

BEACON BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Friday, February 28, 2025

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: IN-PERSON IN CARPINTERIA & TELECONFERENCE

Item	1A	Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introductions – Vice Chair, Kyle Richards
Minutes/ Actions:	Members Present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vianey Lopez (County of Ventura) • Roy Lee (County of Santa Barbara) • Laura Capps (County of Santa Barbara) • Eric Friedman (City of Santa Barbara) • Jennifer Smith (City of Goleta) • Doug Halter (City of Ventura) • Gabe Teran, (City of Oxnard) • Steven Gama (City of Port Hueneme) Members Not Present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julie Mayer (City of Carpinteria) • Matt LaVere (County of Ventura) 	
Item	1B - C	Approval of Administrative Items B. Approval of Agenda and Filing of Certificate of Agenda Posting. C. Consideration and Approval of Minutes of the BEACON Meeting held on December 19, 2024.
Minutes/ Actions:	Board Members Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. Public Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. Motion to approve Items IB and IC as set forth in the agenda. Moved by Friedman / Second by Halter. Unanimously approved.	

Item	1D	Approval of Administrative Items D. Election of BEACON Officers Elect a Chair and Vice-Chair to serve a two-year term for calendar years 2025 and 2026. (Attachment 1).
Minutes/ Actions:	Chair Lopez indicated that it has been a pleasure to serve as the Chair for the last two years. She indicated that she has always made every effort to attend the Board meeting in person, which she believes makes a difference. Chair Lopez thanked everyone for their support. Chair Lopez added that she would like to nominate Member Friedman as the new Chair and Member Gama as Vice Chair. <p>Board Members Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Capps thanked Chair Lopez for all her work and service. • Member Lee indicated he supports the nomination recommendations. • Member Teran thanked Chair Lopez for her services, and he indicated his support for the nominations. • Member Friedman indicated he would accept the nomination. He thanked Chair Lopez 	

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	<p>for her leadership and indicated that BEACON has elevated its stature Statewide, and the State often looks to BEACON as an example. The leadership of Chair Lopez and Vice Chair Richards have been instrumental in the last two years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Gama thanked Chair Lopez for her service. He added that there could not be a better time to be part of BEACON. Things are happening, but every location is different along the coast. • Member Halter also thanked Chair Lopez. He added that BEACON is an excellent example of what must happen in the future. Everything that we do has to be done through a regional lens. • Chair Lopez thanked staff for all the work they do and keeping BEACON at the pinnacle. <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p>Motion to elect Member Friedman as the new Chair, and Member Gama as the new Vice Chair. Moved by Lopez / Second by Halter. Unanimously approved.</p>
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Item	1E	<p>Appointment of BEACON Executive Committee Membership</p> <p>Recommended Action:</p> <p>E. Consider appointments to the BEACON Executive Committee for a period from January 2025 through January 2027: the Past Chair, the Current Chair, the Current Vice Chair, one member from the Ventura County area member agencies, and one member from the Santa Barbara County area member agencies. (Attachment 1).</p>
Minutes/ Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director Beyeler indicated to Chair Friedman that there is an annotated agenda in front of him that lays out the protocols for each of the items on the agenda. • Chair Friedman indicated he was honored to be the new Chair of BEACON. He explained that his career has gone full circle. If you look at the past chairs, in 2010 my former boss, Salud Carbajal, was chair and I have known the BEACON staff for over 20 years. Chair Friedman indicated that this item is for new appointments to the BEACON Executive Committee for the new two years. The make-up of the Executive Committee has five members, consisting of the Chair, the Vice Chair, the past Chair, with the remaining two places coming from a member from Santa Barbara County and one from Ventura County. The Chair, Vice Chair, and past Chair places are known. • Member Lopez recommended Member Halter for Ventura County. • Chair Friedman recommended Member Kyriaco for Santa Barbara County. • Member Teran indicated his support for Member Halter to the Executive Committee. <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p>Motion to confirm the Chair's following appointments for the Executive Committee: Past Chair Lopez, Current Chair Friedman, Current Vice Chair Gama, Director</p>

