



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Board of Supervisors
Department No.:
For Agenda Of: May 17, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Gregg Hart, 2nd District Supervisor
Director(s)
Contact Info: Chris Henson, Chief of Staff (805) 568-2191
SUBJECT: BEACON Report on Activities and Accomplishments

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- a) Receive and file a report from the Beach Erosion Authority For Clean Oceans And Nourishment (BEACON) on recent activities and accomplishments; and
- b) Determine that the action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5) because the hearing is an administrative activity that will not result in a direct or indirect physical change to the environment.

Summary Text:

Santa Barbara County is a founding, dues-paying member of the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON), a Joint Powers Agency (JPA), of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, and the six coastal cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Ventura, Oxnard, and Port Hueneme. BEACON is responsible for regional sediment management, regional sea level rise adaptation, beach restoration, and protecting ocean water quality along the shoreline of the two counties. The attached documents will report on the recent activities and accomplishments of BEACON and discuss potential fee increases the BEACON board will consider at a future meeting.

The County of Santa Barbara pays annual membership dues that fund the operation of BEACON. The County's dues for FY 21/22 were \$50,690. The BEACON Board is proposing to increase the County's FY 22/23 dues to \$53,275, representing a Cost of Living Increase of 5.1%, calculated by BEACON's financial staff at the Ventura County Auditor-Controller's Office (Attachment 2). These new rates are scheduled for final approval at BEACON's May 20th board meeting. 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.

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 (Attachment 1).

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.

BEACON is involved in important coastal improvement projects throughout the two-county coastline, including several in Santa Barbara County, extending from Goleta Beach and Goleta Bay to the Rincon. BEACON has partnered with the County and local agencies in supporting long-term sustainable beach nourishment at Goleta County Beach. BEACON has also sponsored and supported the innovative long-term, kelp restoration pilot project in Goleta Bay. Both projects are aimed at coastal resilience and protection of coastal and marine natural resources.

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.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The recommended actions do not have any fiscal or facility impacts.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - BEACON Strategic Plan 2021- 2026

Attachment 2 - BEACON Member Dues and Cost of Living Schedule

Attachment 3 – BEACON Flip Book

Attachment 4 - Presentation

Authored by: Supervisor Hart, Chair, BEACON Board of Directors
Marc Beyeler, Executive Director, BEACON