

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH REQUESTING THAT THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FUND AND IMMEDIATELY PROCEED WITH SURFSIDE-SUNSET BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECT STAGE 13 FROM ANAHEIM BAY HARBOR TO NEWPORT BAY IN ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

WHEREAS the longshore current carries beach sand southward along the California coast, nourishing the beaches of Orange County from Anaheim Bay Harbor through Huntington Beach to Newport Beach; and

Prior to onshore structural development between the San Gabriel River outlet and Newport Bay, local beaches received sand from flood runoff of the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana Rivers; and

In 1942, the United States constructed jetties at Anaheim Bay to serve the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station, adjacent to Surfside Beach. Waves reflected off the East Jetty combine with ocean waves, causing strong, localized southward-flowing longshore currents near the jetty. These currents cause severe down coast erosion at both Surfside Beach in Seal Beach, and Sunset Beach in Huntington Beach. In response, and without any formal Congressional action, the Army Corps of Engineers initiated beach replenishments in 1945, 1946 and 1956; and

The Army Corps conducted studies and issued a Report (House Document 602, October 2, 1962) identifying three causes of Orange County beach erosion: (1) the jetties at the entrance to Anaheim Bay; (2) flood-control structures constructed on the Los Angeles, San Gabriel, and Santa Ana rivers reducing sand delivery; and (3) construction of the Los Angeles/Long Beach breakwater system further altering and exacerbating the local sediment transport processes. The Army Corps acknowledged that all three causes of beach erosion were the result of the Federal government's own actions. Accordingly, the Army Corps recommended that the Federal Government provide sixty-seven percent (67%) of the cost of initial deposition of sand, with periodic beach nourishment. Congress authorized the Report's recommendations through the 1962 River and Harbor Act, Public Law 87-874, which the President signed; and

From 1964 through 1997, Beach Nourishment Stages 1 through 10 were completed. For 32 years, the Army Corps Commander considered beach nourishment a mandatory requirement. However, in 1995, the Army Corps began a phase-out of nourishment without regard to its past practice that nourishment was unique and necessary. Nourishment Stage 11 was completed in 2001, and Stage 12 was not completed until 2009; and

On April 2, 2018, the City of Huntington Beach and the County of Orange executed an Agreement For Construction of Periodic Nourishment Of the Orange County Beach Erosion Control Project Stage 13, in which the City agreed to contribute \$281,966 towards Stage 13 construction. The State of California, the City of Newport Beach and others will provide additional contributions; and

In September 2018, the Army Corps issued a Draft Environmental Assessment for Nourishment Stage 13, indicating the project would begin in the winter of 2019, and that Stage 14 would occur in 2023. The Environmental Assessment acknowledged that Stages 13 and 14 were required pursuant to the 1962 act of Congress, Public Law 87-874, and that "Federal

authority directs the Corps to nourish the beaches between the Anaheim Bay jetties and the Newport pier;" and

If nourishment is discontinued, Orange County beaches will erode, reducing recreation opportunities and protection of shoreline facilities from storm damage; and

Despite the warning that failure to nourish local beaches would not only reduce recreation opportunities but also expose property to storm damage, the Army Corps has failed to fund the Nourishment Stage 13 for 11 years, and shows no signs of pursuing it;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach does hereby resolve as follows:

1. The City Council finds all of the above Recitals true and correct.
2. The City Council urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Pacific Division Los Angeles District to immediately fund and proceed with Surfside-Sunset Beach Nourishment Project Stage 13.
3. The City Council directs the City Clerk to forward this Resolution to Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gen. Paul E. Owen, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division, and Col. Julie Balten, Los Angeles District Commander.
4. The City Council directs the City Manager and the City Director of Public Works, or their designees to meet directly with Colonel Balten, and take all other actions reasonable and necessary to ensure that Nourishment Stage 13 proceeds immediately in 2021, and Stage 14 occurs within two years of the completion of Stage 13.
5. PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach at a regular meeting thereof held on the _____ day of _____, 2021.

Mayor

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

City Manager

INITIATED AND APPROVED:



Director of Public Works

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney