmember Bond noted that the Encinitas/Solana Beach shoreline received $371,000 in funding from the federal government for shoreline improvement, and also noted that a big thank you is owed to Congressman Duke Cunningham. Congressman Cunningham allowed for the money which was taken out of the budget for this purpose to be put back in once the federal funding was received.

The next meeting will be held February 3, 2005.

9. Adjourn
January 7, 2005

TO: Shoreline Preservation Committee

FROM: SANDAG Staff

SUBJECT: Beach Monitoring Funding

At its December 2004 meeting, the Shoreline Preservation Committee discussed potential funding strategies for future beach replenishment. During this meeting, two suggested funding sources included a real estate transfer tax and a sales tax for beach replenishment. Since this meeting, staff has investigated the potential of these two suggested funding sources.

As you are probably aware, SANDAG is limited in its authority to levy taxes. Agencies such as SANDAG are not authorized under current law to impose a real estate transfer tax or any other tax other than a sales tax. As the Regional Transportation Commission, however, SANDAG is empowered to levy a sales tax up to one cent for transportation purposes. After the adoption of the TransNet ordinance last November, there is a remaining one-half cent capacity for a countywide measure in those jurisdictions which will not exceed the statewide sales tax limit as a result of the increase.

Demonstrating the region’s commitment to the environment, the following language was included in the TransNet ordinance, “SANDAG agrees to act on additional regional funding measures (a ballot measure and/or secure funding commitments) to meet the long-term requirements for implementing habitat conservation plans in the San Diego region, within the timeframe necessary to allow a ballot measure to be considered by the voters no later than four years after passage of the TransNet Extension.” The additional regional funding measures may include other purposes such as environmental and other quality-of-life issues. Furthermore, any additional funding measures would be levied from SANDAG’s remaining one-half cent capacity.

1 TransNet Extension and Ordinance, pg 37.
In 2001, SANDAG’s authority to levy a sales tax was expanded to include purposes other than transportation. The primary intention was to allow flexibility for the inclusion of additional purposes such as, but not limited to, habitat preservation in the TransNet ordinance. Currently, SANDAG staff is discussing the development of a sales tax for quality-of-life improvements, including habitat preservation, beach sand replenishment, and water quality improvements. The ballot measure would be considered by the voters no later than 2008. SANDAG is in the process of determining if current legislation would enable this quality-of-life measure to include Beach Sand Replenishment. The SPC will be informed of the extent of SANDAG’s authority when a legal opinion is rendered. Habitat preservation and water quality currently are within SANDAG’s authority to go to the voters.