



City of Encinitas *City Council's Office*

November 15, 2021

Department of Parks and Recreation
Boating and Waterways Commission
One Capitol Mall, Suite 500
Sacramento, California 95814

Catherine S. Blakespear
Mayor

Issue related to Shoreline Erosion and Restoration Programs - Item VII.E.

Dear Director Quintero,

Tony Kranz
Deputy Mayor

The City of Encinitas is writing to support funding for the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) Shoreline Erosion and Beach Restoration Program and respectfully requests that an alternate source of funding be directed to fund the Program.

Joe Mosca
Council Member

As background, the Shoreline Erosion and Beach Restoration Program was created by AB 64 (Ducheny – 1999) and was an effort by the Legislature to fund critical beach sand nourishment programs that protect infrastructure, public health, and public safety. Prior to AB 64, there was no State cost-share to help local governments draw down matching federal funds, leaving coastal cities with most of the financial responsibility as local sponsor for a federally sponsored project. AB 64 was essential to California, since other states, particularly those on the east coast, generally received more federal funding than California for beach sand replenishment projects.

Kellie Shay Hinze
Council Member

In early spring 2021, the City of Encinitas learned that the funding source for the Program was unstable, and we engaged in the budget process to urge the Legislature to continue to fund the Program. During this engagement, the City was told that projects in the queue would be funded by the General Fund, regardless of Program status. Despite our efforts, we received word in October 2021 that the State budget contained no funding for projects under this Program, due to an ongoing structural deficit with the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund. Additionally, and as confirmed with DBW, no municipalities received funding in the FY21/22 budget under the Program or from any other coastal erosion-related programs managed by State Parks.

Joy Lyndes
Council Member

Pamela Antil
City Manager

The Shoreline Erosion and Beach Restoration Program provides grant opportunities for critical coastal resilience projects on State owned and City operated beaches in the City of Encinitas. Program grants have facilitated the Encinitas – Solana Beach Army Corps of Engineers' Coastal Storm Damage Reduction Project (Army Corps Project), our primary program for building coastal resiliency and erosion protection, from feasibility to pre-construction. The Cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach (Cities) jointly applied for FY22/23 funding from the Program to garner financial support to construct the Army Corps Project. The non-federal share for the initial construction of the Project is over \$13M, and the Cities would draw down over \$11M from the State through the Shoreline Erosion and Beach Restoration Program if successful with the application.

With waning support from the Program, the Cities' Army Corps Project will not be able to be built. The Cities alone would have to pay over \$13M, the entirety of the non-federal (i.e., local sponsor) share of the Project. The City of Encinitas has a dedicated funding source through a community initiative to raise the transient occupancy tax to specifically fund beach nourishment projects. However, this fund grosses only ~\$400,000 annually and it must be used to fund additional shoreline stabilization projects, as well as the Army Corps Project. If the Shoreline Erosion and Beach Restoration Program grant fund is unfunded and another source not identified, the investment already made by the State would have been for nothing, having not afforded a single benefit to the coastal community of Encinitas.

What's more, without a Shoreline Erosion and Beach Restoration Program, regional beach nourishment projects like Regional Beach Sand Project I (2001) and II (2012), would also not be attainable. The Program funded 85% of the cost of the Regional Beach Sand Projects that would have otherwise had to be covered by each participating city. Cities throughout the North County region rely on these large beach nourishment efforts to provide our coastal areas with protection against wave run-up on our fragile bluffs, limit damage to public and private infrastructure in the coastal zone and expand beach recreational areas.

The Shoreline Erosion and Beach Restoration Program is a critical program for protecting public safety and infrastructure in Encinitas, while also preserving public beaches that were used by an estimated 3,065,000 residents and visitors in 2020 - 2021. If the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund is not used for funding this critical program, we ask that other revenues sources be identified to replace the funding source.

Sincerely,



Catherine S. Blakespear
Mayor

CC Senator Patricia Bates
Assembly Member Tasha Boerner Horvath
Deputy Mayor Tony Kranz
Council Member Joe Mosca
Council Member Kellie Shay Hinze
Council Member Joy Lyndes