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	Kyriaco for a member of Santa Barbara County, and Director Halter for a member of Ventura County. Moved by Lopez / Second by Friedman. Unanimously approved.
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Item	2	Public Comment and Other Matters not on the agenda Receive public comments.
Minutes/ Actions:	Board Members Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. Public Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 	

Item	3	Presentations - Carpinteria Shoreline Master Plan Receive a presentation from Erin Maker, Environmental Program Manager, City of Carpinteria, on the City's Living Shoreline Project
Minutes/ Actions:	<p>Erin Maker, from the City of Carpinteria, presented a PowerPoint on the City Carpinteria's Living Shoreline Project.</p> <p>The presentation by Erin Maker is available on the BEACON Website.</p> <p>Board Members Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Gama indicated he became a member of BEACON six years ago and believes he recalled a test project to place sediment at Carpinteria Beach and watch it get moved around. Is the Living Shoreline Project a continuation of that effort six years ago? • Erin responded that the Living Shoreline Project came out of the adoption of the City's Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan, which is part of the Local Coastal Plan. • Member Gama asked if the transport of debris basin sediment to Carpinteria Beach is a new way of thinking compared to the past? • Erin responded that it is. The City has long advocated, with BEACON, that sediment should be deposited on the beach. What has changed is how the regulatory environment views things. Historically, when a basin was cleaned out the material was taken to a private quarry, which then sold the sand back to public agencies or private developers to use. • Member Gama indicated that it is exciting to part of BEACON and part of this "C" change in thinking, and supporting the notion that "every mountain wants to become a beach" and that sediment from debris basin should not go to landfills. I hope we will continue with this approach. • Erin indicated that there was a question in the chat asking the duration of the project. Erin explained that the first element of the project is the planning phase, which will go through 2027. The City follows the public contracting code for selection of consultants. After this phase we will move into final design and construction. 	

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- Member Capps asked what are the next steps with the partnership with the County?
- Erin indicated that she has been working closely with the County's project manager, Andrew Raaf from Flood Control. The County is initiating its own project, BeachSMART, which was presented to the Board in December 2024. The City's project and BeachSMART will be closely coordinated. The RFP for the County's project went out a month ago, and the City's RFP will go out on March 13, 2025. There is a requirement in both sets of RFPs for consultants to coordinate with each other and that coordination is a priority.
- Member Friedman asked where the winter berm sand comes from each year?
- Erin responded that the sand is from the beach. The City has permits to allow existing beach sand to be pushed to the back of the beach to create a berm. Biological and engineering surveys are done both pre and post berm construction.
- Member Friedman stated that no sand is imported from Santa Barbara Harbor or other sources.
- Erin confirmed that there is no import for the winter berm.
- Member Gama asked what the practice will be ten years after completion of this project. Will there be a totally different way of managing your shoreline?
- Erin responded that it will not be completely different and some of these questions will be worked out through the environmental review process. But the intention is a small low lying dune system protecting the beach which would be annually or biannually replenished through approved permits. Previously, nourishment was only achieved through emergency events.
- Brian Brennan indicated that there is a question in the chat asking if the dunes will halt sand erosion.
- Erin responded that the dunes would help against sand erosion. Beaches change their profiles all the time, but our project will mitigate this change by replenishing sand that no longer comes through the local creek system.
- Executive Director Beyeler thanked Erin for the presentation. Erin was originally scheduled to make this presentation in December at the same time as the County's BeachSMART presentation. In addition, BEACON is involved in the County's project and staff will be presenting to the Board our role in the project in the next few meetings and Andrew Raff from Santa Barbara County will also be back to describe the outreach effort and the technical basis for the BeachSMART project. The goal here is to establish a programmatic approach to the management of the debris basins. This is a major advance, and the County has made a major contribution of \$1M along with the Coastal Conservancy funds toward the effort. The Carpinteria Dunes project will allow the import of sediment from other places beyond just debris basins, so long as the sediment qualifies. The Board will also remember that BEACON brought to the Board a recommendation to place beach quality export from the Rincon Multi-use Trail project. In March of 2023, the community was complaining about the emergency deposition that occurred at Carpinteria Beach. The City and County projects will address those concerns through a programmatic approach.

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	Public Comments: None.
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Item	4	Projects Santa Barbara County Debris Basin Modification Project Receive a presentation from Staff on the recently completed Santa Barbara County Debris Basins Modification Project
Minutes/ Actions:		<p>Executive Director Beyeler indicated that this is an interesting meeting because you are seeing the benefits of our partner agencies. Over the past 6 years, your Program Manager, Gerald Comati, has been working with Santa Barbara County on a project to modify older debris basins. The project was interrupted with the 2018 Debris Flow and the scope of the project changed to ensure the preservation of life and safety as well as natural resource protection. Beacon often provides leadership and planning on construction projects but leaves the actual installation to the member agencies. So in this case the County performed the design and construction activities. An important element was that BEACON, through a consultant, prepared a Best Practices Manual to guide debris basin modification projects. This manual could be used by other agencies interested in considering the implementation of a similar project.</p> <p>BEACON Program Manager, Gerald Comati, made a PowerPoint presentation on the Santa Barbara Debris Basins Project. The PowerPoint will be posted to the BEACON Website.</p> <p>Board Members Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Lopez asked how the basins were identified for modification? • Gerald responded that he was not sure of the criteria used by Flood Control. Certainly, they had to be located on blueline creeks and perhaps were less high energy. This question should be answered by SB Co Flood Control. • Member Teran asked about the loss of 1.2M CY of sediment getting to the coast between now and 200 years ago. He did a calculation of how many Olympic size swimming pools the 1.2M CY would fill, and it turns out to be 550 pools every year. • Gerald responded that that is an excellent visual. Another visual would be to compare the quantity of material that has recently been deposited at Goleta Beach or Carpinteria Beach through emergency events. The Board may have seen photos of those operations which were at most about 40,000 CY and represent a good deal of sediment. So, 1.2 M is so much larger. • Member Gama indicated that in the past our beaches were so much wider because we had so much more material feeding our shoreline. BEACON of course, understands this change. What would happen if you had a mayor debris flow like 2018 and the outlet structure was blocked? • Gerald responded that if the modified debris basin was entirely blocked it would revert to a more traditional basin function and would fill up. However, it is unlikely that the outlet structure would be entirely blocked. • Member Gama asked if there is a white paper about the volume of the debris flow in

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	<p>2018?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerald responded that he seems to recall about 1M CY in total. There is expert analysis which we can located. Member Lee asked what modification were made to Santa Monica Debris Basin? Gerald responded that he believes that the towers were raised a number of years ago but was not sure. The Santa Monica basin is the largest basin on the south coast, and it receives sediment that that has flowed through Gobernador Basin. The Gobernador Basin was the first basin to be modified back in 2008 as an experiment and it is still successfully functioning today. Member Lee asked if sediment from Santa Monica Basin could be used at Miramar Beach? Gerald responded that from a quantity standpoint, Santa Monican could support multiple locations. A Chat question from Dan Hoover with USGS asked if cobble is being retained in the basins? Gerald responded that cobble will settle out in the basin along with other sediment. It may flush through depending on the size of a given storm. For lower energy storms, a lot of sediment will settle out in the basin. With big storms, sediment will flush downstream, including cobble. It all depends on the frequency and size of storms in a given year. Brian Brennan added that BEACON was involved in the Gobernador Project back in 2008. Seventeen years later we are implementing similar modifications. Also, Brian wanted to thank Gerald for this presentation which he also gave last September to a coastal real-estate group. Chair Friedman added that 20 years ago Carpinteria developed two watershed plans, one for Carpinteria Avenue Creek and one for Rincon Creek. The plan focused on the restoration of riparian habitat, especially for fish-passage. Multiple fish-passage projects were identified, and many were funded and implemented. Seven different barriers to fish-passage barriers were removed, and the final project was the Gobernador Basin modification. So, the success of the Gobernador basin modification no doubt informed the decision to proceed with these current basin modification projects. <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None.
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Item	5A	BEACON Organization and Program Board Members Reports
Minutes/ Actions:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member Gama reported that they are mobilizing for the 2024 dredge project. We are not going to get the full allotment, currently at 1.6M CY. But hope we will get more. We have a messaging problem with the Federal Government. <p>Board Members Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member Smith shared that the City of Goleta is celebrating 20 years of the Ellwood Mesa Preserve. There is a volunteer effort on-going with the non-profit Santa Barbara Bucket

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	<p>Brigade. Volunteers are welcome to do planting out on the preserve, no experience necessary. A more formal celebration will be scheduled on May 17, 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Member Capps indicated that Supervisor Lee and I voted against a permit transfer for Sable Oil along the coastline. There was a 2-2 vote of the Board of Supervisors.• Member Lee indicated that the Miramar HOA has reached out to him to receive sediment.• Brian Brennan indicated that twenty years ago, BEACON was instrumental in coordinating with the City of Santa Barbara Harbor dredging operation to extend the dredge out line further downstream in order to ensure the dredge sand makes it past the point at Butterfly Beach and ensure the dredged sand doesn't just circle back into Santa Barbara Harbor. This extension was completed. It may be worth discussing with Santa Barbara Harbor a further extension of the outfall line with the intent to nourish Miramar Beach. This could be made part of the work plan.• Chair Friedman suggested a three-way conversation with Member Lee and Staff on this subject.• Member Teran indicated that SLC will be hosting a hybrid community engagement meeting on the lease amendment for the Orman Beach Generating Station in South Oxnard. The event is at the South Oxnard Community Center or remotely go the SLC website SLC.CA.GOV for link information.• Member Gama indicated that Channel Island Harbor 2-year dredge project is underway. However, the project has been delayed. The issue is on the City of Port Hueneme Agenda for St Patrick's Day. The dredge stops today, and we were supposed to be getting 2.4 M CY of dredge material and we are only getting 1M CY. This brings us back to where we were 10 years ago when our infrastructure was falling into the ocean because the beach wasn't wide enough. I would like to see legislation that prudent value added federal expenditure is never on the chopping block. There is a mountain of sand that is piling up at the mouth of Channel Island Harbor. If we do not get the dredge back next year, we will repeat what happened 10 years ago and the City will incur millions of dollars in additional cost. City of Port Hueneme needs help. Port Hueneme delivers a few billion dollars to Ventura County each year, why can't we resolve this issue.• Chair Friedman agreed that this was an important issue and asked that Member Gama prepare a memo and we can agendize for a future meeting.• Chair Friedman indicated that the Coastal Commission is meeting in April 2025 in Santa Barbara.• Chair Friedman also explained that the Casamira HOA case, which was won by Casamira, was overturned by the appellate court. It is likely that the case will now go to the State Supreme Court. This case will inform whether coastal properties constructed after 1977 (year the Coastal Act was approved) will have any coastal protection permits from the Coastal Commission. <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None.
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Item	5C	<p>BEACON Contracts and Agreements Recommended Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Amendment (Amendment No. 1) to the Agreement with the University of Washington for the Southern California Cell Phone Data Project, extending the period of performance from June 30, 2025 to December 31, 2025 consistent with the approved scope of work and without a change in the grant amount of \$180,000.00 provided by The Bay Foundation. (Attachment 1). ii. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Amendment (Amendment No. 2) to the Agreement with California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) for the Southern California cell Phone Data Project to extend the period of performance from June 30, 2025 to December 31, 2025 consistent with the approved work scope and without a change in the grant amount of \$72,248.00 provided by The Bay Foundation (Attachment II). iii. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Stacy Miller Public Relations to assist BEACON staff in developing communication materials and in organizing and organizational and strategic planning services with a period of performance from March 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025, for a total amount not to exceed \$17,500.00. (Attachment III). iv. Approve and authorize the receipt of a \$10,000.00 donation from Santa Barbara County to support the BEACON Kelp Anchor Demonstration Project in Goleta Bay.
Minutes/ Actions:	<p>Executive Director Marc Beyeler indicated that every meeting your staff bring contracts and amendments. There are four items today.</p> <p>The first two agreements are no-cost time extensions on a grant funded project to analyze beach access use. BEACON had contracted with the University of Washington and CSUCI to perform this work. These amendments will add 6 months to the terms of the agreements. The third agreement is a new agreement with Stacy Miller Public Affairs. The scope of this agreement will be to assist Beacon Staff in developing up-to-date communications materials and assistance in providing organizational and strategic planning services. The final item is to approve a \$10K donation from the County of Santa Barbara for the Kelp Anchor Project. I believe that the City of Goleta will also be contributing a small donation.</p> <p>Board Members Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Gama indicated he was happy to hear about the Kelp Anchor project donation. This is an excellent project and happy BEACON is involved. <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p>Motion to approve Items 5C i-iv as recommended on the agenda. Moved by Lopez /</p>	

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	Second by Teran. Unanimously approved.
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Item	6	Executive Director's Report and Communications The Executive Director will report on recent activities and achievements of BEACON, upcoming events of interest to the Board of Directors and the public, and general status of BEACON major projects, including the status of recent BEACON presentations on activities and accomplishments to our member agencies. There will be no Board discussion except to ask questions or refer matters to Staff; no action will be taken unless listed on a subsequent agenda.
Minutes/ Actions:		<p>Executive Director Beyeler explained that for the last five years, at the instance of the City of Port Hueneme, BEACON has paid attention to the sediment needs of south Ventura County. For each of the last five years, BEACON has hosted the Ventura Sand Summit meeting. This brings all the parties sited by Member Gama to the table and we do a lot of informal lobbying. But the Channel Islands Dredging Project is a problematic multi-agency and expensive project. BEACON is a member of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA), a national non-profit. ASBPA, along with ten other coastal organizations coordinate an annual event in Washington DC called "Coasts Week". Following our BEACON meeting in March, Brian Brennan will attend this meeting in DC representing BEACON along with members of the RDP (Regional Defense Partnership) in Ventura County and BEACON member agency lobbying firms and with a five-county regional group (Los Angeles, Long Beach, Orange County, SANDAG). We will be lobbying to advocate for the entire Southern California and specifically the continued dredging of the harbors within the BEACON jurisdiction: Santa Barbara, Ventura and Channel Island harbors. In addition, BEACON has been working with the City of Port Hueneme in communications with the US Navy. The Navy funds 19% of the Channel Island Dredging and have been an attendee at each of our Sand Summit Meeting during the last five years. We are trying to have stronger communications with the leadership of the Navy and the USACOE. BEACON does not spend a lot on travel or conferences, but we feel it important to participate with the coalition of California representatives in DC for "Coasts Week". All the harbors will be present again at our Ventura Sand Summit this year, which will follow "Coasts Week" in DC. We have argued for programmatic federal funding for dredging and will continue to do that.</p> <p>Also, as a reminder, the March BEACON Board, scheduled for March 21, 2024 is the meeting where we discuss the annual dues for FY2526. So, it is an important meeting.</p> <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None. <p>Board Members Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Member Gama asked if we have a date for the next Sand Summit?

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Executive Director Beyeler responded that staff have circulated potential dates to the Board and asks that Board members respond through email. But it will be sometime in April.
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The next Board Meeting will be held on March 21, 2025, 9:00 AM, at the City of Carpinteria City Council Chambers.

Meeting Minutes by Gerald Comati, Program Manager, BEACON.