



A California Joint Powers Agency

Julia Mayer
City of Carpinteria

James Kyriaco
City of Goleta

Gabe Teran
City of Oxnard

Steven Gama, Vice-Chair
City of Port Hueneme

Doug Halter
City of San Buenaventura

Eric Friedman, Chair
City of Santa Barbara

Laura Capps
Roy Lee
County of Santa Barbara

Vianey Lopez
Matt LaVere
County of Ventura

Executive Director
Marc Beyeler

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Santa Barbara, CA 93101

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MEETING NOTICE

BEACH EROSION AUTHORITY FOR CLEAN OCEANS AND NOURISHMENT (BEACON)

January 23, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of a **MEETING** of the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON). The date, time, and place of the meeting shall be as follows:

DATE: Friday, January 23, 2026

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: IN-PERSON AND TELECONFERENCE (see details below)

The agenda of business to be conducted is below.

Eric Friedman, Chairperson

Members of the public may participate in-person for this meeting at the following locations:

City of Carpinteria
Carpinteria City Hall
City Council Chambers
5775 Carpinteria Ave
Carpinteria, CA 93013

County of Santa Barbara
Administration Building
105 E. Anapamu St. 4th Floor,
Supervisor Laura Capps
2nd District Office
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Members of the public may also participate via teleconference for this meeting by:

1. You may observe the live meeting of the Board of Directors via Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/edl?muid=99be3c45-a68e-4f94-9d50-015827ce09a1>

Meeting ID: [827 1430 3184](https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/edl?muid=99be3c45-a68e-4f94-9d50-015827ce09a1)
Passcode: [094272](https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/edl?muid=99be3c45-a68e-4f94-9d50-015827ce09a1)

2. You may call in to listen live to the Board of Directors meeting by dialing [1669 444 9171](tel:16694449171) and then entering the following when prompted:
Meeting ID: [827 1430 3184](https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/edl?muid=99be3c45-a68e-4f94-9d50-015827ce09a1) and Passcode: [094272](https://us02web.zoom.us/launch/edl?muid=99be3c45-a68e-4f94-9d50-015827ce09a1)



3. If you wish to make a general public comment or to comment on a specific agenda, the following methods are available:
 - a. Distribution to the Board. Submit comments via email to Staff@Beacon.ca.gov prior to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 or through mail to BEACON at 501 Poli Street, Ventura, CA 93001 to be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2026. Your comment will be placed into the record and distributed appropriately.
 - a. Read into the record at the meeting. Submit comments of 250 words, or less, via email to Staff@BEACON.ca.gov prior to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 prior to the Board meeting. Please indicate if you would like to make a general public comment, a comment on a specific agenda item, or both. Please state in your email, or mail, if you would like the comment "read into the record." Every effort will be made to read your comment into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Comments timely received on an agenda item will be placed into the record and distributed accordingly.
 - b. By Zoom. Log onto Zoom as described above. The meeting will be controlled by the BEACON Chair. If you wish to make a comment during the meeting, please raise your hand using the Zoom instructions on your computer. By using the typed messaging capability of Zoom you should also indicate to the Chair which Agenda Item you wish to speak on or if you wish to make a general comment that is not specific to an Agenda Item. BEACON Staff will make every effort to call you during the indicated item so that you may comment.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations to participate in the meeting should contact BEACON at least three workingdays prior to the meeting.

MEETING AGENDA

1. Administrative Items

- A. Call to Order, Announcement of Appointment and/or Reappointment of Board Members, Roll Call

Items 1B and 1C listed under Administrative Items constitute a consent agenda and will be acted upon by a single roll call vote of the Board. Matters listed as an Administrative Item will be read only on the request of a member of the Board or the public, in which event the matter shall be removed from the Administrative Agenda and considered as a separate item.

- B. Approval of Agenda and Filing of Certificate of Agenda Posting.
- C. Consideration and Approval of Minutes of the BEACON Meeting held on November 21, 2025. (Exhibit 1).

2. Public Comment and Other Matters not on the Agenda

3. Presentation on the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS)

Receive a BEACON staff report and a presentation on the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) from Paul Michel, Senior Advisor, NOAA West Coast Region.



4. BEACON Project Update on Surfers Point Project, Phase 1 Ten Year Monitoring and Phase 2 Completion

Receive a staff report update and a presentation from BEACON Staff on the latest status of the Surfers Point Project, including Phase 1 project performance and completion of Phase 2. (Attachment 1, 2, and 3).

5. BEACON Organization and Program

A. BEACON Board Member Reports

Directors are invited to provide reports and updates on items of interest in their County or City.

B. BEACON Budget Actions and Financial Reports

Recommended Action:

Receive and file the attached Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget-to-Actual financial report for the year-to-date period ending December 31, 2025 (Exhibit I).

C. BEACON Contracts and Agreements

Recommended Action:

Coastal Access Data Research Project.

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 3 with Nate Merrill/Matunuck Research, to provide scientific and technical services supporting coastal and beach access planning to extend the period of performance three months with a revised ending date of June 30, 2026, without an increase in the total funding amount of \$75,000 (Attachment No. 1).

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.

March 2026 Meeting Agenda:

- A. Presentations
- B. Project Updates
- C. BEACON Financial Actions: BEACON Member Dues and Budget Review

7. Adjourn

Late Distribution of Materials

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the City Clerk to all or a majority of the members of the BEACON Board less than 72 hours prior to that meeting are available for inspection in the City Clerk Office, at 5775 Carpinteria Ave, Carpinteria, CA 93013 and on the Internet at: BEACON.CA.GOV. Any written ex parte communication subject to disclosure by members of the BEACON Board may be published online as an attachment to the corresponding item.

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Website:
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STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 23, 2026

Agenda Item: 1B-C

To: BEACON Board of Directors
From: Executive Director
Date: January 16, 2026

Subject: Administrative Items

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- B. Approval of Agenda and Filing of Certificate of Agenda Posting.
- C. Consideration and Approval of Minutes of the BEACON Meeting held on November 21, 2025 (Exhibit 1).

ITEM 1C
Consideration and Approval of Minutes

EXHIBIT 1

Minutes from November 21, 2025, Board Meeting

BEACON BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES FOR

DATE: Friday, November 21, 2025

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: IN-PERSON IN CARPINTERIA & TELECONFERENCE

Item	1A	Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introductions –Chair, Eric Friedman
Minutes/ Actions:		<p>Members Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt LaVere (County of Ventura) • Roy Lee (County of Santa Barbara) • Eric Friedman (City of Santa Barbara) • James Kyriaco (City of Goleta) • Doug Halter (City of Ventura) • Julie Mayer (City of Carpinteria) • Steven Gama (City of Port Hueneme) <p>Members Not Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vianey Lopez (County of Ventura) • Laura Capps (County of Santa Barbara) • Gabe Teran, (City of Oxnard)
Item	1B - C	<p>Approval of Administrative Items</p> <p>B. Approval of Agenda and Filing of Certificate of Agenda Posting.</p> <p>C. Consideration and Approval of Minutes of the BEACON Meeting held on July 18, 2025.</p>
Minutes/ Actions:		<p>Board Members Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p>Item B: Motion to approve as set forth in the agenda. Moved by LaVere / Second by Kyriaco. Unanimously approved.</p> <p>Item C: Motion to approve as set forth in the agenda. Moved by Halter / Second by Gama, Kyriaco abstained. Approved.</p>

Item	2	Public Comment and Other Matters not on the agenda Receive public comments.
Minutes/ Actions:		<p>Board Members Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.

Item	3	Presentations - <i>Recommended Action:</i> Receive a presentation on the California Beach Resilience Plan from Dr. Charles Lester of University of California Santa Barbara, Ocean and Coastal Policy Center, and Dr. Kiki Patsch of California State University Channel Islands, Department of Environmental Science and Resource Management.
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BEACON BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES FOR

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Minutes/ Actions:	<p>Executive Director Marc Beyeler noted that all members have paper copies of the agenda. The Executive Director introduced Dr. Charles Lester of the University of California Santa Barbara, Ocean and Coastal Policy Center, and Dr. Kiki Patsch of California State University Channel Islands, both are members of BEACON's Science Advisory Committee, and are working on a statewide California Beach Resilience Plan, funded through the Ocean Protection Council (OPC).</p> <p>The presentation by Dr. Lester and Dr. Patsch will be posted to the BEACON Website.</p> <p>Board Members Comments:</p> <p>Member Gama: Director Gama indicated that he has been a frequent visitor to Silver Strand Beach most of his life and he noted that Sealions have recently shown up. Is it a result of an action somewhere else? It is fascinating to see.</p> <p>Response from Dr. Lester. I do not know why that would be happening although it has been happening other places. This is great example of the tradeoff through beach use. Sealion populations are bouncing back.</p> <p>Member Gama. Director Gama added that there was a lot of interaction between the Sealions and the active surfers.</p> <p>Member Lee. Director Lee asked how MPA's effect on our coast? What are the pros and cons?</p> <p>Response from Dr. Lester. That is a great question. Dr. Dugan on the team has pointed out that there is a connection between MPS's and beaches. It is a great question, and we do not know the answer, but worth investigating.</p> <p>Member Kyriaco. Director Kyriaco added that he was struck by the statement in the presentation of how beaches are viewed like infrastructure, and how nourishment of our beaches is compared to how we pave our road. If beaches are a resource to habitat, how do we safely preserve that habitat if beach nourishment is not the best approach. If beach nourishment is the best approach (bring in sand), then what is the short-term answer to preserving habitat?</p> <p>Response from Dr. Lester. That is a good question. This is an important question for a project like this. More communities are looking for beach nourishment solutions to beach erosion for near term and mid-term. Hopefully by the end of the project we will have a better understanding of the different layers in terms of ecologies and beach use. But nourishment is not always the best strategy. Depending on the location, it is sometimes best not to touch a beach. It may be adaptive capacity. If we allow beaches to erode and maximize ecology in those locations. Some people chose to look at beaches as critical infrastructure and in many ways that is appropriate. But through an ecological sense, this view is not correct, beaches are living systems.</p> <p>Response from Dr. Patsch. Dr. Patsch responded that this is one area where BEACON is showing the rest of the State how to think about the coastal problems. But it is a short-term solution. But there are ways to nourish beaches without impacting ecology too much. Another approach is to determine which beaches are nourished and preserved because they are heavily used and which other beaches are not nourished and instead have an ecological focus. Thinking about the whole suite of beaches in say the BEACON region, in terms highest recreational use,</p>
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BEACON BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES FOR

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	<p>ecological use, underserved communities, and protecting critical infrastructure. This project will be able to provide a guide for a balanced assessment of a region. We must have a system wide view.</p> <p>Response from Dr. Lester. The system wide looking will provide a more balanced view. If we take out our dams for example, we will provide a natural sediment transport to the coast and the need to do direct beach nourishment and potentially smother our ecology can be avoided. This is being assessed currently under Santa Barbara Counties BeachSMART project, with options that open up debris basin allow natural sediment transport.</p> <p>Response from Dr. Patsch. The BeachSMART is also looking at assessing which beaches are better receiving sites.</p> <p>Member Kyriaco. Director Kyriaco indicated that in short-term it makes sense to do nourishment, which allows time for further assessment of mid-term solutions.</p> <p>Response from Dr. Lester. This is a component, but there is potentially room for some sort of hard-scape solutions too. These are all strategies for mid-term solutions.</p> <p>Chair Friedman. Director Friedman indicated that he is part of the Coastal Commission Local government Working Group and one of the initiatives is the Neighborhood approach to coastal development. Can this project inform communities on how LCP's can be updated in phases, rather than a complete overhaul. Are you working with the Coastal Commission?</p> <p>Response from Dr. Lester. Yes, we are talking with the Coastal Commission, and they are working on adaptive capacity. BEACON can provide governance initiatives.</p> <p>The Executive Director thanked Dr. Lester and Dr. Patsch and wanted to indicate that this is an on-going discussion. Also, BEACON is pursuing similar questions on a regional basis versus a statewide.</p> <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:		<p>Board Members Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair Friedman: At the last City Council mtg the City Council approved the updated ordinance for the RCAMP. <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None.

Item	5B	BEACON Board Meeting Schedule for 2026 <i>Recommended Action:</i> Review and adopt a 2026 Meeting Schedule.
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Minutes/ Actions:	Executive Director reported that there are two meetings in the year that are on the fourth Friday of the month instead of the third. These are in January, because of the member appointment process, and in May meeting for budgeting – May is the last meeting of the fiscal year since we do not have a June board meeting.
	<p>Board Members Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Member LaVere: I, and Supervisor Lopez, will not be able to attend the January Board Meeting because we will be in Sacramento.• Chair Friedman: I want to clarify which meeting is it critical that we have 10 out of 10 member attendance?• Executive Director responded: The critical 10 out of 10 attendance is for the March Board Meeting, when we will consider approval of our due's approval for Fiscal Year 25-26 Budget. <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None. <p>Motion to approve Items 5B as recommended on the agenda - Moved by Halter / Second by Gama. Unanimously approved.</p>

Item	<p>BEACON Budget Actions <i>Recommended Action:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Receive a Staff Report on the BEACON Budget Fiscal Year 2026-27 setting forth three options to increase member dues (Exhibits I - III); andii. Provide direction to staff on the Recommended Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget.
Minutes/ Actions:	Executive Director indicated he wants to give an overview of the budget. This year we have shifted the start of the next fiscal year budgeting process to better with each member agency fiscal year budget process. The Executive Director continued that he had been in place as a paid Executive Director for the last four years. Since 2021 it was agreed to keep the membership dues untouched except for cost-of-living increases and to see how things go. That changed last year when we did several things. The Board approved a Finance Subcommittee to review four years of performance and staff presented an aggressive next here years strategy. Staff believe that the major constraint moving forward is the ability for BEACON to afford the level of professional services necessary. It is the Executive Director's job to let the Board know what we need, and it is the Board's job to let me know what BEACON can afford, and staff will take whatever direction the Board will give. Last year we proposed a three-year plan looking forward to funding administration, science, and project management services. We made an ask of 50% last year and the Board decided on a phased approach, with 15% being approved last year. What was the use of these funds? Last year the Board asked for two duty statements, one for an administration position, and one for GIS technical person. We successfully filled the GIS position but not the administrative one.

BEACON BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES FOR

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The governing factor in not filling the administrative position is money. The BEACON team is entirely virtual, and we fill this through 1099 consultants. This year we are presenting options increases in dues of 5, 10 and 15%. That said, I believe 15% is a good number and the reason is that BEACON, with the exception of the Auditor Controller's Office from Ventura County and County Counsel from Santa Barbara County, are all 1099 contracts. We have put together BEACON first organizational chart. The chart is impressive; it shows multiple departments and implies a big staff. But most of these boxes represent an effort of less than 20%. In fact, the total Person Years (PY's) represented on the chart is about two. BEACON is a micro agency, which is not a bad thing, just who we are. A 5% increase gets us an additional \$20k, 10% an additional \$40K, and 15% gets us an additional \$60K. What would we do with these funds? We would divide them up among the professional services to try and get more time and then try to be more successful in filling the duty statements that you had approved of for us. We have been lucky at BEACON to have very high-quality staff. The bottom line is that BEACON is very successful, we are evolving, and we will continue to be successful, but we have our limitations because of funding. A good example is the Surfers Point Project. We struggled to put together \$44K to do three-year monitoring to show how successful the project has been. The agenda packet includes the overall budget exhibit. The exhibit shows that we never spend more than the revenue we receive, and we always put aside a reserve. The other important point to recognize is that one cannot use grant money unless you have the cash flow available to cover reimbursements, and the BEACON reserve allows us to do this. In addition, a reminder that, as the Board knows, BEACON follows all required finance protocols, policies, and audit requirements.

Board Members Comments:

- **Member LaVere:** Is the request that we take these budget options, consider them, and then come back in March for adoption?
- **Response from Executive Director:** Yes.
- **Member LaVere:** Please show me where on the Budget Exhibit is the Fund Balance?
- **Response from Executive Director:** The last two lines of the Budget show the Beginning Fund Balance and the End Fund Balance. You can see that we increased from \$216,000 to \$387,000. This is important because we have these funds to leverage grant funds and to potentially use should BEACON ever enter a transition phase.
- **Member Gama:** I appreciate that you are looking at the budget earlier in the fiscal year cycle.
- **Chair Friedman:** I also appreciate the additional time to review budget options. I would like to see the specifics of how the fund increases benefit each member jurisdiction. This gives us the time to prepare this justification.
- **Response from Executive Director:** To respond, we are putting together a PowerPoint report to the community to talk about the specific of what we are doing.
- **Executive Director:** I would like to add one more thing about the Organization Chart. It reflects the big picture objectives of the BEACON organization.

Public Comments:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None.
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		<p>BEACON Contracts and Agreements</p> <p><i>Recommended Actions:</i></p> <p>Grant Projects</p> <p>BeachSMART Project</p> <p>i. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement with Jenna Wisniewski to add an additional scope task to assist Beacon in coordinating stakeholder outreach and tribal consultation with the BeachSMART project in Santa Barbara County increasing the total amount by \$6,000 for a revised total not to exceed \$31,000 without a change period of performance through ending June 30, 2026 (Attachment No. 1).</p> <p>Coastal Access Data Research Project</p> <p>ii. Approve, ratify, and authorize the Executive Director to execute Amendment No. 4 to the Bay Foundation Grant to extend the period of performance for three months with a revised ending date of March 31, 2026, and without a change in the grant award amount of \$336,250. (Attachment 2).</p> <p>iii. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement with the University of Washington providing scientific and technical services supporting coastal and beach access planning to extend the period of performance with a revised ending date of March 31, 2026 (Attachment No. 3).</p> <p>iv. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an Amendment No. 2 with NateMerrill/Matunuck Research, to provide scientific and technical services supporting coastal and beach access planning to extend the period of performance three months with a revised ending date of March 30, 2026, and to increase funding by \$25,000 for a revised total amount not to exceed \$75,000 (Attachment No. 4).</p>
Item	5D	<p>Minutes/Actions:</p> <p>Executive Director Beyeler reported that as you know if we do not use other grant funding and services to accomplish our goals we will not succeed. Before you today, there are three agreement amendments. Jenna Wisniewski works as science coordinator, and she is working on outreach coordination for the Santa Barbara County BeachSMART project, to streamline the outreach process. The next three amendments are related to the beach access project. We do not know who goes to the beach. We do not know how many go, or who there are. This cell phone-based data project, which we pioneered a couple of years ago, will answer these critical questions. The first amendment is a time extension to the project grant with The Bay Foundation, and the remaining two are agreement amendments to two of the entities working on the project; the University of Washington, and Matunuck Research Group. Staff recommend that the Board approve all four agreement amendments.</p>

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	<p>Board Members Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Member Kyriaco: I am aware that there are other studies out that track regional travel trends and regional housing trends and they have been able to use cell phone data to do this. Is there other public cell phone data generated by other agencies that we can utilize for this beach access project?• Response from Executive Director Beyeler: Yes, staff will get back to you on this question. One of the problems, when we first started the project, and approached the vendors for the mobility data, BEACON bought the data. Since then, the setup has changed, and now it is a subscription model. So, we now rent the data for the period we are interested in. We will bring to the board some of these data sets for the BEACON region. <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None. <p>Motion to approve Items 5D as recommended on the agenda - Moved by Lee / Second by LaVere. Unanimously approved.</p>
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Item	6	<p>Executive Director's Report and Communications</p> <p>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.</p>
Minutes/ Actions:		<p>Executive Director Beyeler indicated that he wanted to focus on the Surfers Point Project. At the ASBPA conference in October, the project won the Project of the Year Award. The award was accepted by the City of Ventura. The project shows every added benefit that BEACON can bring to the table. BEACON was the first government agency to support this project as part of the demolition of Matilija Dame and restoration of the Ventura River. This has been going on for four decades. The project was divided into two parts, and we build the first phase for \$3.5M. We then studied and monitored this Phase 1. Based on the monitoring, BEACON with the City of Ventura went to OPC to secure funding for Phase 2. Phase 2 ultimately cost \$15M. If we had built Phase 2 when we built Phase 1 the total cost would have been in the order of \$5.5M. When we wait for things, they become more expensive. But this successfully delivered project shows that nature-based projects can be delivered. BEACON can take on the planning for this type of project that other agencies do not. I would like to bring the entire BEACON Board to Surfers Point for a field review. Plus, the project was an excellent example of a multiple partners project. These are very complicated projects. The planning effort that went on with Surfers Point will happen with the City of Carpinteria and the County on the BeachSMART project.</p>

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The second thing I wanted to remind the Board is that BEACON has joined the Southern California Sand Collaborative (SCSC), a coalition of the southern California Counties, Santa Barbara/Ventura (BEACON), Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego County. This collaboration allows us to represent a larger and more effective group. The other issue is that BEACON sand is some degree ends up on Los Angeles beaches. We are joining the Los Angeles County Beaches Coalition run by LA Beaches and Harbors who are interested in what is happening with the BEACON sand at Pt Mugu. We want to be involved so that we have the best science to understand the sand loss to Mugu Canyon and determine viable solutions. Also, Broad Beach wants Ventura's sand. So, BEACON is involved in many collaboratives. BEACON has joined the County Collaborative, and we are already connected to the State's Sediment Management Program. BEACON is out there connecting to the right partnership.

Member Halter: thank you for bringing up Surfers Point project. I have a standing meeting every Friday with the Land Trust, and the next meeting will be at Surfers Pt. We talk about all the coastal issues intertwined with the City's mission. The project looks better than ever. It is very impressive.

Member Gama: I wanted to make sure that we get all the BEACON information into the hands of the people around us. It is so important to have a good understanding of our coastal issues and goals and realities. We all have a great understanding as Board members, but if we cannot communicate with others then it can cause lapses and problems.

Chair Friedman: I want to wish everybody in the BEACON family a very happy Thanksgiving and holiday season, and we will all meet again in 2026!

Public Comments:

- None.

The next Board Meeting will be held on January 23, 2026, at 9:00 AM, at the City of Carpinteria City Council Chambers.

Meeting Minutes by Gerald Comati, Program Manager, BEACON.



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Website:
<http://www.beacon.ca.gov>

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 23, 2026

Agenda Item: 2

To: BEACON Board of Directors
From: Executive Director
Date: January 16, 2026

Subject: Public Comment and Other Matters not on the Agenda

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive Public Comments.

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STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 23, 2026
Agenda Item: 3

To: BEACON Board of Directors
From: Executive Director
Date: January 16, 2026

Subject: Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive a BEACON staff report and a presentation on the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) from Paul Michel, Senior Advisor, NOAA West Coast Region.

DISCUSSION:

On November 30, 2024, the NOAA-designated Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS), became the 17th national marine sanctuary in the US, the third largest, and the sixth along the US West Coast. The CHNMS extends over 4,543 square miles of coastal and offshore waters along 116 miles of California's central coast (Attachment 1: Map of CHNMS).

BEACON has been a long-standing supporter of designation of the CHNMS. The BEACON Board of Directors approved sending a public comment letter of support for designation at its January 20, 2022 Board Meeting (Attachment 2: Beacon Public Comment Letter).

BEACON is sure that the designation and management of the CHNMS will provide enhanced opportunities for marine resource conservation, research, education, cultural and historic restoration, and enhanced coordination of regional sediment management and climate and sea level rise adaptation, all involving Chumash Tribal representatives.

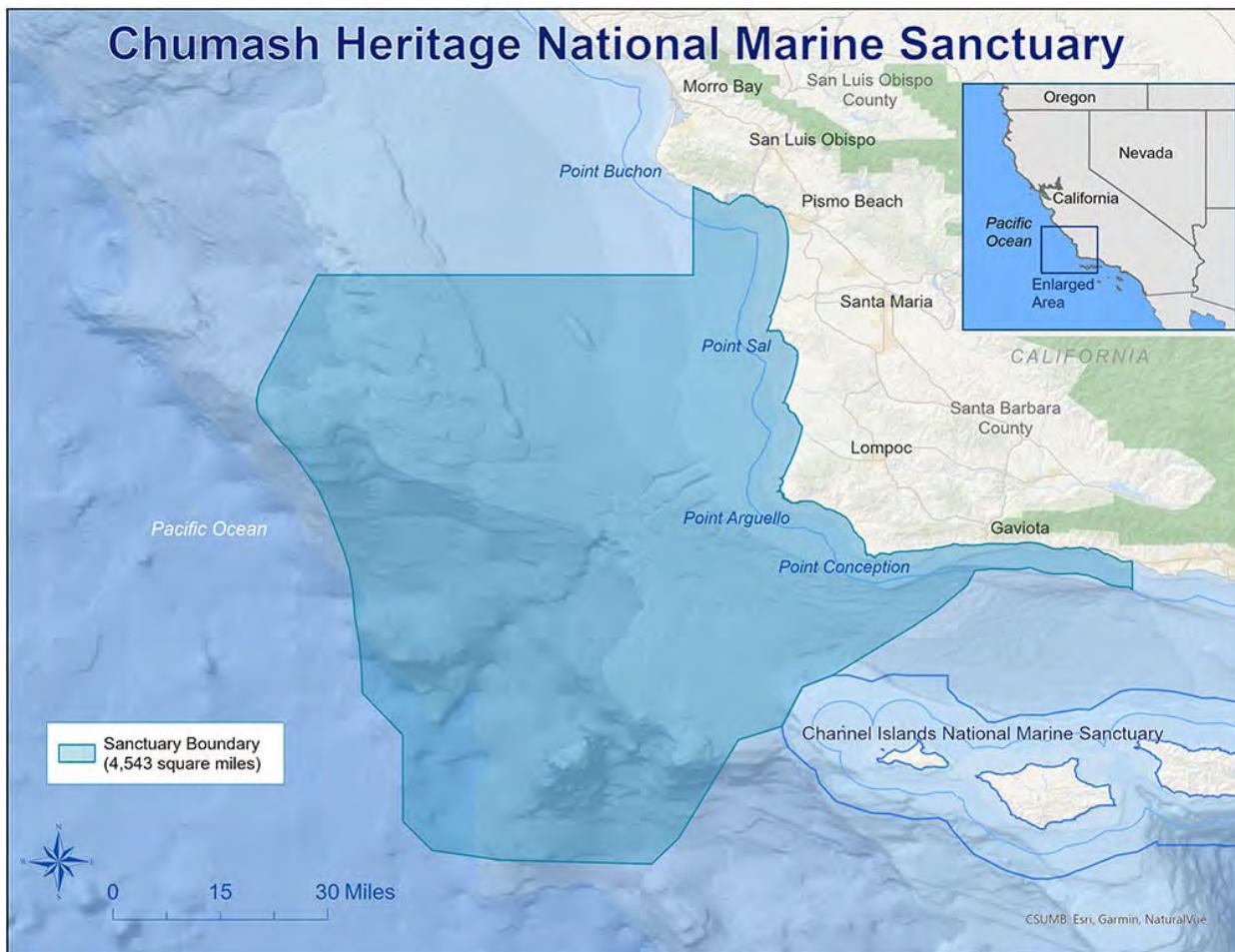
BEACON and the Santa Barbara Littoral Cell (SBLC) share a large coastal and ocean landscape region with the CH NMS. Significant scientific evidence exists of the coastal, marine and ocean connections that exist through the full extent of the Santa Barbara Littoral Cell and the Santa Barbara Channel ecosystem.

BEACON's regional work will be supported with the management plan's focus on coastal resource protection. BEACON believes that the CHNMS Management Plan

will complement BEACON's regional efforts to preserve and enhance our regional coastal resources, important cultural resources, coastal working landscapes, and the region's biodiversity.

BEACON is interested in participating in collaboration regarding implementing specific management plan actions that can support multi-benefit coastal enhancement and restoration projects contributing to sustainable and resilient protection of our vital coastal resources. Two important BEACON initiatives stand out, (1) Beacon's role in developing the Surfers Point Pilot Demonstration Living Shoreline and Managed Retreat Project supported by strong project specific performance analysis and habitat and species monitoring, and (2) its regional level monitoring program Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program (RCAMP). Most recently, ten years of Project Monitoring at Surfers Point has been analyzed and published, and Beacon has completed an initial RCAMP Monitoring Plan (MP) with Pilot Projects. These initiatives will all benefit from strong coordination with the CHNMS staff and advisors.

Attachment 1.



Map of Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary showing sanctuary boundaries, which encompasses 4,543 square miles along 116 miles of coastline. Image: NOAA

ATTACHMENT 2 – BEACON Public Comment Letter, January 24, 2022



A California Joint Powers Agency

Member Agencies

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Kyle Richards
City of Goleta

Vianey Lopez
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January 24, 2022

Paul E. Michel, Regional Policy Coordinator
NOAA Sanctuaries West Coast Region
99 Pacific Street, Bldg. 100F
Monterey, CA 93940

Docket No. NOAA-NOS-2021-0080

Submitted Electronically

Subject: Proposed Designation of Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Michel:

The Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) is submitting this letter in support of the Proposed Designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS). At its Board Meeting on January 21, 2022, the Board unanimously approved sending this letter in support of the proposed designation. The CHNMS would provide enhanced opportunities for marine resource conservation, research, education, cultural and historic restoration, and climate and sea level rise adaptation.

BEACON is a regional Joint Powers Authority of the two coastal counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura and the six coastal cities of Goleta, Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Ventura, Port Hueneme, and Oxnard, responsible for beach erosion prevention and coastal restoration within the Santa Barbara Littoral Cell (SBLC) from the Santa Maria River in the north to Point Mugu in the south (Exhibit 1). BEACON would share a large coastal and ocean landscape region with the proposed Chumash Heritage NMS.

At the recent January 2022 BEACON Board meeting, several board members supported suggestions that NOAA consider evaluating the eastern (southern) end of the proposed NMS boundary to include the coast and ocean area extending to Point Mugu in Ventura County. The BEACON Board supported this suggested consideration be included in this letter of support. This potential change would include an even larger area of Chumash historical habitation and important cultural centers of life and include the missing section of the Santa Barbara Littoral Cell within the

NMS boundaries, better linking the governance boundaries (Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary) with the important coastal and ocean ecological boundaries (Santa Barbara Littoral Cell and Santa Barbara Channel and Channel Islands).

BEACON is responsible for developing regional sediment management projects to preserve and enhance regional shoreline resources, including importantly the region's beaches. BEACON is tasked with many responsibilities for project and program development essential to sustainable and resilient regional sediment management, coastal protection and enhancement, and regional climate and sea-level adaptation planning and implementation.

BEACON's regional sediment management and climate adaptation efforts are essential to successfully address the regional impacts of climate changes and sea-level rise in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties through developing innovative natural infrastructure and resources conservation, enhancement, and restoration projects consistent with state priorities for coastal climate adaptation.

BEACON's work would be supported with the designation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. With a focus on resource protection the proposed CHNMS will complement BEACON's regional efforts to preserve and enhance our regional coastal resources, important cultural resources, coastal working landscapes, and the region's biodiversity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregg Hart".

Gregg Hart, Chair
BEACON Board of Directors

Exhibit 1. The BEACON Coast (attached)

Exhibit 2. Potential Sanctuary Boundary Expansion (attached)

Exhibit 1. The BEACON Coast

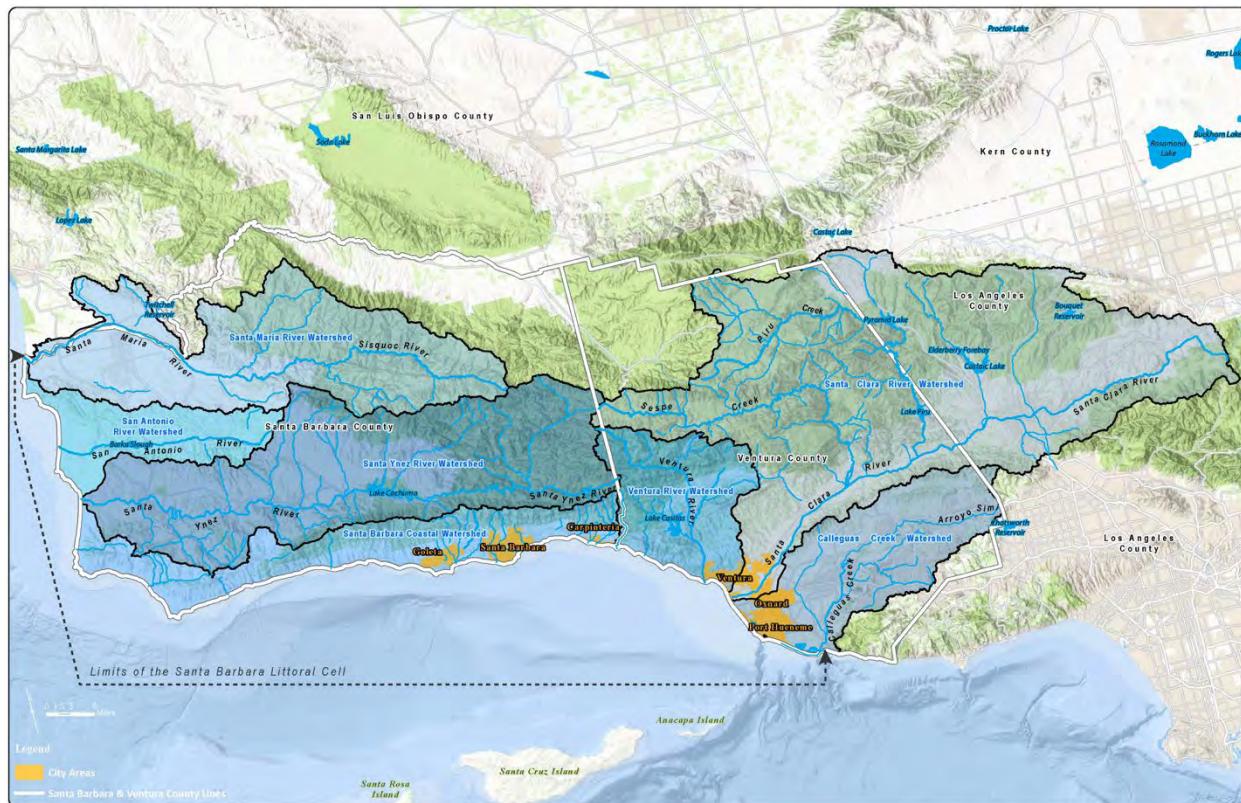
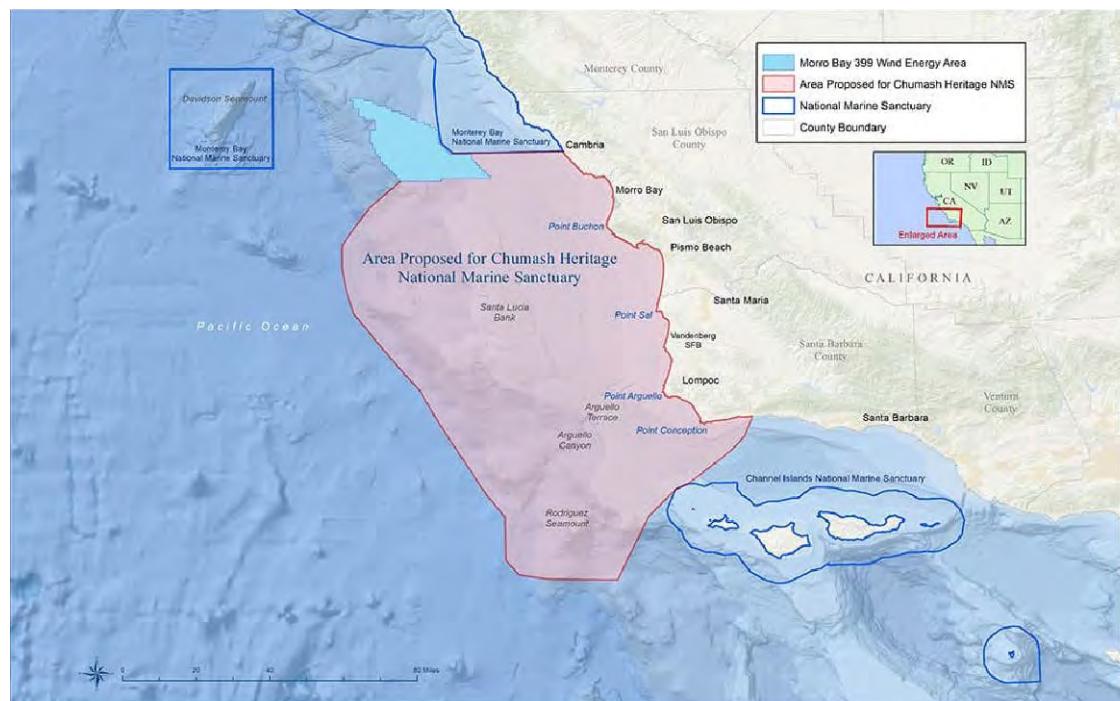


Exhibit 2. Diagonally Marked Area- Potential Boundary Expansion-CHNMS



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James Kyriaco
City of Goleta

Gabe Teran
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STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 23, 2026
Agenda Item: 4

To: **BEACON Board of Directors**
From: **Executive Director**
Date: **January 16, 2026**

Subject: **Project Update on the Surfers Point Project, Phase 1 Ten Year Monitoring and Phase Construction**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive a staff report update and a presentation from BEACON Staff on the latest status of the Surfers Point Project, including Phase 1 project performance and completion of Phase 2.

DISCUSSION:

BEACON has supported the Surfers Point Project in Ventura City for nearly four decades. BEACON has offered a range of support, including project and grant management. During this time, BEACON has served as a member of the Surfers Point Working Group.

In the past five years, BEACON has coordinated with the City in several activities, including: in convening the Surfers Point Working Group; in raising grant funds to complete final planning, design, and engineering for Phase 2; and in continuing monitoring of Phase 1 performance and habitat and species condition.

Final planning, design and engineering tasks for Phase 2 of the project were completed between 2020 and 2022. Phase 2 construction funding was secured in 2023, followed by final design and construction contracting, and Phase 2 construction beginning in late 2024 and continuing through 2025 (link here: <https://youtu.be/Q13vsetR2Rw>).

The second phase of the project now continues eastward with the removal of the damaged coastal access facilities out of the hazard zone and the reconstruction of the shore with dune habitat and a buried cobble for erosion projection. The landside improvements will include construction of a new multiuse path connecting to the existing Omer Rains Bicentennial Bike Trail, construction of a new parking lot,



improved drainage, lighting, landscaping and irrigation, signage and striping, accessibility improvements, and site amenities for public use.

The City of Ventura constructed the waterside elements of the Phase 2 project (including the demolition and removal of the damaged access and parking facilities, through calendar year 2025, extending the restored beach approximately 1,000 feet down the shore. The final construction elements are now underway: planting and seeding native dune vegetation, rebuilding the parking area, and enhancing pedestrian and bike access. The new bikepath has already been opened for public use.

This project reflects decades of commitment among local, regional, and state and federal agencies, including the City of Ventura, Ventura County Fairgrounds, Beacon, California Coastal Conservancy, California Coastal Commission, US Army Corps of Engineers, Surfrider Foundation, and Patagonia. These public and community organizations have been assisted by technical and scientific personnel from Environmental Science Associates, RRM Design Group, Coastal Restoration Consultants, and California State University Channel Islands.

The project has long-been a national model of the application of innovative nature-based coastal restoration and adaptation solutions. BEACON has supported on-going and continuing monitoring of project performance and coastal habitat evaluation of the project to document and demonstrate project effectiveness (Attachments 1 and 2). In October 2025 the Surfers Point Project was celebrated as the Project of the Year by the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) (Attachment 3).

Attachment 1 – ESA Monitoring Report

Attachment 2 – Article on Surfers Point Project

Attachment 3 – ASBPA Award to Surfers Point Project

ITEM 4
Surfers Point Project

Attachment 1

ESA Monitoring Report

SURFERS' POINT MONITORING SPRING 2024

Monitoring Report Update and Synthesis 2011-2024

**Prepared for
BEACON**

December 2024



SURFERS' POINT MONITORING SPRING 2024

Monitoring Report Update and Synthesis 2011-2024

Prepared for
BEACON

December 2024

Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment
105 E. Anacapa Street, Suite 201
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1. INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of physical data collected through monitoring of the Surfers' Point Managed Retreat Project (project), including the constructed Phase 1 site and the proposed Phase 2 site, over a 14 year period. The project planning, design, and post-construction monitoring was led by the City of Ventura (City) in coordination with the Ventura County Fairgrounds (property owner) and the Surfers' Point Working Group. ESA was retained by the Beach Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) to continue monitoring efforts at the project site. This report presents the monitoring data and survey results from recent surveys and compares the data to the other monitoring data collected since construction of Phase 1 in 2010.

1.1 Background

The project is a regionally important coastal restoration project that is often used as a successful example of implementation of a living shoreline or natural infrastructure on the high-energy pacific coast. The first phase of the project, which was led by the City, was constructed in 2010-2011. Dunes were graded and seeded in 2012. ESA supported the City to conduct physical monitoring of the site from 2011 through 2017, for which several monitoring reports were prepared as part of conditions of the Coastal Development Permit issued by the California Coastal Commission. BEACON funded the design of the second phase of the project, which is anticipated to be constructed in fall 2024. BEACON worked with ESA and others in 2021 to conduct a survey of the Phase 1 project area to document physical changes of the topography and the dune vegetation. BEACON subsequently retained ESA to conduct surveys at the Phase 1 and proposed Phase 2 project site on December 11, 2023, and again May 29, 2024. The Phase 2 project, led by the City, is planned to start construction in the fall of 2024. Table 1 presents a summary of monitoring efforts taken since 2011.

1.2 Purpose and Scope

ESA is providing physical monitoring assistance to assess project performance and inform management decisions. This report has been prepared in a similar manner to prior monitoring reports completed following the Phase 1 project. The following sections summarize the monitoring work completed during the winter 2023 to spring 2024 monitoring period, regional data from the last 10 years, and provides key findings and recommendations. Monitoring work included topographic surveys and photos, regional collection of water levels, wave and wind characteristics, and survey comparison. The scope of this report is to present data and observations without analysis or assessments.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF SURFERS' POINT PHASE 1 AND PHASE 2 MONITORING EFFORTS (2011-2024)

Data Collection Efforts	2011	2012		2013	2015				2016				2017			2021	2023	2024
	Nov ^a	July	Dec	April	April	July	Oct	Dec ^b	Feb	May	July	Aug	Jan	March	July	June	December	May
ESA Physical Processes				X					X	X		X		X	X			X
ESA/City Topo Survey; LiDAR DEM ^c	X	X	X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X	X (Phase 1 &2)
ESA/City Aerial Photo				X	X				X						X			
ESA/City Ground Photo				X		X	X			X		X	X	X				
CRC Dune Veg; Morphology ^d		Dunes + Reseeding		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	X	X
CSUCI/Sandshed UAV 2, 3-D , Orthomosaic Image																X ^e	X	X (Phase 1 & 2)
Monitoring Reporting Period	2011-2012; 2012-2013			2015			2016-2017											
Monitoring Report issue Date ^f	MR #1 9-2013			MR #2 7-2016			MR #3 5-2018											

2. DATA COLLECTION

The following sections describe the sources, methods, and processing that were used to acquire relevant data. Data collected for Spring 2024 included water levels; wave height, period, and direction; wind speed and direction; stream flow; elevation beach profiles; elevation surfaces; and photos. Regional data (e.g., water levels and wave and wind characteristics) were obtained after the end of the monitoring period. Elevation profiles and surfaces were completed on several occasions, most recently May 29, 2024. Photos provided were taken in 2021, 2023, and 2024.

2.1 Elevation Profiles

Topographic changes of the shoreline were evaluated through repeat cross shore topographic surveys¹. RTK-GPS survey equipment was used to measure the transects from the landside limits towards the ocean to safe, wading depths. The surveys included points on the promenade, the sea wall, and major grade-breaks across the dunes, cobble, and beach areas. Seven transects were established previously during the monitoring of the project, including five (5) shore-normal transects at the Phase 1 Project site and two (2) reference transects at Emma Wood State Park and at the eastern end of the Phase 2 project site. Surveys for the 2023-2024 monitoring year were conducted by ESA on December 11, 2023 and May 29, 2024. During the May 29, 2024 survey effort, five (5) additional transects were established in and adjacent to the Phase 2 Project site limits (Figure 1).

2.2 Elevation Surfaces

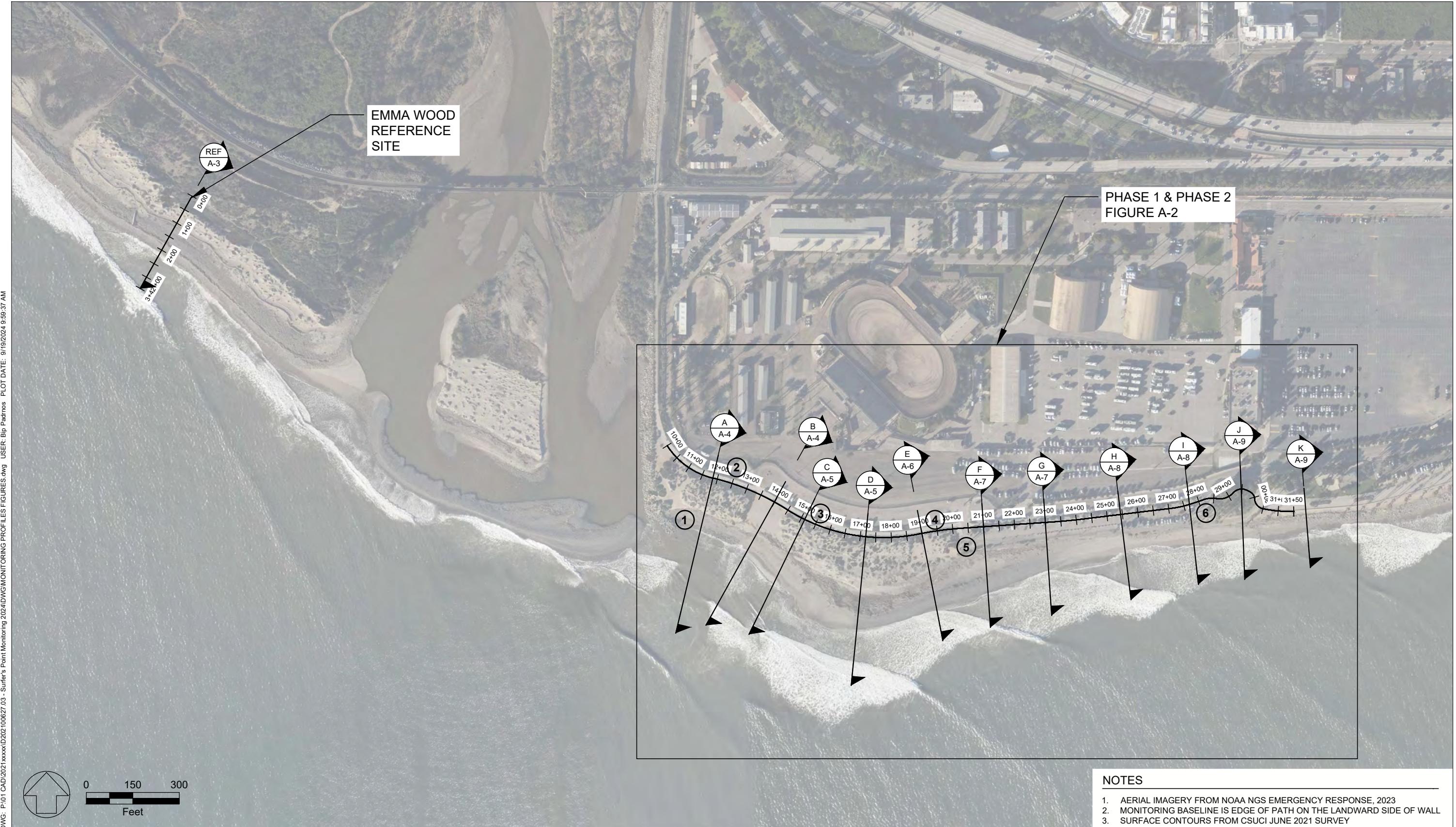
Drone-based topographic/aerial surveys have been conducted by the CA State Univ., Channel Islands (CSUCI) in partnership with BEACON. Surveys were performed in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, and 2024. CSUCI processed the surveys into 3D surfaces. In collaboration with CSUCI, ESA produced elevation change surfaces to analyze dune change over time (shape and volume), beach change over time (e.g., mean seal level shoreline changes, beach sand volume changes, etc.), and success of the design (dune habitat quality/growth, beach stability, etc.).

2.3 Photo Documentation

Site photos of the project have been collected through the years pre and post construction. For this monitoring effort, photos obtained June 1, 2021, November 28, 2023, December 11, 2023, and May 29, 2024 were documented. Photos were taken from 5 locations at the project site, locations 1,2, 5, and another location along the beach in between locations 5 and 6. Photo locations are documented in relation to the profiles as well as the established photo locations shown in Figure 1. In addition, high resolution aerial imagery from the years 2016 to 2024 was obtained through Nearmap.

¹ ESA performs land surveys and collects hydrographic data to augment traditional surveying services for the purposes of engineering, geomorphic interpretation, monitoring of project performance, and other specific uses consistent with California Business and Professions Code (Civil Engineering practice as defined by Section 6731.1. of the Professional Engineers Act and Geologic and Landscape Surveys as defined in the Professional Land Surveyors' Act).

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Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure 1

Surfers' Point Elevation Profiles and Reference Site, Plan View

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2.4 Regional Data Gathering

Regional data on water levels, waves, wind, streamflow, and precipitation were gathered from publicly available sources. The sources for this data are shown in Figure 2.

2.4.1 Water Levels

The closest operating tide gauge to the project site is located at Santa Barbara Harbor. Observed and predicted water level data for the Monitoring Period was obtained from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Tide Gauge Station No. 9411340, located approximately 24 miles northwest of the project site. Water levels were obtained from October 1, 2014, to August 16, 2024, at 6-min intervals in feet relative to the NAVD88 vertical datum. To calculate non-tidal residuals, ESA subtracted the predicted tide elevations from the observed tide elevations. Non-tidal residuals refer to deviations from predicted tides presumed to be caused by climatic and meteorological conditions.

2.4.2 Waves

Wave data was obtained from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography (SIO) Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP) Monitoring and Prediction (MOP) station VE466 and three NOAA National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) wave buoys. MOP station VE466 is a virtual buoy that is located just offshore of the project approximately 0.5 miles. CDIP uses transformation coefficients to generate wave hindcast data that is precise for the virtual location. The NDBC Harvest buoy (NDBC #46218) is located off Point Arguello, 85 miles WNW from the project site. The West Santa Barbara buoy (NDBC #46054) is located off Point Conception, 67 miles west of the project site. The East Santa Barbara buoy (NDBC #46053) is located 30 miles west of the project site. Wave data obtained from the CDIP and NDBC stations included significant wave height, dominant wave period, and mean wave direction at hourly intervals from January 1, 2014 to through the latest monitoring period to August 16, 2024.

2.4.3 Wind

Wind data for the Monitoring Period was sourced from the Oxnard Airport Automated Surface Observing Station (ASOS OXR), located approximately 7.5 miles southeast of the project site. The wind data consists of hourly, 2-minute averaged wind speed and direction. The wind data was recorded 10 meters above the ground and corrected to ground level.

2.4.4 Streamflow

The Ventura River mouth is located immediately west of the project site, dividing Emma Wood State Park and the project reference site and Surfer's Point. Discharge from the river, including water and sediment, is an important external process affecting the beach morphology. Ventura River streamflow is measured at the USGS Ventura River Gauge (USGS#11118500).

2.4.5 Precipitation

Precipitation data was downloaded from the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) at Camarillo (Station #152) located approximately 18 miles ESE of the project site. Precipitation was measured in inches of precipitation hourly from October 1, 2021 to August 16, 2024.



SOURCE: NOAA, SIO, USGS, CIMIS, ESA, 2024

Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure 2
Regional Data Gathering Source Locations

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3. RESULTS AND IMPLICATIONS

The following subsections summarize the annual monitoring observations and describe relative implications from the 2023-2024 monitoring period and 2014-2024 decadal regional data.

3.1 Regional Data Gathering

This section summarizes observed water levels, waves, wind, streamflow, and precipitation.

3.1.1 El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) describes yearly fluctuations in sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies at the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Events with positive SST anomalies above 0.5 degrees Celsius (compared against the 30-year SST average) are classified as El Niño events. Similarly, years with negative SST anomalies below -0.5 degrees Celsius are classified as La Niña events. These events can have global climate impacts including alterations in frequency, duration, and location of north Pacific storms, which translates to changes in rainfall patterns and wave-climate in Northern California (Bromirski et al. 2003). A weak La Niña was observed over the 2022-2023 monitoring period before a strong El Niño emerged in 2023-24. As of August 2024, ENSO-neutral conditions are expected for the next several months, with La Niña favored to emerge from September to November (66% chance) and persist through Northern Hemisphere winter 2024-25 (74% chance during November to January)². Table 2 summarizes the ENSO conditions over the 2014 to 2024 monitoring period.

TABLE 2. EL NIÑO-SOUTHERN OSCILLATION CONDITIONS, 2014 TO 2024

Monitoring Year ^a	El Niño-Southern Oscillation Condition
2014 – 2015	Weak El Niño
2015 – 2016	Very strong El Niño
2016 – 2017	Weak La Niña
2017 – 2018	Weak La Niña
2018 – 2019	Weal El Niño
2019 – 2020	Weak El Niño
2020 – 2021	Moderate La Niña
2021 – 2022	Moderate La Niña
2022 – 2023	Weak La Niña
2023 – 2024	Strong El Niño

NOTES:

a. Monitoring years are water years (October 1 – September 30)

SOURCE: Jan Null, 2024. <https://ggweather.com/enso/oni.htm>

² NOAA El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Diagnostic Discussion, October 18, 2023:
https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/ensodisc.html

3.1.2 Water Levels

Water level observations for the 2023-2024 monitoring period are shown in Figure 3. The blue line illustrates the observed 6-minute averaged water levels at Santa Barbara. The orange line illustrates the non-tidal residuals (NTRs) that were calculated by subtracting the predicted water levels from the observed water levels. The maximum NTR that occurred during the 2023-2024 monitoring period was 2.1 feet, observed on December 28, 2023, which was sustained through the El Niño swell event. The same day, the wave run-up from the storm surge affected the Pierpont neighborhood and much of the coast. The figure also shows: A tsunami, originating in Tonga and partnering with a significant volcanic eruption, sent tsunami waves to the California Coast on January 15, 2022; Bomb cyclone-related events on January 5-6, 2023, December 28, 2023, and February 8, 2024.

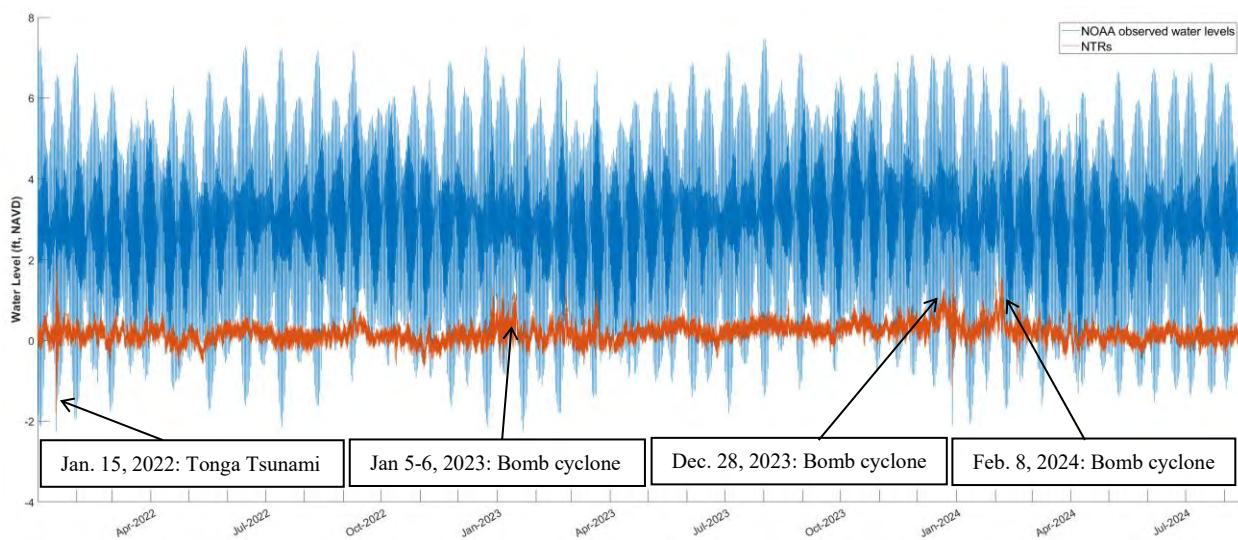


Figure 3.

Water Levels and Non-Tidal Residuals for Santa Barbara Tide Gauge During the 2022-2024 Monitoring Period

Figure 4 shows exceedance curves of the NTRs for each water year since 2014 (colored lines) compared to the NTR exceedance for all years combined (black line).

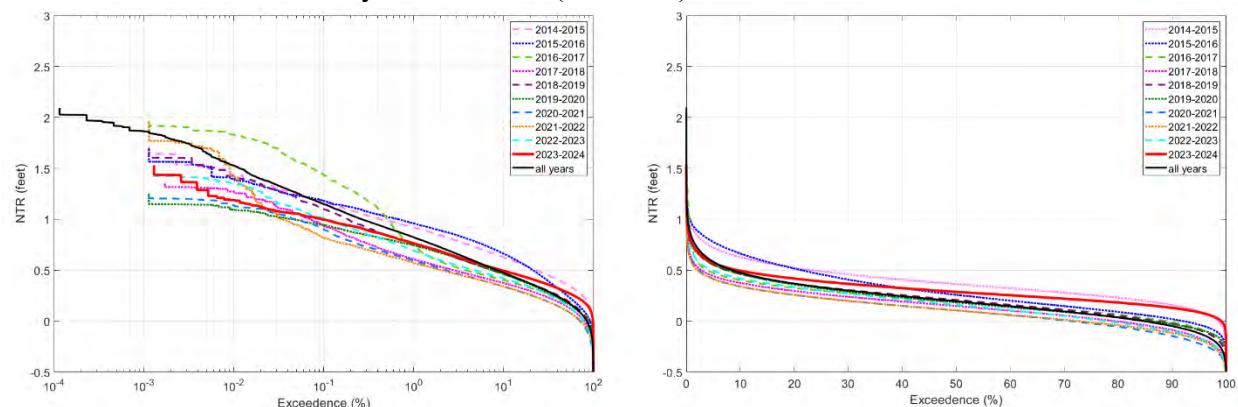


Figure 4.

Exceedance Curves for Santa Barbara Tide Gauge NTRs During Water Years 2014-2015 to 2023-2024

The panel on the left presents the data on a semi-log axis, which provides details on the extreme events with higher return periods, and the panel on the right helps to illustrate the distribution of the NTR on a seasonal scale for typical conditions. During the 2023-2024 monitoring period, the NTRs for exceedance ranging from 0.05% to 20% closely resemble those observed in the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 periods, which coincided with El Niño events. These NTRs surpass those of all measured water years other than the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 water years (both E Niño years) and are also higher than the cumulative NTRs from 2014 onwards.

For exceedance levels above 20%, the NTRs observed during the 2023-2024 monitoring period are most similar to the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 NTRs. The 2023-24 NTRs over 50% exceedance are higher than all water years except 2014-15 and are significantly higher than the cumulative NTRs from 2014 onwards.

3.1.3 Waves

The Surfers' Point offshore and nearshore significant wave heights, peak wave periods, and peak wave directions for 2014 to 2024 are illustrated in Figures 5 to 8 for the Harvest (purple), West Santa Barbara (green), East Santa Barbara (light blue) and CDIP nearshore buoy VE 466 (pink). Additionally, the wave power for these buoys was calculated based on the wave characteristics as,

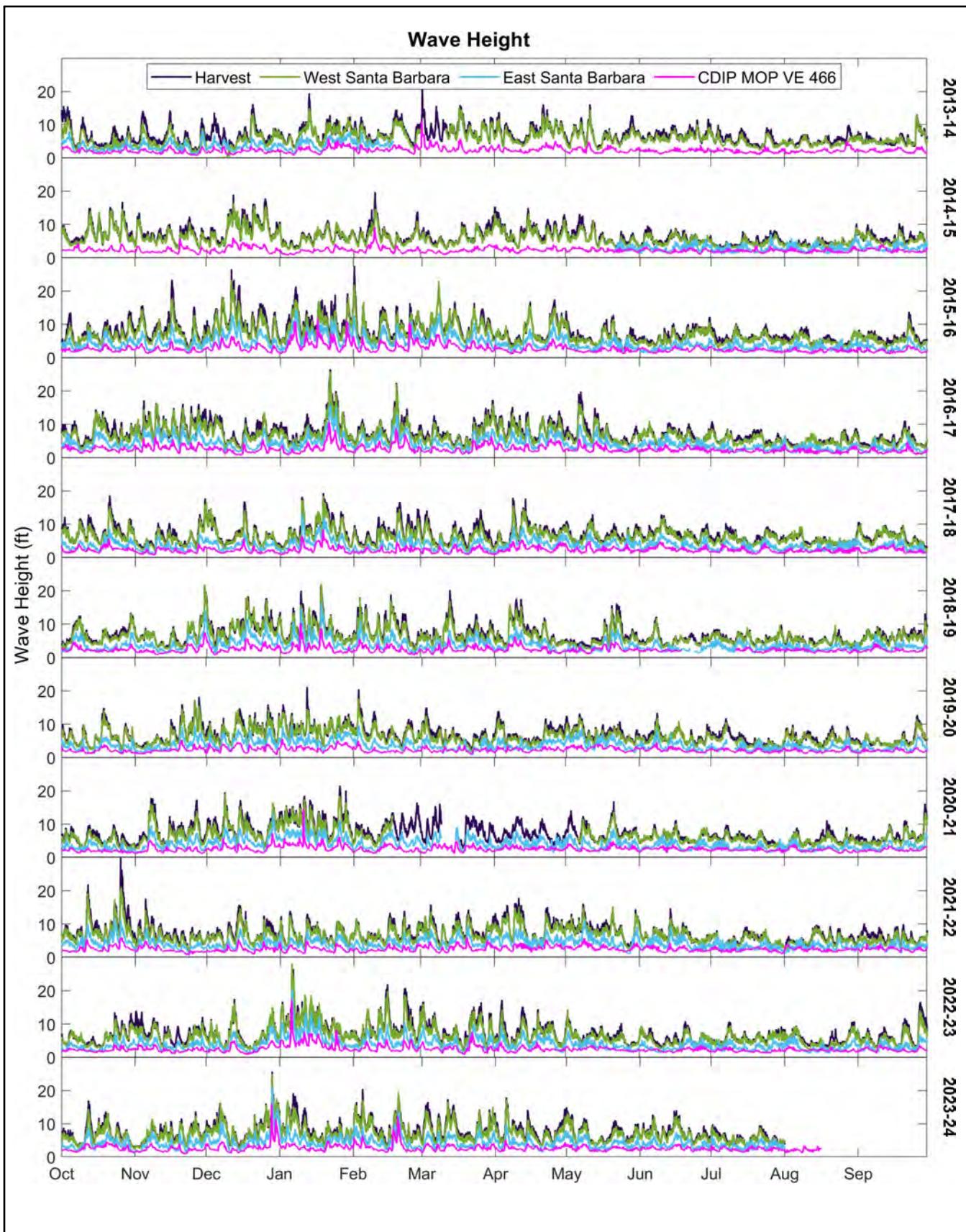
$$P = \gamma g H_{rms}^2 T_p / 32\pi$$

where γ is the unit weight of sea water (64.1 lbf/ft³), H_{rms} is the root-mean-square of wave height estimated as $H_{rms} = H_s / 1.414$, and g is gravitational acceleration (32.17 ft/sec²). For simplicity, these wave power calculations use the deep-water wave speed and have not been corrected (i.e., reduced) to account for shallow water reduction at their respective depths.

The largest wave events over the 2014 to 2024 monitoring period occurred at the NDBC Harvest buoy around October 25, 2021 (29.9 ft), February 1, 2016 (27.6 ft), and January 5, 2023 (26.9 ft). At the CDIP nearshore buoy, the largest wave events occurred around January 5, 2023 (17.3 ft), December 28, 2023 (16.0 ft), and January 10, 2021 (14.5 ft).

Figures 9 and 10 show the wave height and power roses for the CDIP MOP station and the NDBC Harvest, West Santa Barbara, and East Santa Barbara wave buoys over the 2014-2024 monitoring period. The predominant wave direction over the monitoring period is northwest at the Harvest buoy, northwest at the West Santa Barbara buoy, west at the East Santa Barbara buoy, and SSW at the CDIP nearshore buoy. These figures illustrate how waves refract from offshore to the nearshore region through the Santa Barbara channel. Note that the greatest amount of wave focusing at the project site is associated with powerful, long period, west swells. Figure 5 shows how other powerful swells, often with more of a northwestern source direction offshore, do not translate to significant wave heights at the project site. Therefore, the most impactful swell events to Surfers' Point and the Ventura shore are large west swells. We note that tropical cyclones incident to Southern California are also possible and are expected to generate very large and powerful waves from the southeast that could affect the project area.

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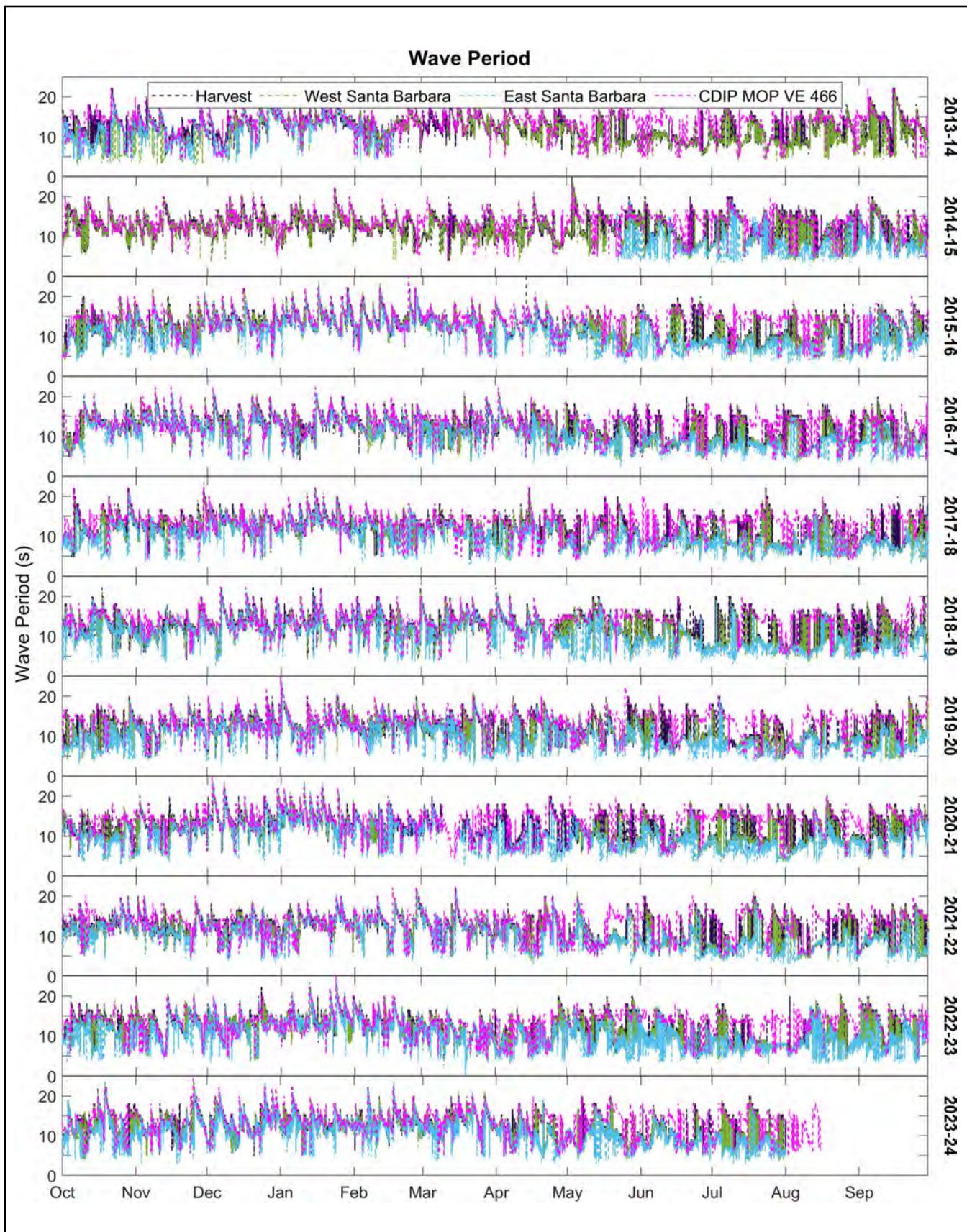


SOURCE: NOAA, CDIP, ESA, 2024

Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure 5

Wave Heights for CDIP MOP VE 466 and NOAA NDBC Harvest,
East Santa Barbara, and West Santa Barbara Buoys
January 2014 to August 2024

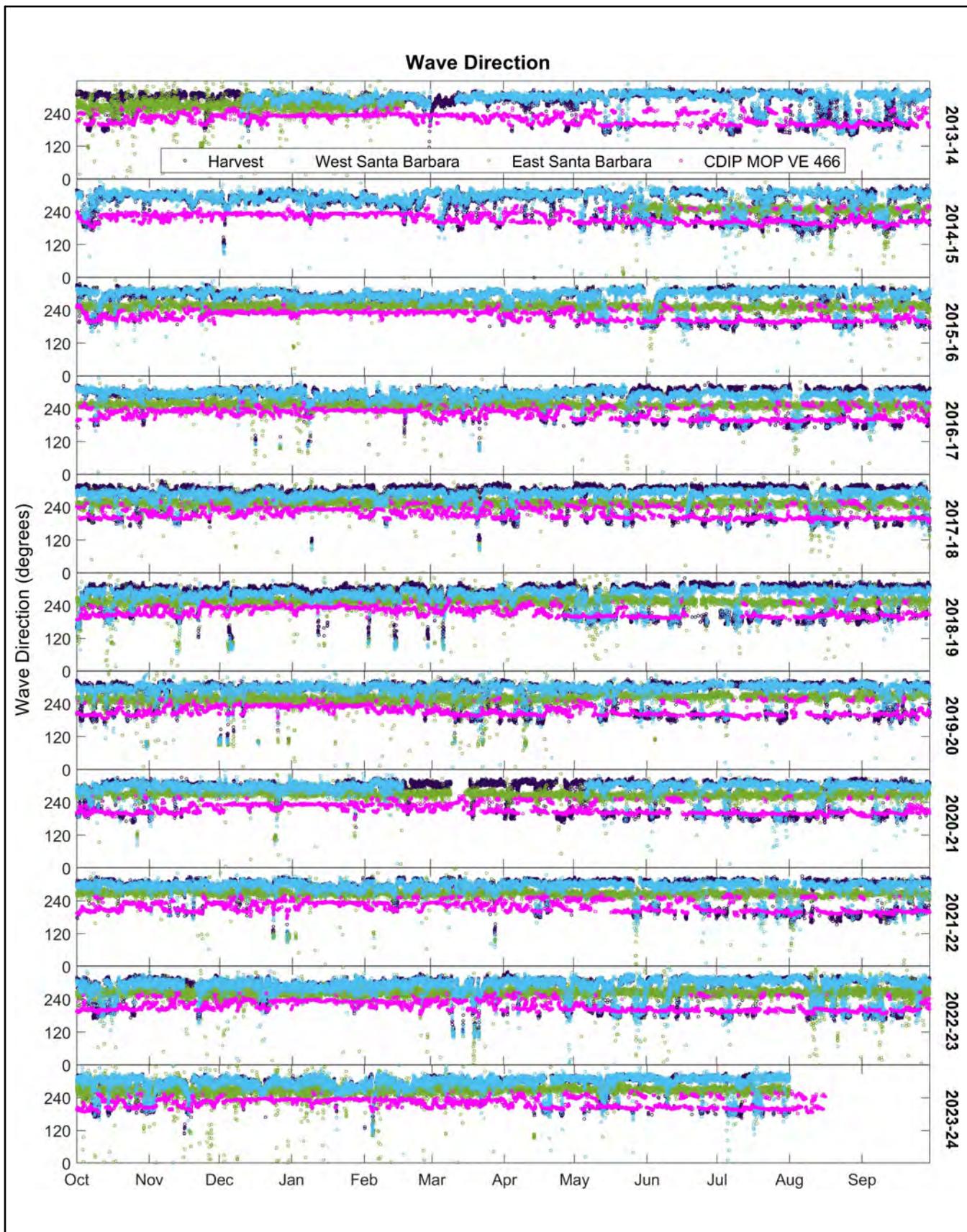


SOURCE: NOAA, CDIP, ESA, 2024

Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure 6

Wave Periods for CDIP MOP VE 466 and NOAA NDBC Harvest,
East Santa Barbara, and West Santa Barbara Buoys
January 2014 to August 2024

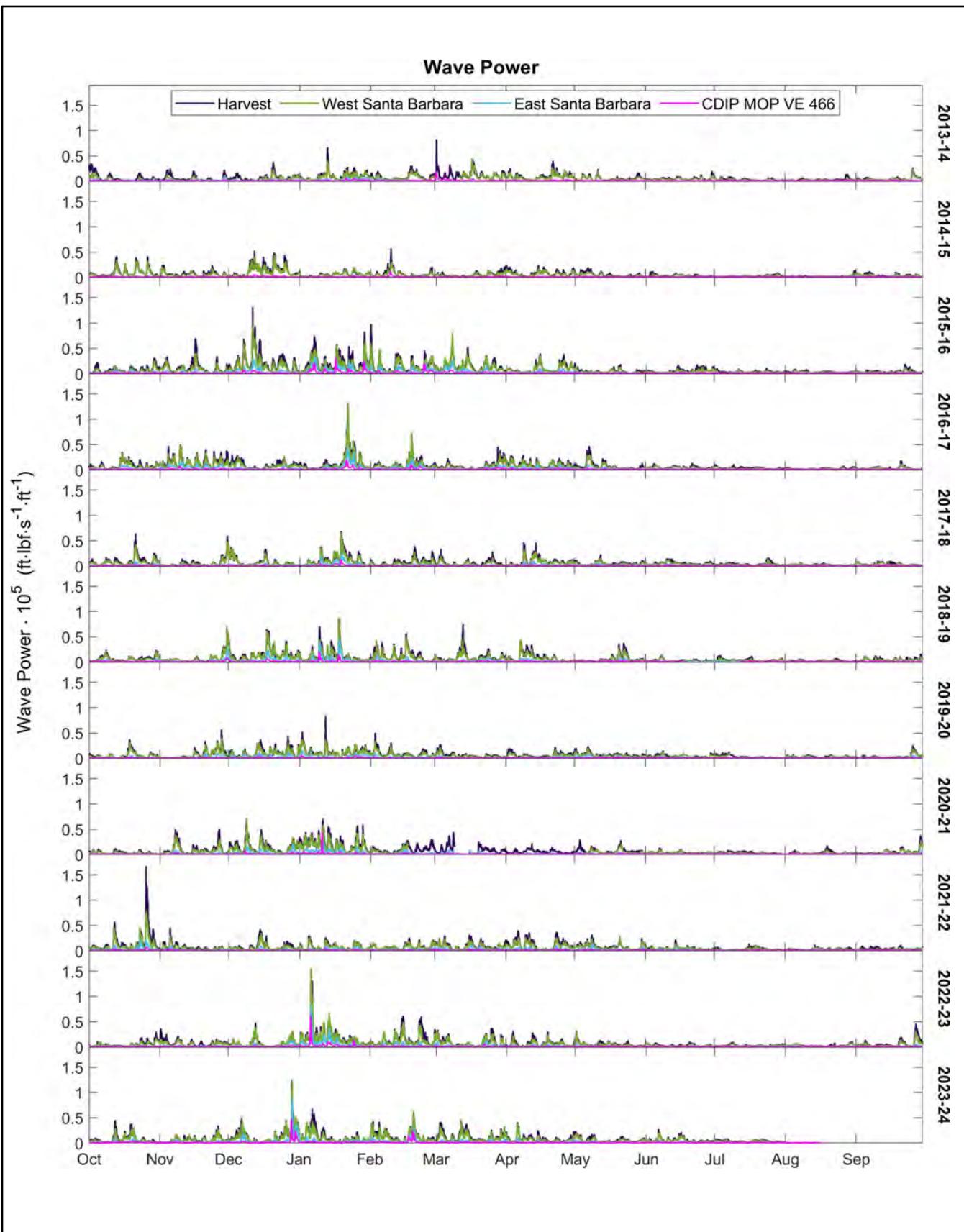


SOURCE: NOAA, CDIP, ESA, 2024

Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure 7

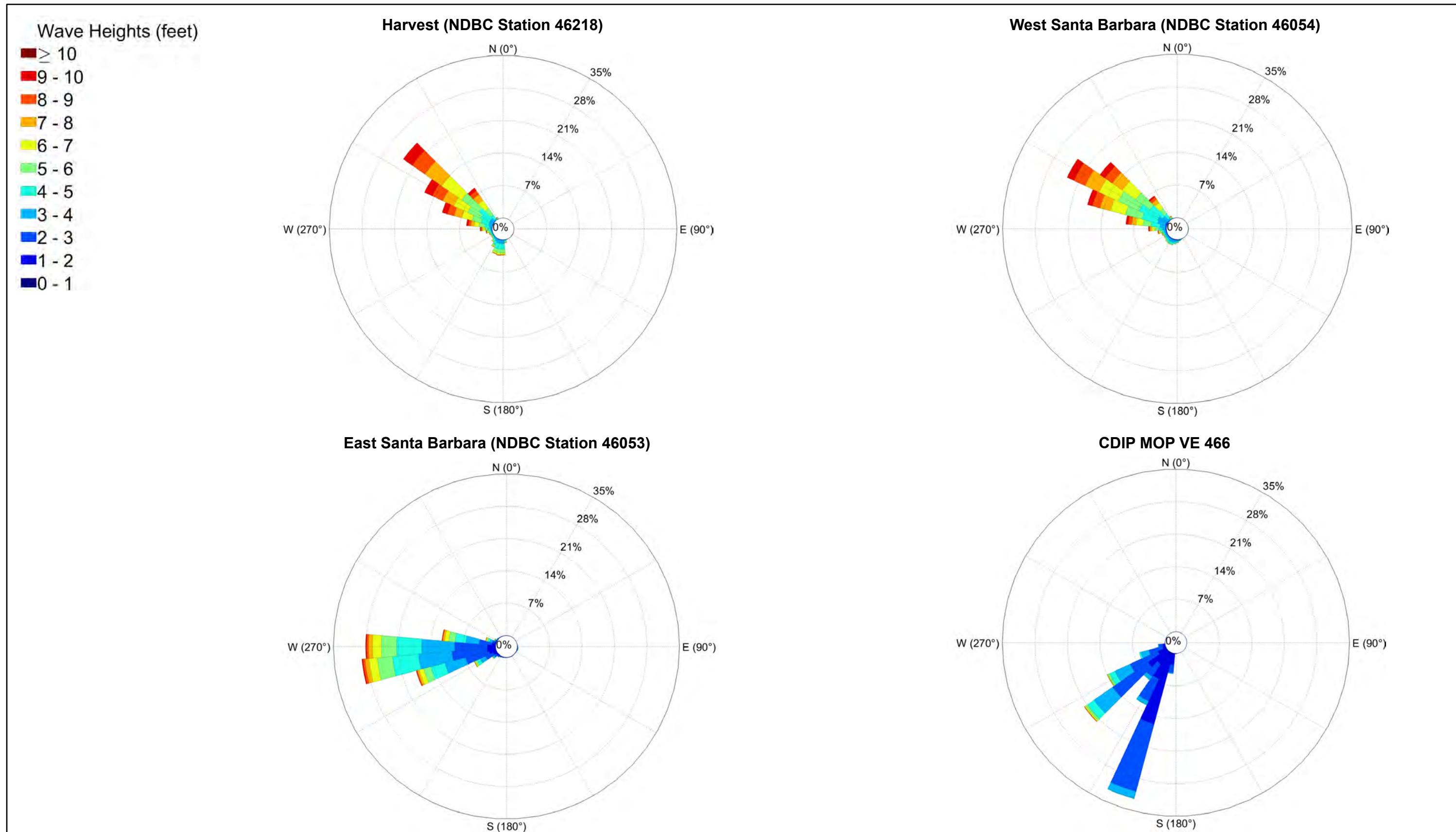
Wave Directions for CDIP MOP VE 466 and NOAA NDBC Harvest,
East Santa Barbara, and West Santa Barbara Buoys
January 2014 to August 2024



SOURCE: NOAA, CDIP, ESA, 2024

Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure 8
 Wave Power for CDIP MOP VE 466 and NOAA NDBC Harvest,
 East Santa Barbara, and West Santa Barbara Buoys
 January 2014 to August 2024

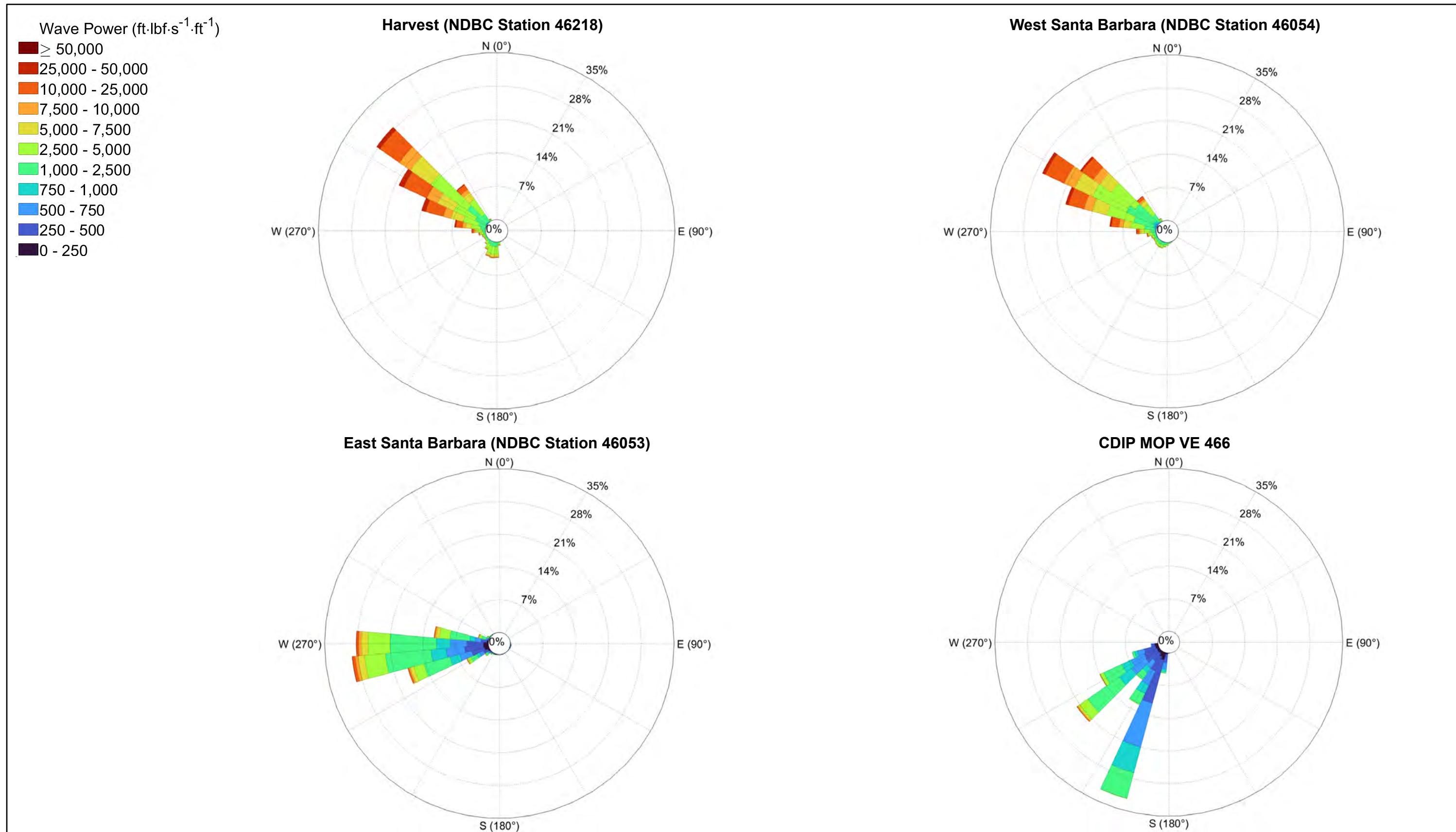


SOURCE: NOAA NDBC, ESA, 2024

Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure 9
Wave Roses for CDIP MOP VE 466 and Harvest, West Santa Barbara, and East Santa Barbara NOAA NDBC Buoys
01/01/2014 to 08/16/2024

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SOURCE: NOAA NDBC, ESA, 2024

Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure 10
Wave Power Roses for CDIP MOP VE 466 and Harvest, West Santa Barbara, and East Santa Barbara NOAA NDBC Buoys
01/01/2014 to 08/16/2024

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3.1.4 Wind

Figure 11 shows the wind rose for the Oxnard Airport station over the 2014-2024 monitoring period. Typical wind speeds during the decade were less than 12 mph, with the highest wind speeds associated with the winter and spring seasons. Maximum wind speeds exceeding 40 mph were observed during winters 2014, 2016, 2021, and 2023. Based on the wind rose in Figure 12, winds predominately arrive from the west, with northeasterly winds occurring less frequently and with lower magnitude wind speeds. As discussed in the 2016-2017 monitoring report, the wind approaches the shore at Surfers' Point at an oblique angle for typical conditions, influencing the movement of sand and creation of dune ridges. The area void of vegetation and managed as a recreational area provides the largest source of sand available for wind-blown transport, which was observed on many visits to have blown landward onto the bike path, and also onto the adjacent dune restoration area, burying the dune vegetation (ESA 2018).

Figure 12 shows the hourly wind direction and speed for the Oxnard Airport station for the 2023-2024 monitoring period. The maximum wind speed over 2023-2024 occurred on February 21, 2023 (40.3 mph at 280 degrees) and February 22, 2023 (35.7 mph at 270 degrees). Other notable events occurred on January 26, 2023 (34.5 mph at 80 degrees), January 1, 2023 (32.2 mph at 270 degrees), and March 23, 2024 (32.2 mph at 260 degrees). Note that the January 26, 2023, wind event was from the east while the other highest wind events during the monitoring period were from a westerly direction. Each of these major wind events were directed on an east-west basis causing cross shore winds at the project site.

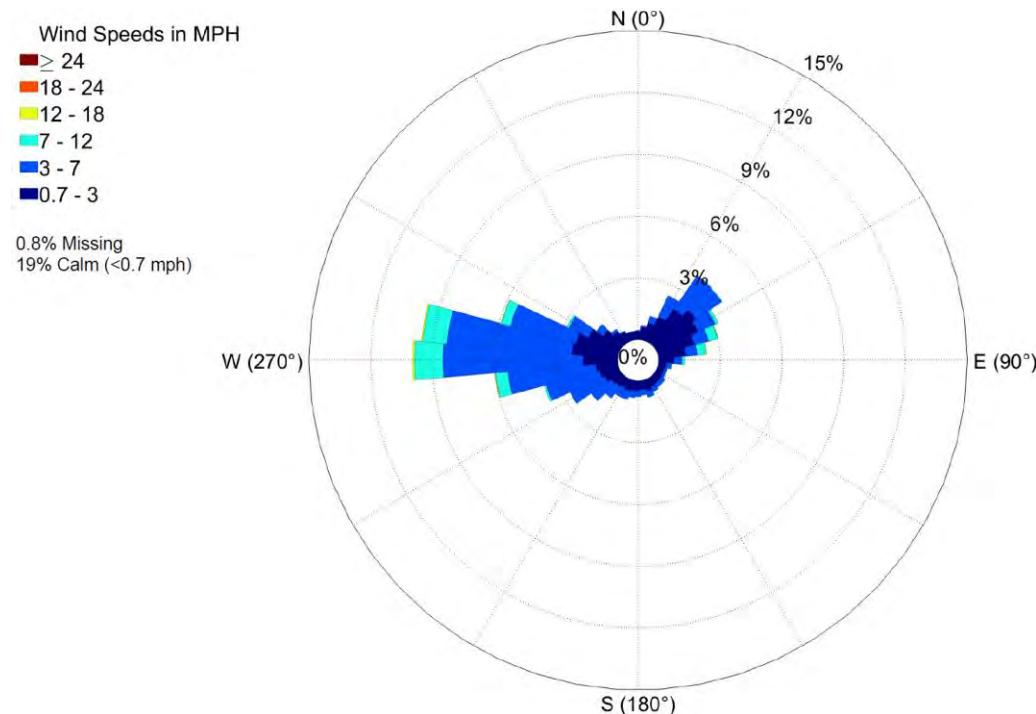
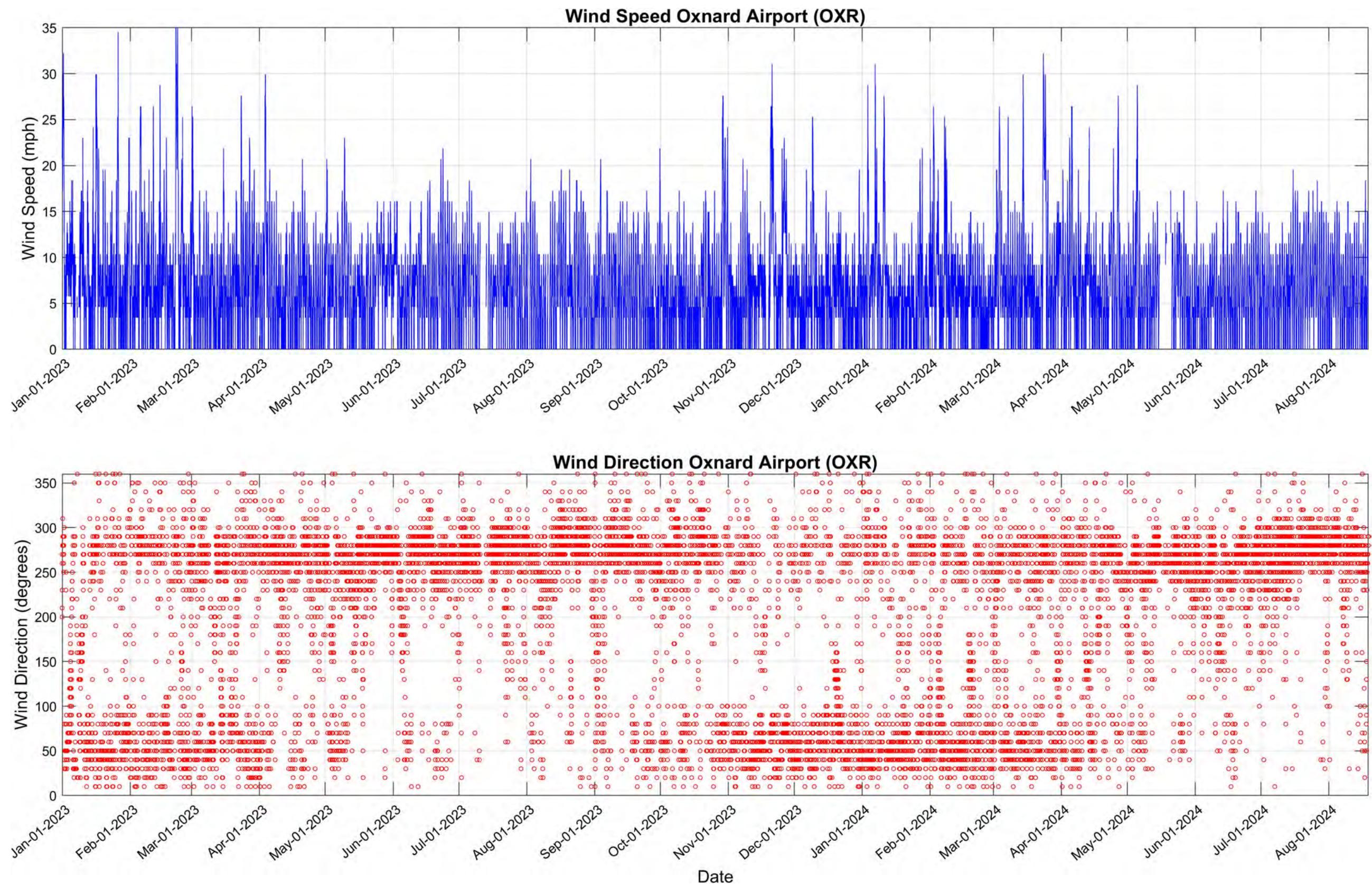


Figure 11.
Wind Rose at Oxnard Airport (OXR) 01/01/2014 to 08/16/2024

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SOURCE: ISU, OXR, ESA, 2024

Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure 12
Wind Data at Oxnard Airport (OXR)
01/01/2023 to 08/16/2024

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3.1.5 Streamflow

Figure 13 shows the discharge of streamflow in the Ventura River for the 2014-2024 monitoring period. The majority of the higher streamflow events occurred during the winter and spring months, as typical for the Ventura Watershed and Southern California. The figure illustrates the highly intermittent nature of the large flow events on the Ventura River, where some years have no significant flows and others have very high flows on the order of 10,000 to 20,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The January 9, 2023 event peaked at 34,700 cfs. These flow events move sediment out of the watershed and through the estuary, delivering cobble and sand to the Ventura River delta. Appendix D shows aerial imagery of the project site and the morphological response of the estuary and the shore to the January 2023 events (i.e., wave event on 1/5/23 and river event on 1/9/23) using pictures from August 2022 and February 2023.

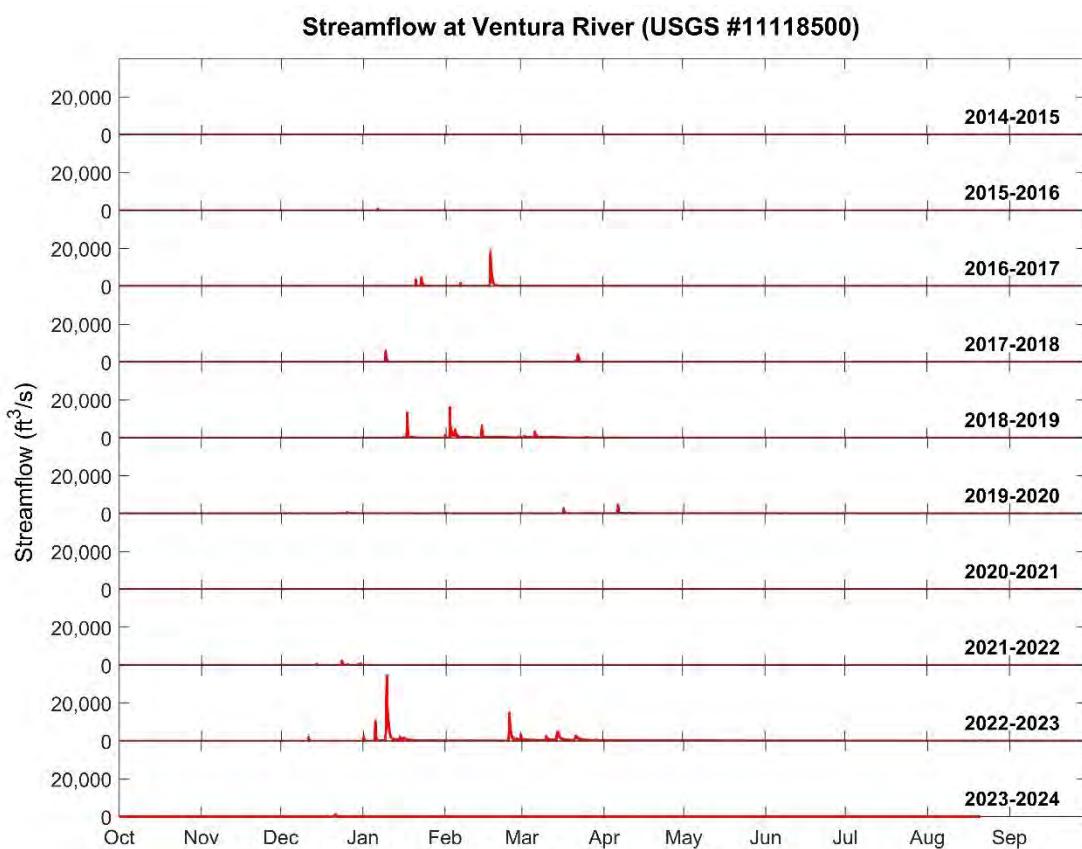


Figure 13.

Ventura River Streamflow Water Years 2014-2015 to 2023-2024

The monitoring period is punctuated by several large flood events, the most extreme of which produced over 34,000 cubic feet per second of flow in January 2023, nearly double the next largest flow. The top ten flood events during the observed time period are summarized in Table 3. Notably, 2017, 2019, and 2023 with five of the ten occurring in 2023.

TABLE 3. TOP TEN STREAMFLOW EVENTS IN THE VENTURA RIVER, OCTOBER 2014 TO AUGUST 2024

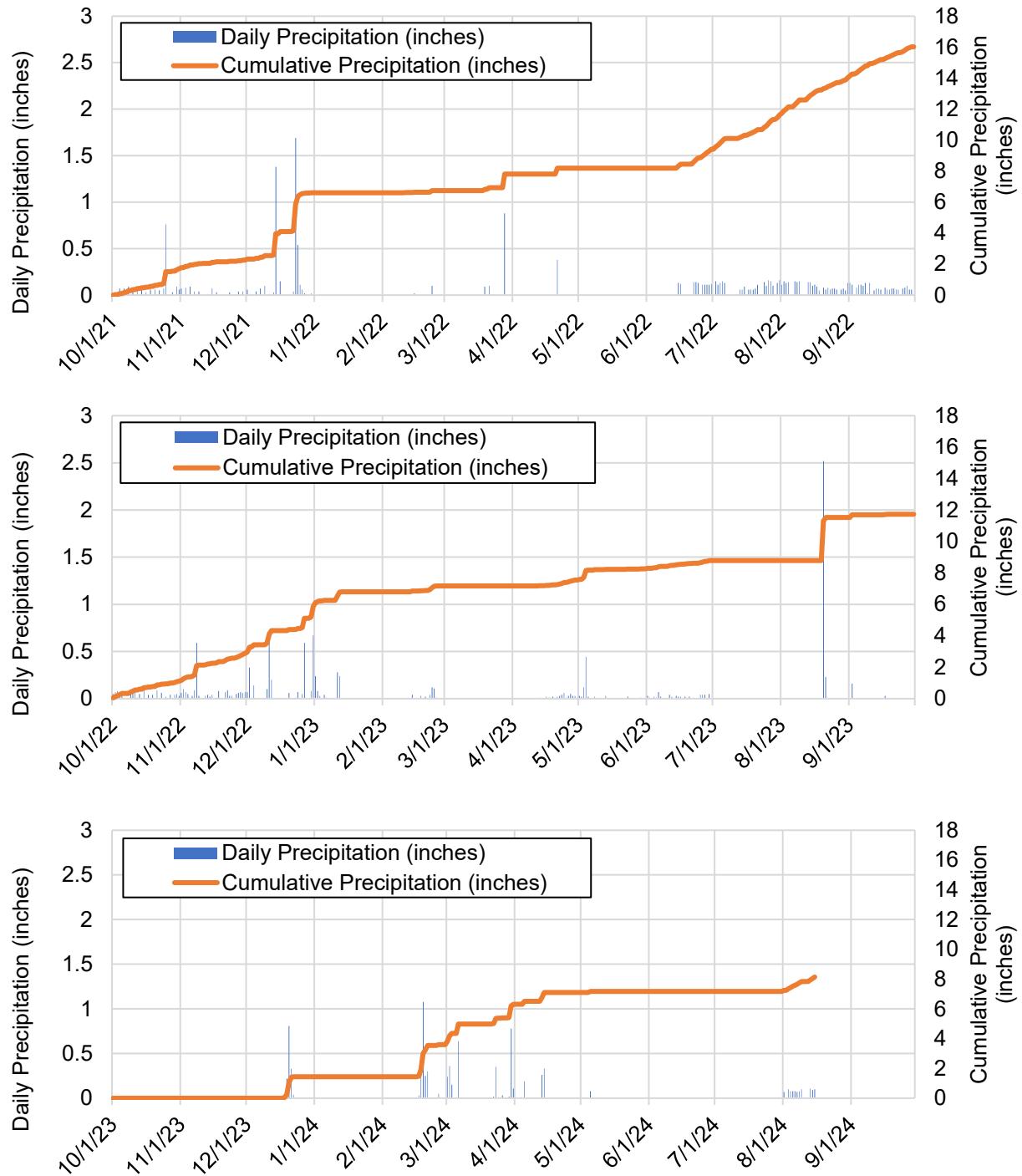
Date of Event	Maximum Flow (cfs)
February 17, 2017	18,500
February 18, 2017	8,460
January 17, 2019	13,300
February 2, 2019	16,000
February 14, 2019	6,570
January 5, 2023	10,700
January 9, 2023	34,700
January 10, 2023	17,800
February 24, 2023	14,900
February 25, 2023	10,800

SOURCE: USGS River Gauge #11118500

Stream flow in the Ventura River is critical for delivering sediment to the coast and directly influences beach width. Low stream flow from 2014 to 2016 had no major contribution to seasonal fluctuation in beach elevations. However, the prolonged streamflow in the winter events of January through March of 2017 and 2023 are due to the duration of the rain events that occurred, and result in greater delivery of sediment to the coast, including sand and cobble.

3.1.6 Precipitation

Figure 14 shows precipitation at the Camarillo CIMIS station from October 1, 2021 to August 16, 2024. The majority of precipitation occurred during the winter and spring months, as typical for the Ventura Watershed and Southern California. The major precipitation events during the monitoring period occurred on August 19, 2023 (2.52 inches), December 23, 2022 (1.69 inches), and December 14, 2021 (1.38 inches). The cumulative precipitation of the 2023-2024 water year as of August 16, 2024 is 8.14 inches, slightly lower than at the same time in the 2022-2023 water year (8.78 inches) and significantly lower than during 2021-2022 water year (13.09 inches).

**Figure 14.**

Daily Precipitation in Camarillo During the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 Water Years

3.2 Elevation Profiles

The cross shore topographic surveys have been monitored to observe geomorphic changes and to determine when maintenance triggers are met. Appendix A shows the plotted profiles.

Typical beach changes are visible in the Phase 1 profiles for the 2023-2024 monitoring period. The beach shows an elevated profile during the spring and summer months, and the fall and winter months show a lower profile. Looking at the Emma Wood Reference Site, a raised profile at approximately Station 1+60 is visible for both the December 2023 profile and the May 2024 profile, which onsite appears to be a large and wrack bar created from the January 2023 coastal and fluvial storm events (Figure 15). From the same events, a similar cobble and wrack bar is visible on Profiles A, B, and C around Station 2+20, and Profile D around Station 2+40. This bar is further discussed in Section 3.3.



Figure 15.

Cobble and Wrack Bar Around Profiles A, B, and C (May 29, 2024)

In Profile I (previously Profile 6), located in the Phase 2 project area, significant erosion is visible in the beach profile. Comparing the December 2023 and July 2017 profiles, the parking lot/pedestrian walkway infrastructure eroded by more than 6 feet.

Looking at the project cobble berm design, the profiles are relatively visibly stable since June 2021, though Profiles A, B, and C show the most variability. The May 2024 Profile A appears about a foot lower than the June 2021 and March 2017 profile lines at the toe of the constructed cobble berm. The December 2023 and May 2024 profiles on Profile B have a higher profile than June 2021, the May 2024 profile sitting below the toe of the constructed berm by a couple feet. These variations appear to be consistent with the seasonal changes of the beach geomorphology. Maintenance triggers are discussed below.

Compared to the previous years, the dune hummocks appear to have moved slightly and grown. In Profile A, the dunes appear to have migrated slightly inland, though still within the 2012 footprint. The dune vegetation in the latest survey, May 2024 shows dune height growth In Profiles C and D. The top of the dunes between Station +20 to Station +80 appear to have diminished in Profile E, compared to previous years. Otherwise, there are not significant changes to the dunes in the beach profiles.

Maintenance triggers established for the project include the following:

- Lowering of the cobble berm below 13.0 feet NAVD within 40 feet from the path, and
- Inland migration of the berm crest to within 40 feet of the bike path. To minimize disturbance to the project in consideration of sand on top of the berm crest, the cobble berm face defined here to be the frontal slope below the crest of the cobble berm, generally in between the elevations of 14' and 10' NAVD88 may be used as a proxy to estimate the location of the berm crest.

The triggers identified were intended to raise awareness of potential issues and serve as an early warning (~1-3 years) indicator of potential future problems to the project. Specifically, once these triggers are met, there is an increasing urgency to initiate more detailed monitoring and planning for cobble and sand nourishment. The designed cobble section and the trigger lines are included in each of the figures of the surveyed profiles described in the following section. During the 2023-2034 monitoring period, none of the maintenance triggers were reached so no nourishment related activities are anticipated in the next few years. The western portion of the site should continue to be carefully monitored via Profiles A and B, and attention should be paid to the inland migration of the berm crest along Profile E.

3.3 Elevation Surfaces

Using the DSM data from two surveys collected from CSUCI, we developed an elevation change map that shows how site grades changed from September 2023 to May 2024 (Appendix B). The map shows accretion during by the color blue and erosion by shades of red. Areas of no change are the color white.

We note that the two data sets used likely need additional post-processing to correct for vertical adjustments to align the surfaces. As shown by the parking lot and levee at the west end of the site having a red hue in some locations, one or both of the surveys may have slight inaccuracies in the elevations, as the parking lot elevations should remain unchanged. Also, the surfaces contain areas with triangulation which is usually from interpolation between points. Nevertheless, several changes and trends are apparent through observing the map.

There is a landward movement of material, which is shown by the accretion on the shoreline, most apparent in the western half of Phase 1. It appears to represent the cobble and wrack that moved onshore during the winter, likely the effect of the winter wave events mobilizing the nearshore cobble and woody material and pushing it onshore to deposit on the intertidal zone and the beach. Another change evident is erosion in the intertidal zone at the eastern end of the project area near Phase 2, likely caused by waves. There is also erosion evident on the intertidal zone and the beach in front of the revetment and the river mouth. East of the windsurfing pad, the dunes appear to have a mixture of erosion and accretion, with the most accretion in the back beach, and the most erosion in the vegetated areas bordering the sidewalk.

3.4 Photo Documentation

Appendix C includes site photos taken in the summer of 2021, fall of 2023, and spring 2024. Photos were grouped according to their location within the study area: the southwestern extent of the project area (1E and 1W), the dunes between Profiles A and B (2E and 2W), the southeastern extent of the project area (5E and 5W), the eastern extent of the Phase II construction area on the beach (6W), and between photo locations 5 and 6 (XE and XW). During these monitoring efforts, photos were not consistently taken at the photo locations. However, important observations can be gathered from these photos as well as the aerial imagery in Appendix D.

3.4.1 Site Photos

At photo location 1 (see Figure 1) images taken in September 2021, during end of summer conditions at the site, show sand accretion with a cobble toe visible when facing East. In images taken in November 2023 during a strong El Niño cycle, wrack is visible facing East, and cobble is apparent in both directions due to beach erosion. Cobble and sand accumulated to create a berm that closes the lagoon from tidal influence. Images from May 2024 show post winter beach conditions with wrack on the back beach and cobble accumulated in the intertidal zone.

In May 2024 at photo location 2, during post winter conditions, dune hummocks and vegetation cover the surrounding area.

At photo location 3, images show clear differences between December 2023 (beginning of conditions) and May 2024 (post winter conditions). At the beginning of winter, the beach sand is showing signs of erosion from the winter swell with cobble and small amounts of wrack onshore. In the post winter conditions, there is a large wrack bar on the back beach and mid beach brought onshore during large winter storm events.

In May 2024 at locations XE and XW (between photo locations 5 and 6), post winter beach conditions in the Phase II monitoring area are showing eroded pavement and sea wall from winter storm events. Large amounts of cobble are dispersed on the beach. These same sea wall and pavement locations are intact in November 2023 prior to the winter storm events.

3.4.2 Aerial Imagery

ESA compiled aerial imagery for the project site from spring 2016 to fall 2024 with one to two images taken per year (Appendix D). Imagery from August 2022 (summer conditions) show significant sand accretion in the Phase I area, including build up in the intertidal area.

Imagery from February 2023 (winter conditions) shows the site during a strong El Niño cycle and following large fluvial and coastal storm events in January. The imagery shows erosion of the sand in the Phase I area, accumulation of cobble and wrack on the beach, and cobble accretion in the intertidal zone. The lagoon mouth is flowing around the rip rap revetment and is flowing out in front of the dunes to the west of the windsurfing pad. More erosion is evident in the Phase II beach area with no sand visible and cobble up to the sea wall.

Imagery from July 2023 (beginning of summer conditions) show sand beginning to accumulate on the beach in the Phase I area with cobble and wrack still present. Sand accretion is not visible in the Phase II area where cobble remains dominant. The lagoon mouth is closed.

Imagery from July 2024 (beginning of summery conditions) is similar. However, there is more sand accretion in the Phase I area than the prior year, and less cobble along the entire shore. The lagoon mouth is closed again.

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4. FUTURE MONITORING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Nexus to BEACON's RCAMP

BEACON is developing the Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Plan (RCAMP) that encompasses Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. As an objective of the program, the RCAMP provides local management agencies with the information needed to assess whether changed conditions warrant new adaptation approaches and implementation actions are resulting in regional resilience benefits or impacts. The RCAMP contains monitoring topics including sandy beach shoreline change, storm events, damage, and emergency response, and combined coastal and fluvial flooding. Monitoring plan components are suggested for each of the topics, laid out by current and suggested data and monitoring, analysis, and products. One of the monitoring plan topics is the effectiveness of nature-based adaptation, specifically focused on future monitoring of Surfers' Point.

The purpose of monitoring built nature-based adaptation projects is to better understand their effectiveness, benefits, and limitations, which is important to inform and refine future nature-based project planning, design, and implementation both in the BEACON region and throughout California. For this Phase 1, the City of Ventura was required by permit to perform limited ongoing monitoring of Surfers' Point for a five-year period following construction through approximately 2017.

From 2020 through 2024, BEACON has funded continuation of the project design and expansion of the monitoring as part of a more comprehensive long-term monitoring program. This longer-term monitoring program is not currently in place or funded. More comprehensive monitoring of the Surfers' Point project and its effectiveness would benefit nature-based adaptation project planning, design, and implementation in the BEACON region and throughout California. Comprehensive monitoring would include continued monitoring at the adjacent Emma Wood reference site, Ventura River, and Phase 2 of the project, and potentially the shore extending down the point through the cove and to the wharf.

4.2 Suggested Analysis and Products

Minimum monitoring efforts would be those that meet the conditions of the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for the project issued by the California Coastal Commission (CCC). We expect the required minimum monitoring to include repeat surveys of the Phase 1 and 2 areas approximately twice per year during representative summer and winter conditions, repeat photo points from selected locations that can be used to document the site, assessment of the dune vegetation and its successes and failures, and assessment of the project conditions relative to the selected trigger conditions for subsequent or mitigating actions.

Under an expanded scenario that includes efforts beyond the minimum required by the conditions of the CDP, the current monitoring, analysis, and reporting by the City, BEACON, and CSUCI could be continued and expanded to include supplemental surveys and monitoring in addition to the ongoing profile, LiDAR, and plant community surveys. The RCAMP suggests an expanded and integrated

analysis of seasonal and interannual shore change, storm response and recovery, cobble movement, and dune processes and vegetation. Annual or regular reporting on shore change and project performance would provide information on long-term project performance as an ongoing nature-based project case study. We consider cobble tracking and movement a very important consideration that could provide significant value to the wider community in designing and implementing nature-based projects like Surfers' Point. We also recommend installing time-lapse cameras that can be used to track shore change, beach users, and others. Other possible efforts could include developing partnerships with entities such as Surflife, who owns and operates cameras that are installed at the site, and which are currently used to output surfing criteria associated with wave quality, surfing conditions, and public use.

With additional funding, additional data on shore change, water levels, waves, and wave runup, a mechanistic analysis of coastal processes, shore change, and project effectiveness could be performed to develop refined analysis tools and guidance for similar nature-based projects.

Ultimately, nature-based project analysis tools and guidance could be developed for BEACON and other regions. More comprehensive data collection and analysis could yield validated nature-based project analysis tools, proof of project performance and effectiveness, and guidance and lessons learned to inform similar projects in the BEACON region and throughout California.

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6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The following ESA staff contributed to this report:

Louis White, PE

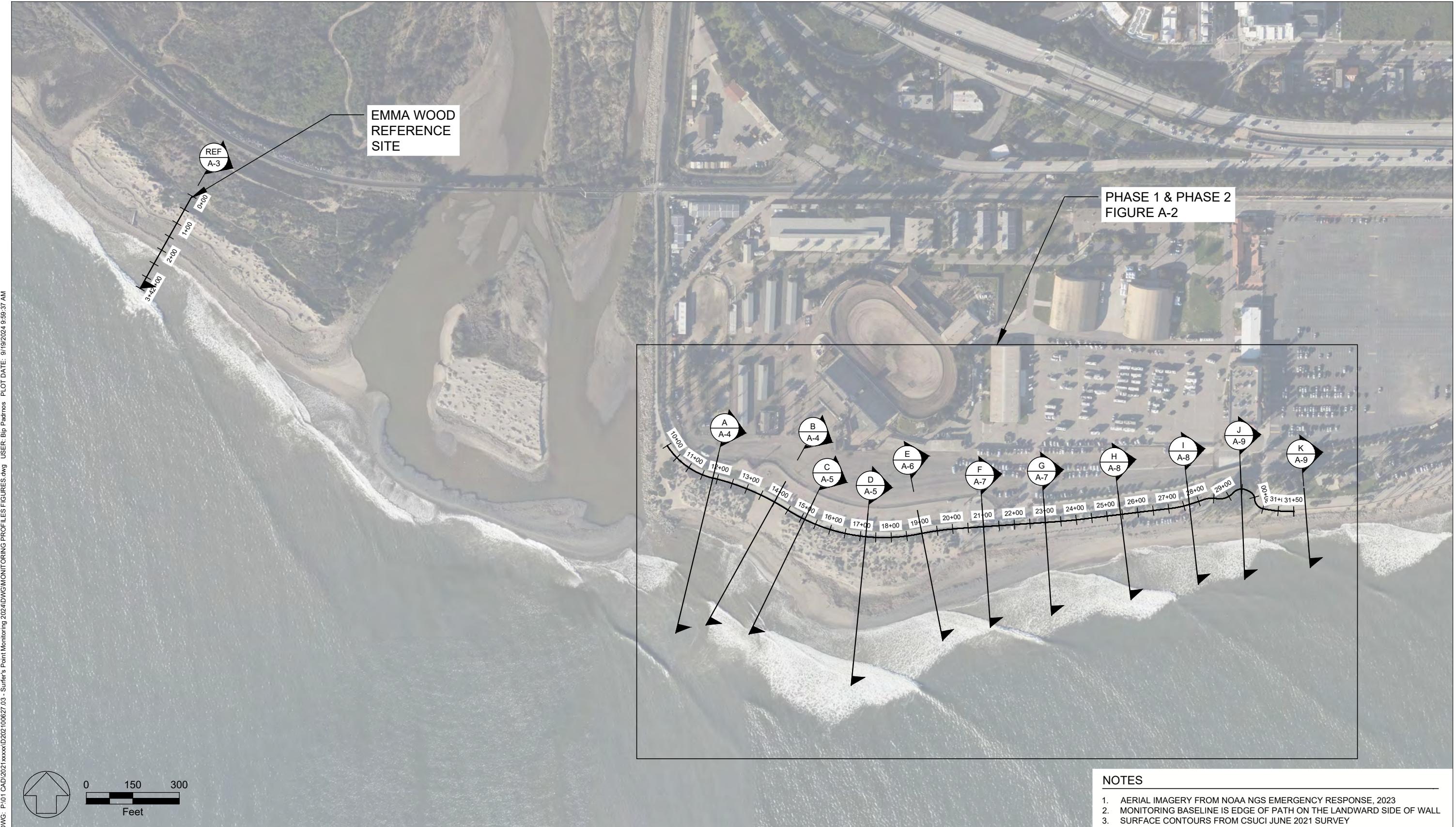
Amber Inggs, PE

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Karl Kindall

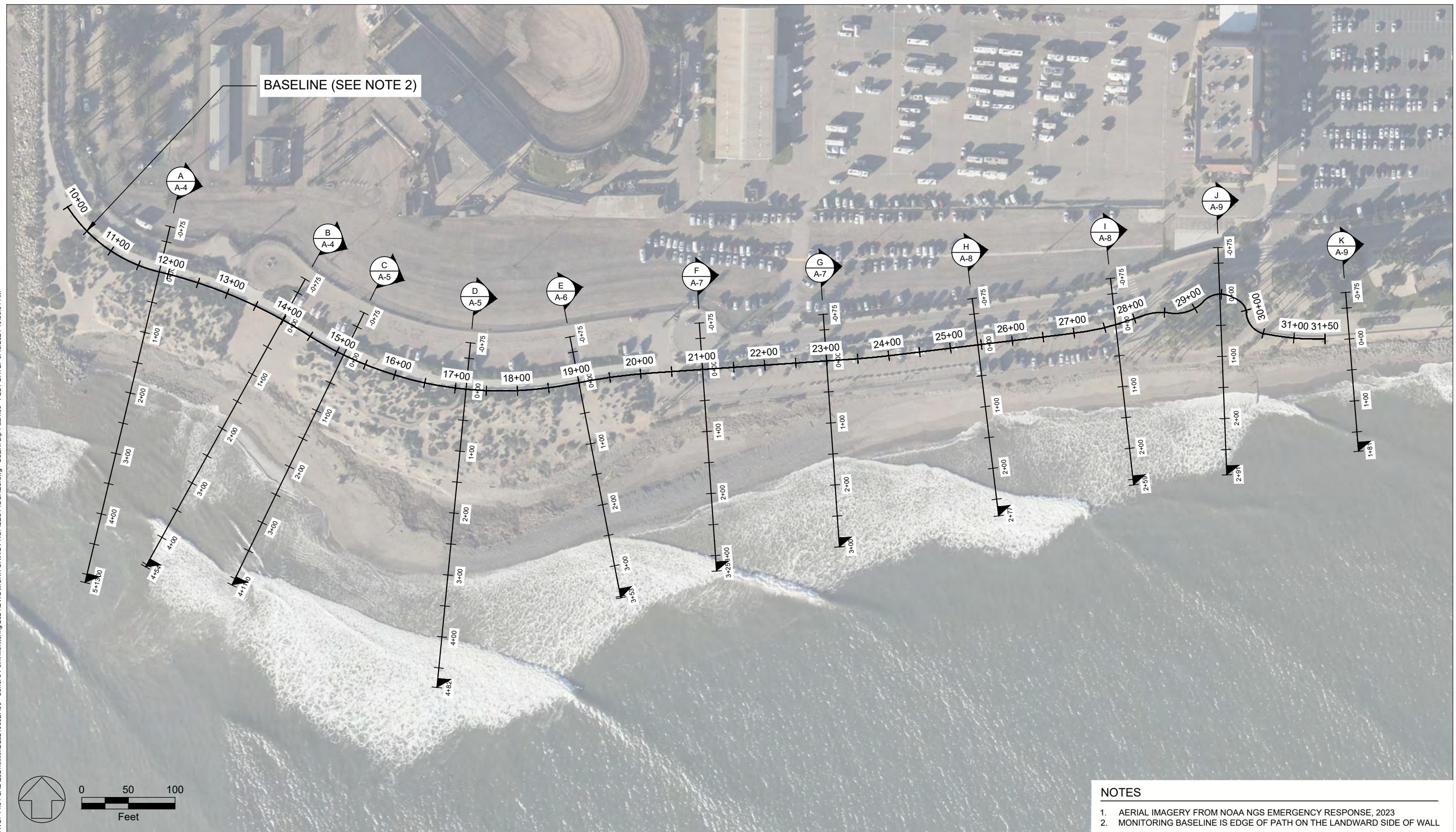
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Appendix A. Monitoring Profiles



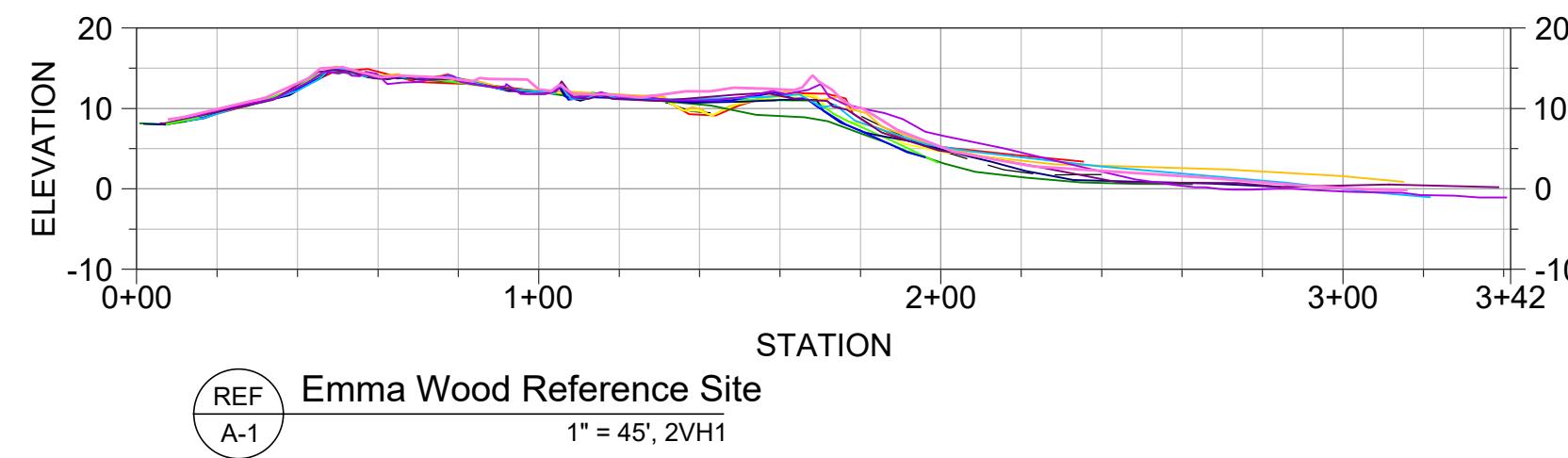
Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure A-1
Monitoring Transects



LEGEND

2010 (PRE CONSTRUCTION)	2015-12-23	2023-12-11
2011-10-08	2016-05-09	2024-05-29
2012-07-03	2016-08-09	
2012-12-13	2017-03-14	
2013-04-30	2017-07-14	
2015-07-08	2021-06-03	



NOTES

1. ELEVATIONS IN FEET RELATIVE TO NAVD

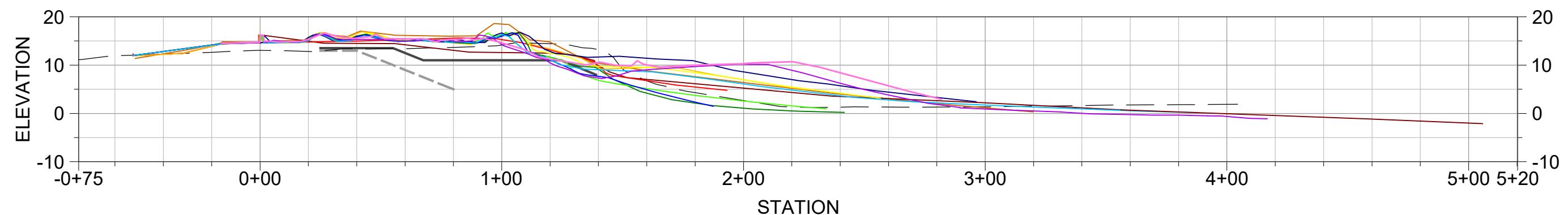
Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure A-3

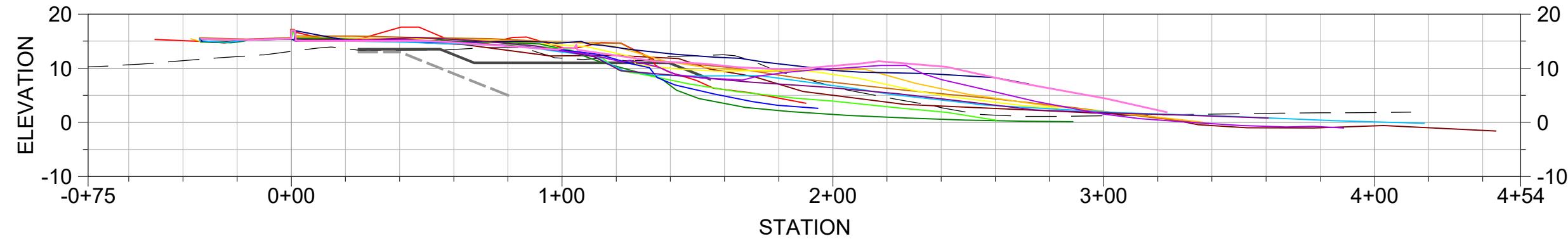
Surfers' Point Monitoring Profiles
Emma Wood Reference Site

LEGEND

	2010 (PRE CONSTRUCTION)
	2011-10-08
	2012-07-03
	2012-12-13
	2013-04-30
	2015-12-23
	2016-05-09
	2016-08-09
	2016-08-09
	2017-03-14
	2017-07-14
	2017-07-14
	2021-06-03
	2023-12-11
	2024-05-29
	COBBLE BERM DESIGN
	COBBLE BERM TRIGGER



Phase 1, Cross Section A
1" = 45', 2VH1



Phase 1, Cross Section B
1" = 45', 2VH1

NOTES

1. ELEVATIONS IN FEET RELATIVE TO NAVD
2. STATION DISTANCE IN FEET RELATIVE TO EDGE OF PATH ON THE LANDWARD SIDE OF WALL (SEE BASELINE)

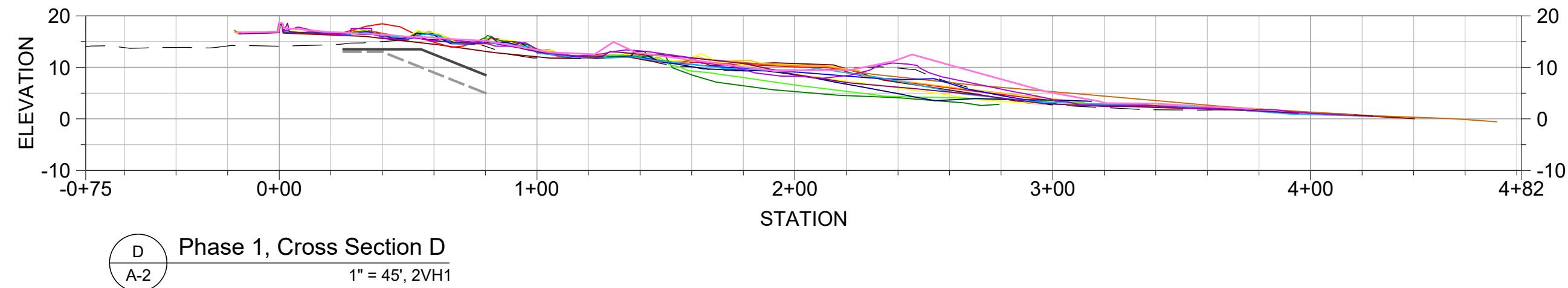
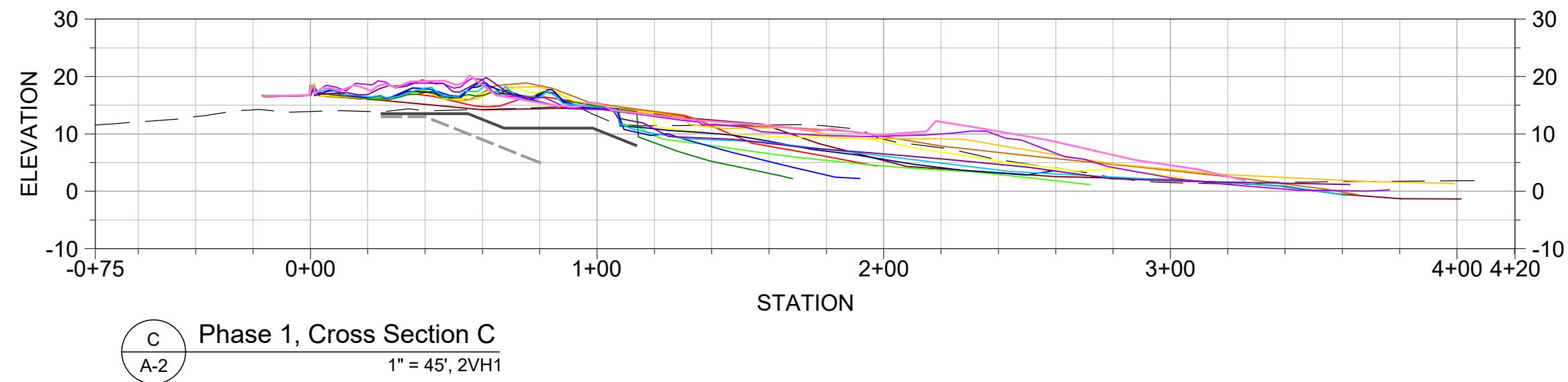
Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure A-4

Surfers' Point Monitoring Profiles
Phase 1, Cross Sections A & B

LEGEND

2010 (PRE CONSTRUCTION)		2015-12-23	2023-12-11
2011-10-08		2016-05-09	2024-05-29
2012-07-03		2016-08-09	COBBLE BERM DESIGN
2012-12-13		2017-03-14	COBBLE BERM TRIGGER
2013-04-30		2017-07-14	
2015-07-08		2021-06-03	

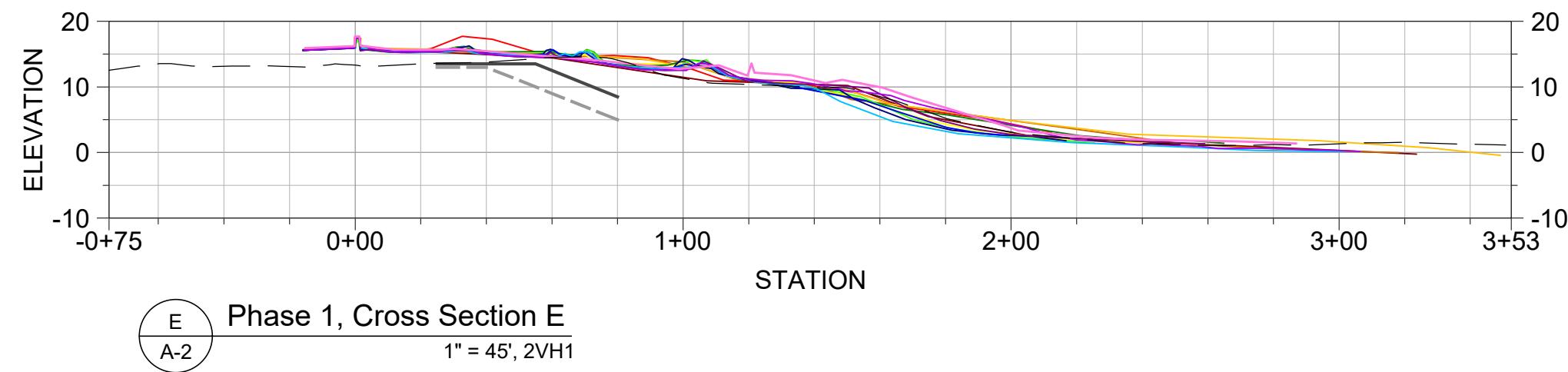


NOTES

1. ELEVATIONS IN FEET RELATIVE TO NAVD
2. STATION DISTANCE IN FEET RELATIVE TO EDGE OF PATH ON THE LANDWARD SIDE OF WALL (SEE BASELINE)

LEGEND

2010 (PRE CONSTRUCTION)	2015-12-23	2023-12-11
2011-10-08	2016-05-09	2024-05-29
2012-07-03	2016-08-09	COBBLE BERM DESIGN
2012-12-13	2017-03-14	COBBLE BERM TRIGGER
2013-04-30	2017-07-14	
2015-07-08	2021-06-03	



NOTES

1. ELEVATIONS IN FEET RELATIVE TO NAVD
2. STATION DISTANCE IN FEET RELATIVE TO EDGE OF PATH ON THE LANDWARD SIDE OF WALL (SEE BASELINE)

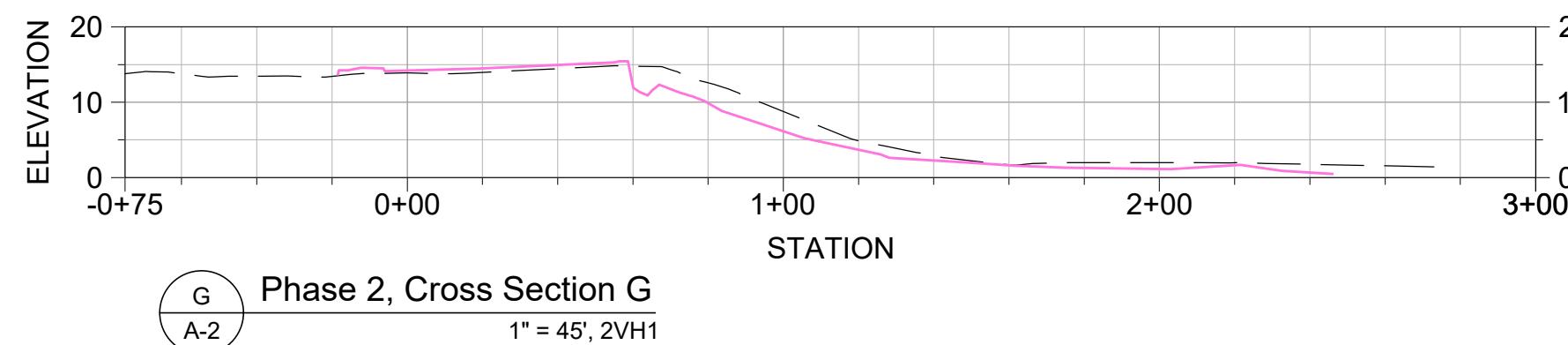
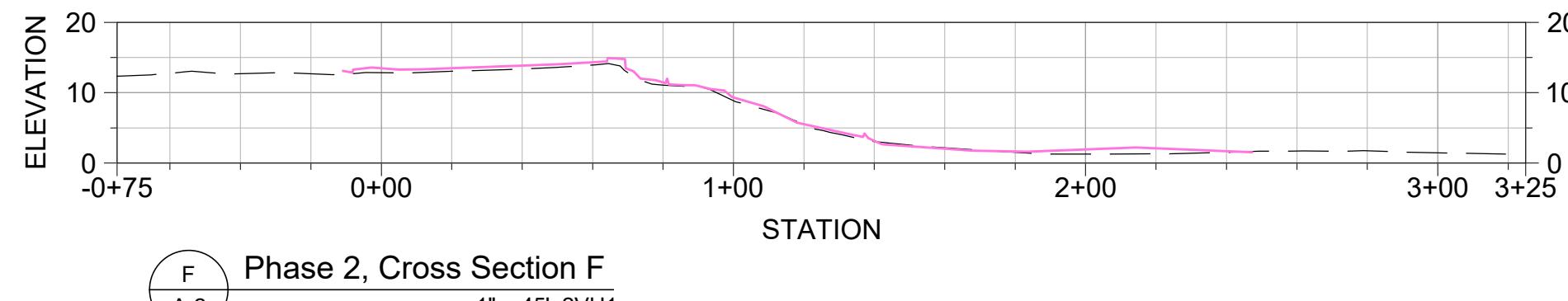
Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure A-6

Surfers' Point Monitoring Profiles
Phase 1, Cross Section E

LEGEND

— 2010 (PRE CONSTRUCTION)
— 2024-05-29



NOTES

1. ELEVATIONS IN FEET RELATIVE TO NAVD
2. STATION DISTANCE IN FEET RELATIVE TO EDGE OF PATH ON THE LANDWARD SIDE OF WALL (SEE BASELINE)

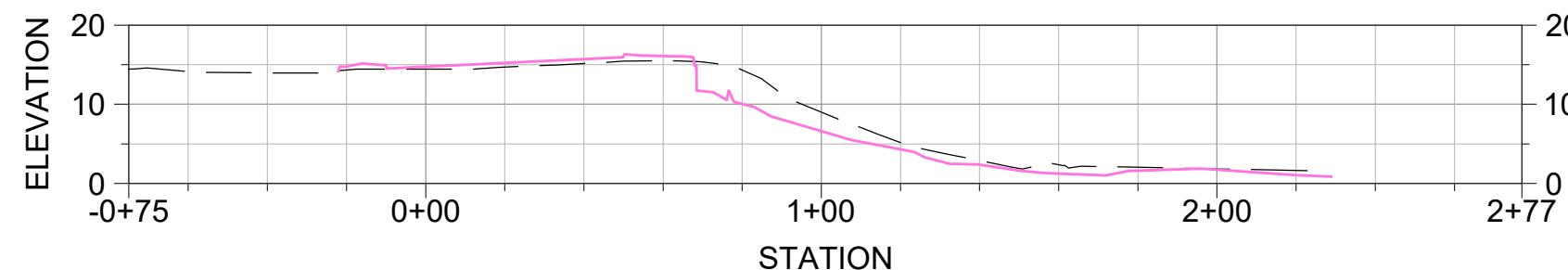
Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure A-7

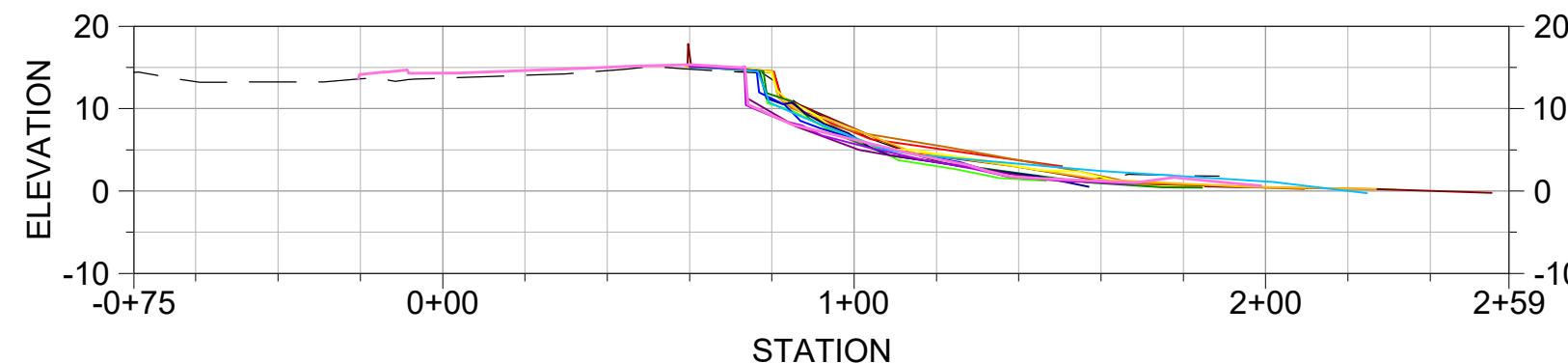
Surfers' Point Monitoring Profiles
Phase 2, Cross Sections F & G

LEGEND

—	2010 (PRE CONSTRUCTION)
—	2011-10-08
—	2012-07-03
—	2012-12-13
—	2013-04-30
—	2015-07-08
—	2015-12-23
—	2016-05-09
—	2016-08-09
—	2017-03-14
—	2017-07-14
—	2021-06-03
—	2023-12-11
—	2024-05-29



Phase 2, Cross Section H
1" = 45', 2VH1



Phase 2, Cross Section I
1" = 45', 2VH1

NOTES

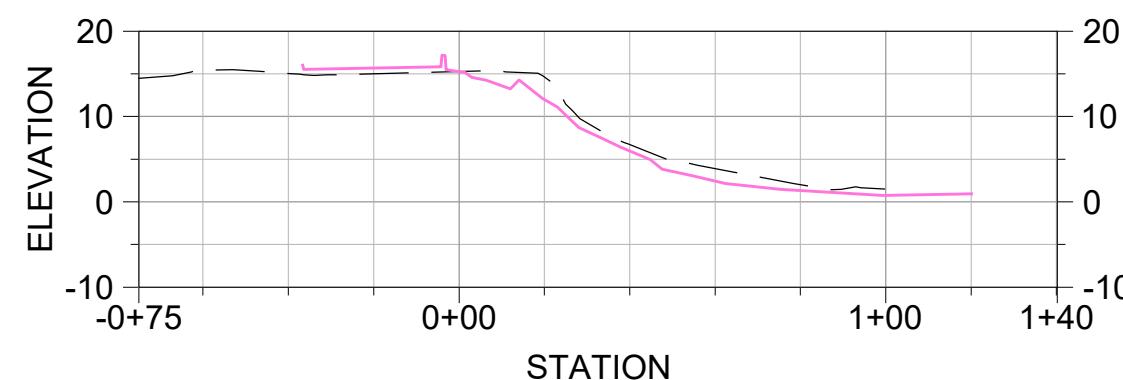
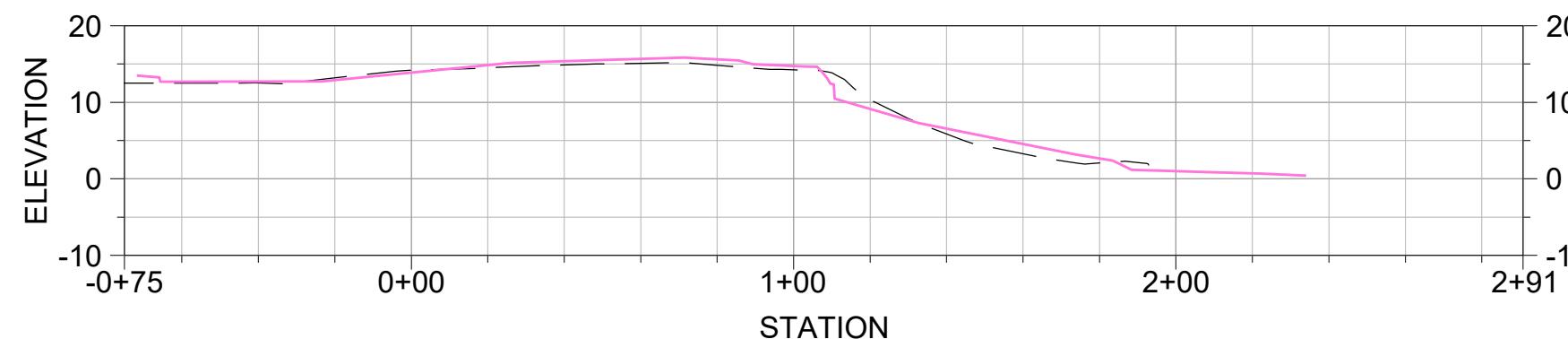
1. ELEVATIONS IN FEET RELATIVE TO NAVD
2. STATION DISTANCE IN FEET RELATIVE TO EDGE OF PATH ON THE LANDWARD SIDE OF WALL (SEE BASELINE)

Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure A-8
Surfers' Point Monitoring Profiles
Phase 2, Cross Sections H & I

LEGEND

— 2010 (PRE CONSTRUCTION)
— 2024-05-29



NOTES

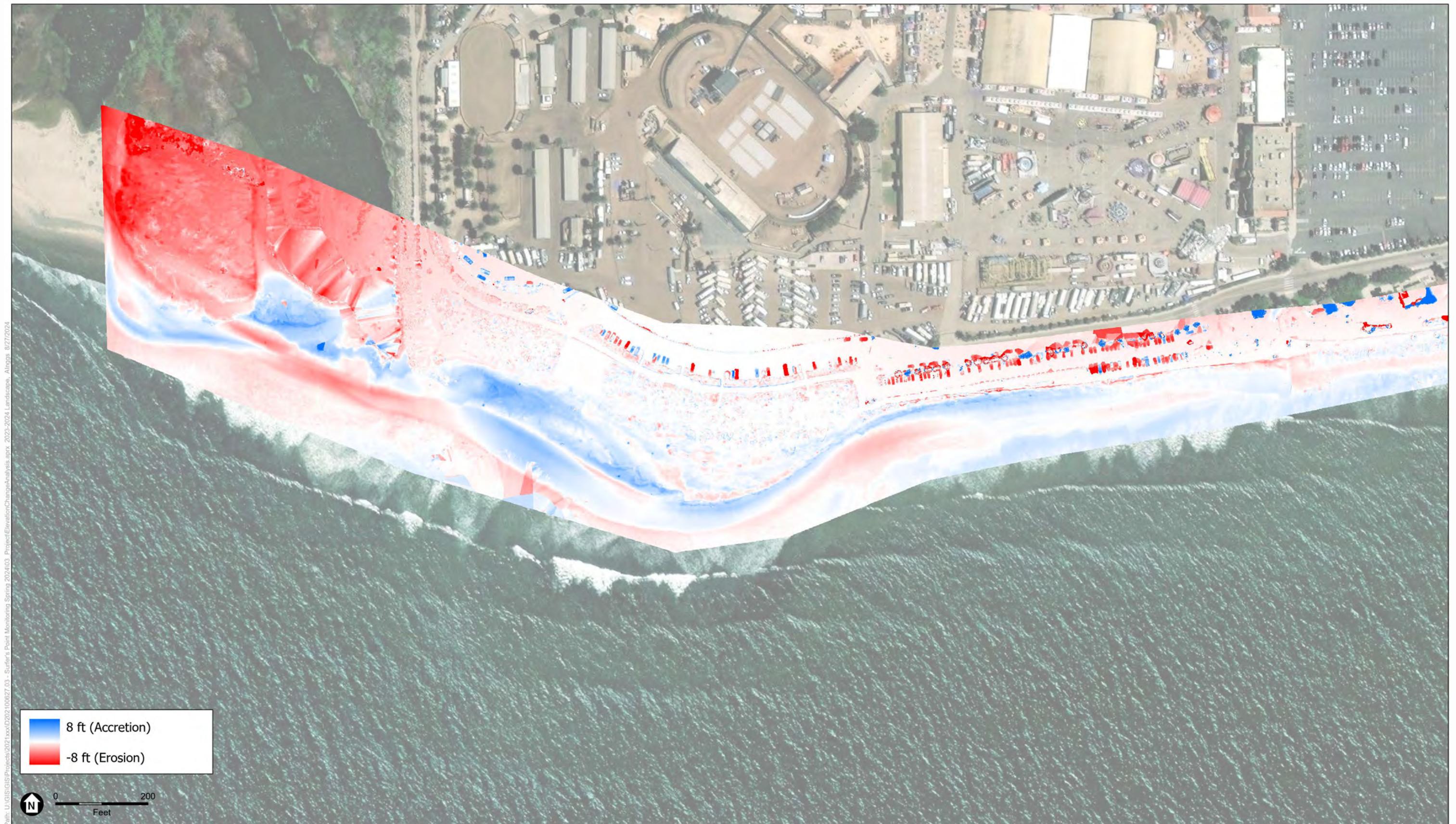
1. ELEVATIONS IN FEET RELATIVE TO NAVD
2. STATION DISTANCE IN FEET RELATIVE TO EDGE OF PATH ON THE LANDWARD SIDE OF WALL (SEE BASELINE)
3. PATH ENDS BEFORE XS 11, 0 AT XS11 IS SET AT THE LINEAR EXTENSION FROM THE END OF THE PATH

Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure A-9

Surfers' Point Monitoring Profiles
Phase 2, Cross Sections J & K

Appendix B. Elevation Change



SOURCE: ESRI, CSUCI

Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure B-1
Elevation change between September 2023 and May 2024
(2024 survey minus 2023 survey)

Appendix C. Site Photos





SOURCE: ESA, 2024

Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure C-2
Site Photos from 2024

5E December 2023



5E May 2024



5W December 2023



5W May 2024



SOURCE: ESA, 2024

Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure C-3
Site Photos from 2023 and 2024

XE May 2024



XW May 2024



6W November 2023



6W May 2024



SOURCE: ESA, 2024

Surfers' Point Monitoring Spring 2024

Figure C-4
Site Photos from 2023 and 2024

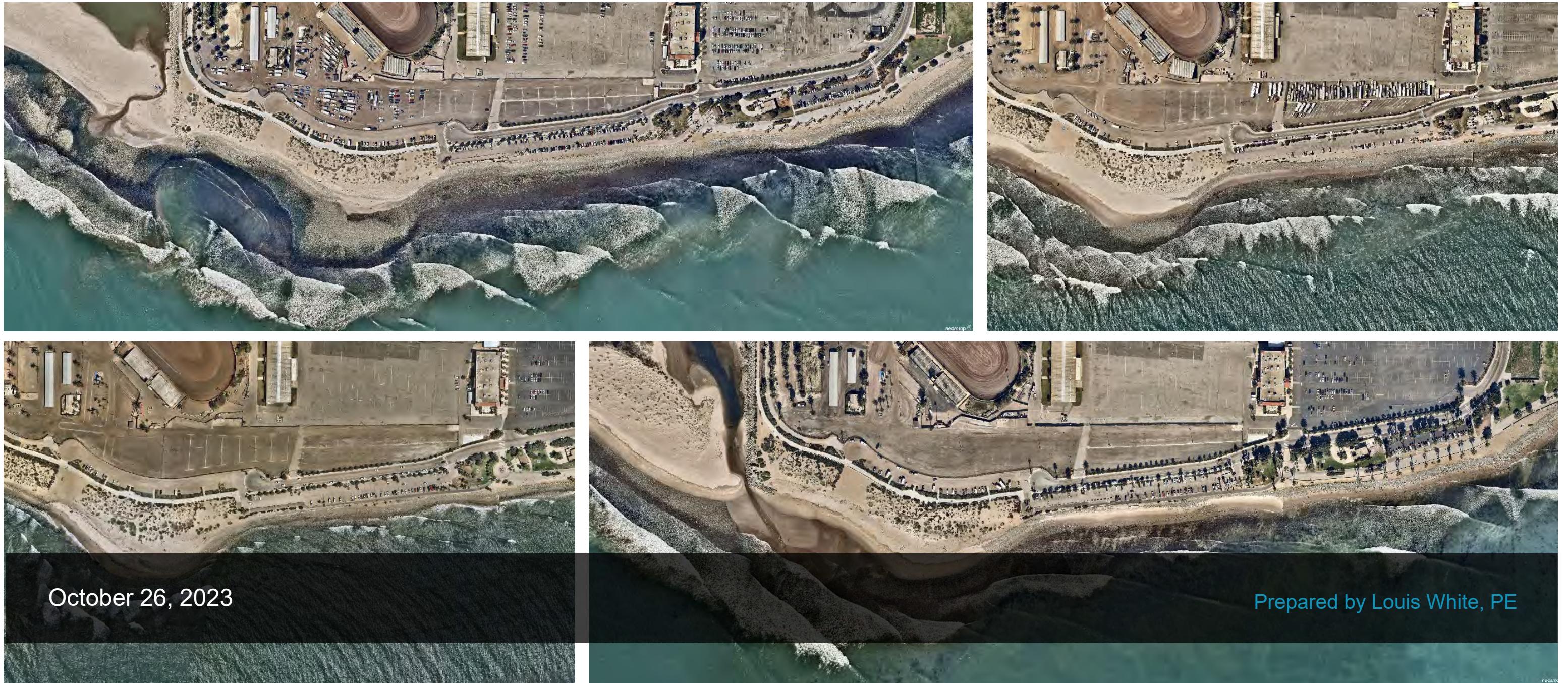
Appendix D.

Nearmap Aerial Imagery

Aerial Imagery from Nearmap

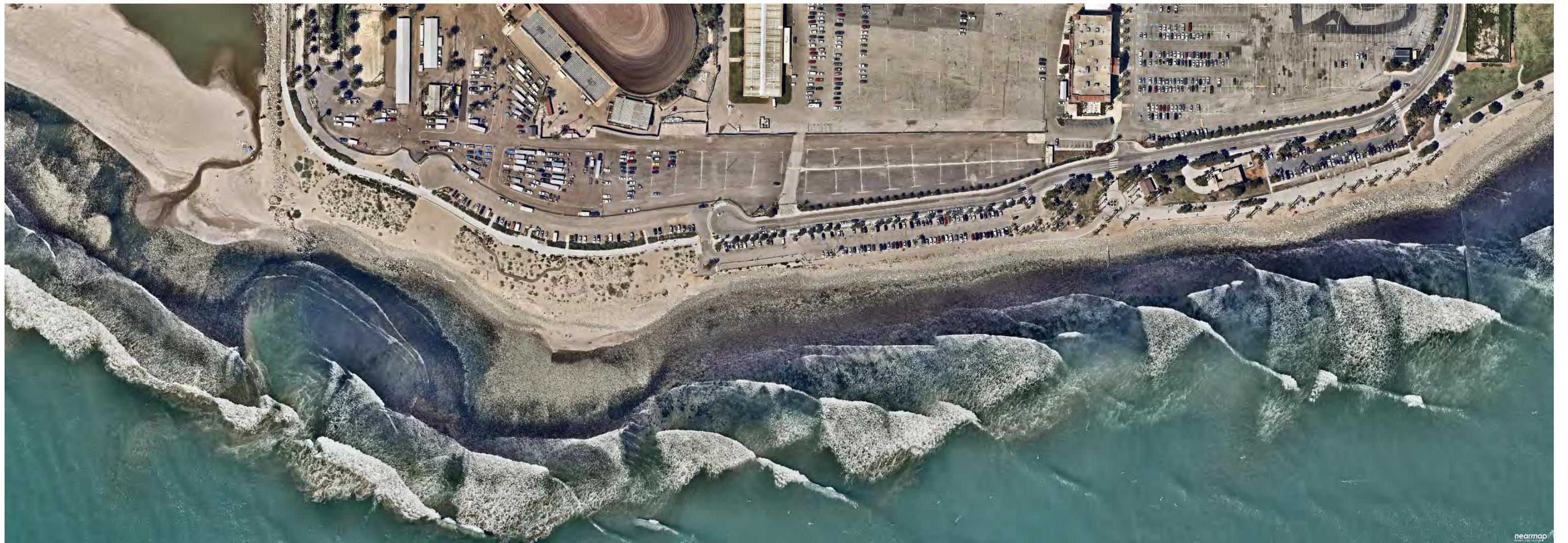


Surfers' Point Aerial Imagery Timeline 2016 to 2024



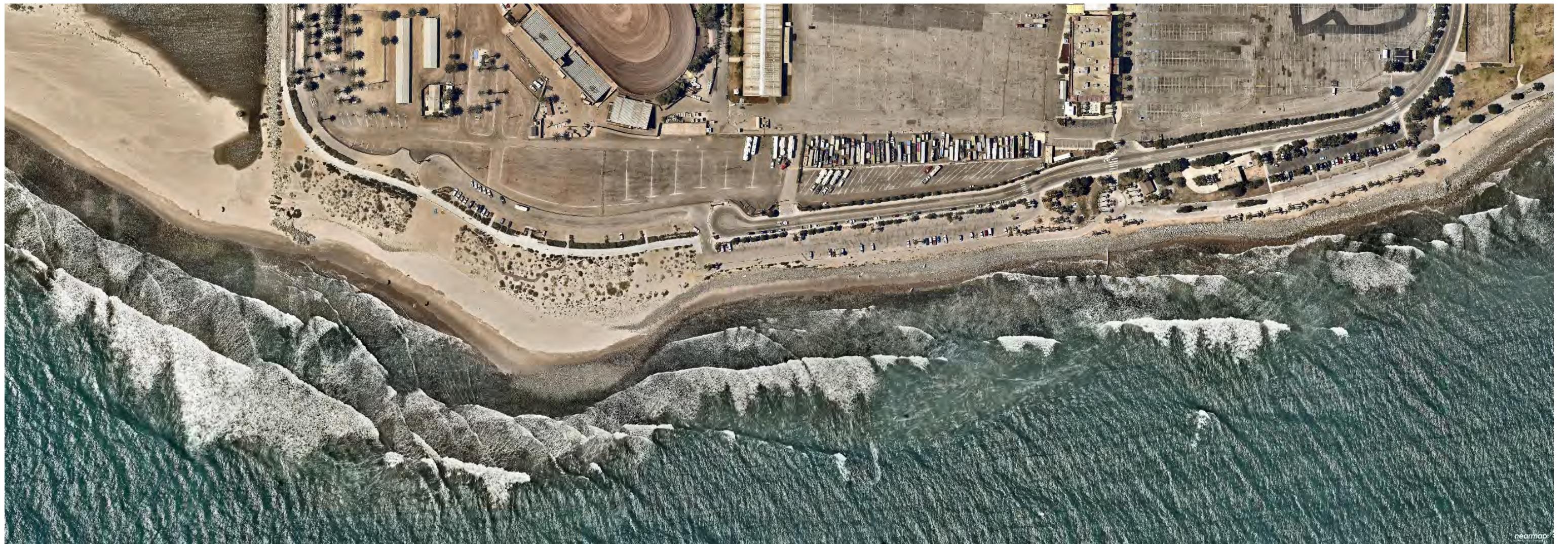
October 26, 2023

Prepared by Louis White, PE



2016-04-02

Nearmap Imagery



2016-07-15

Nearmap Imagery



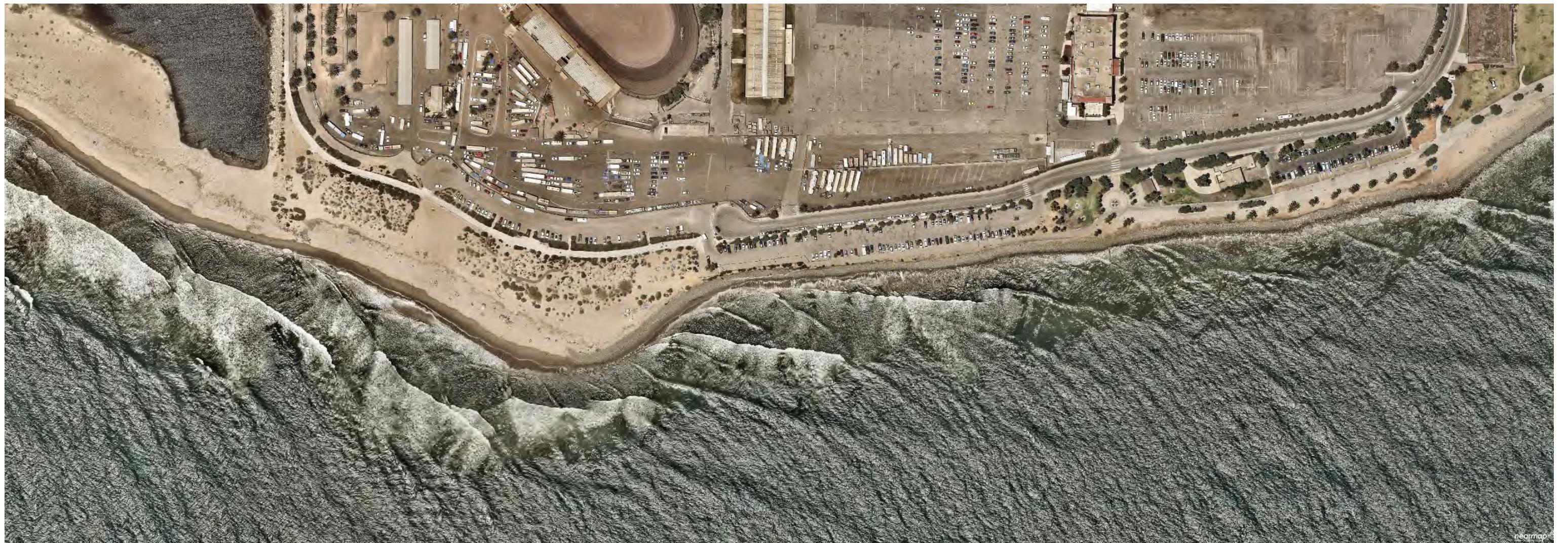
2017-08-26

Nearmap Imagery



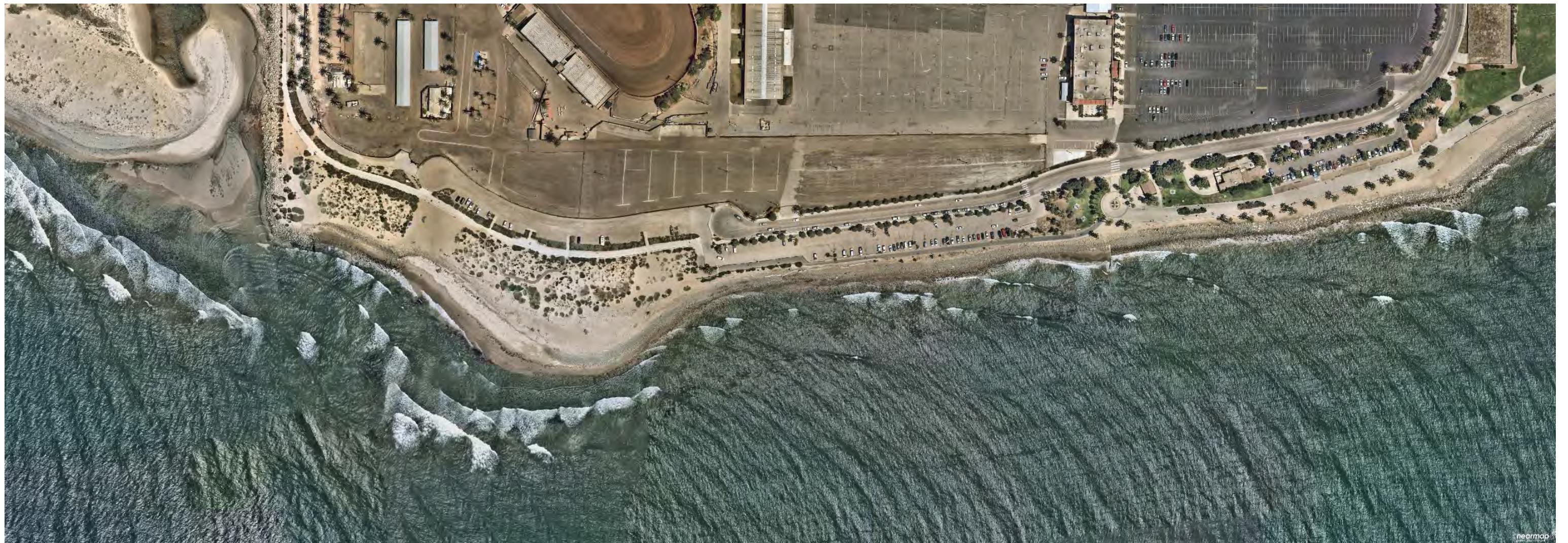
2017-08-30

Nearmap Imagery



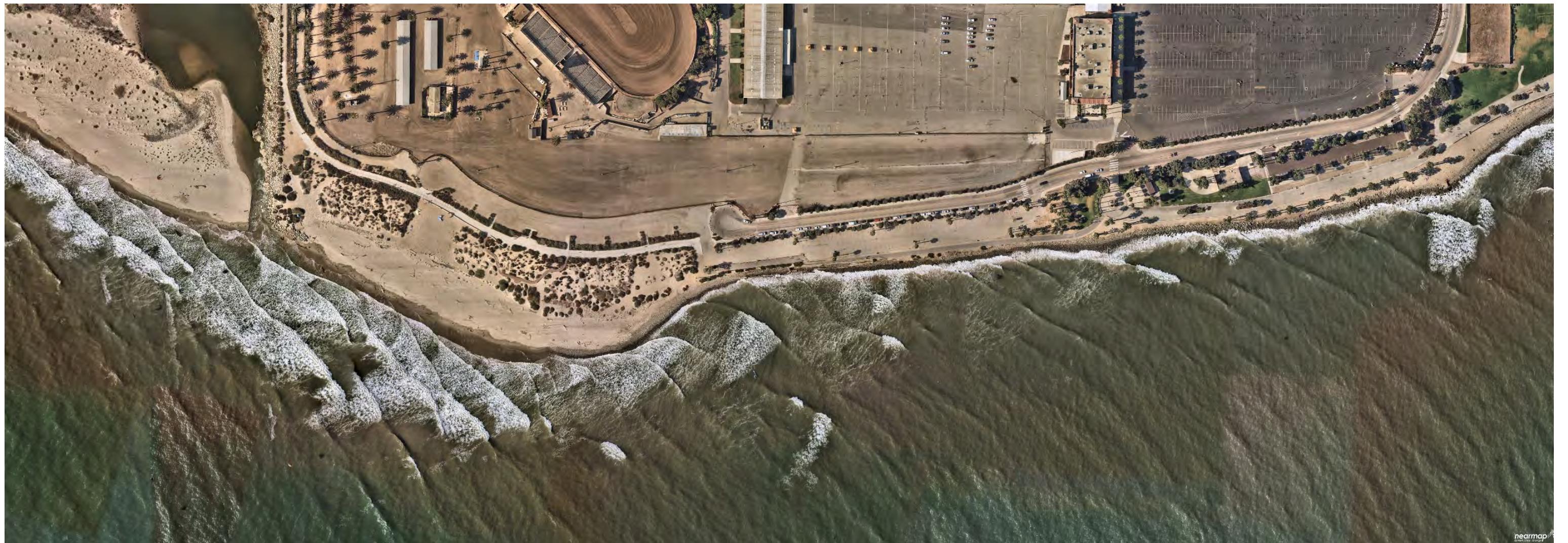
2018-07-14

Nearmap Imagery



2019-06-30

Nearmap Imagery



2020-08-27

Nearmap Imagery



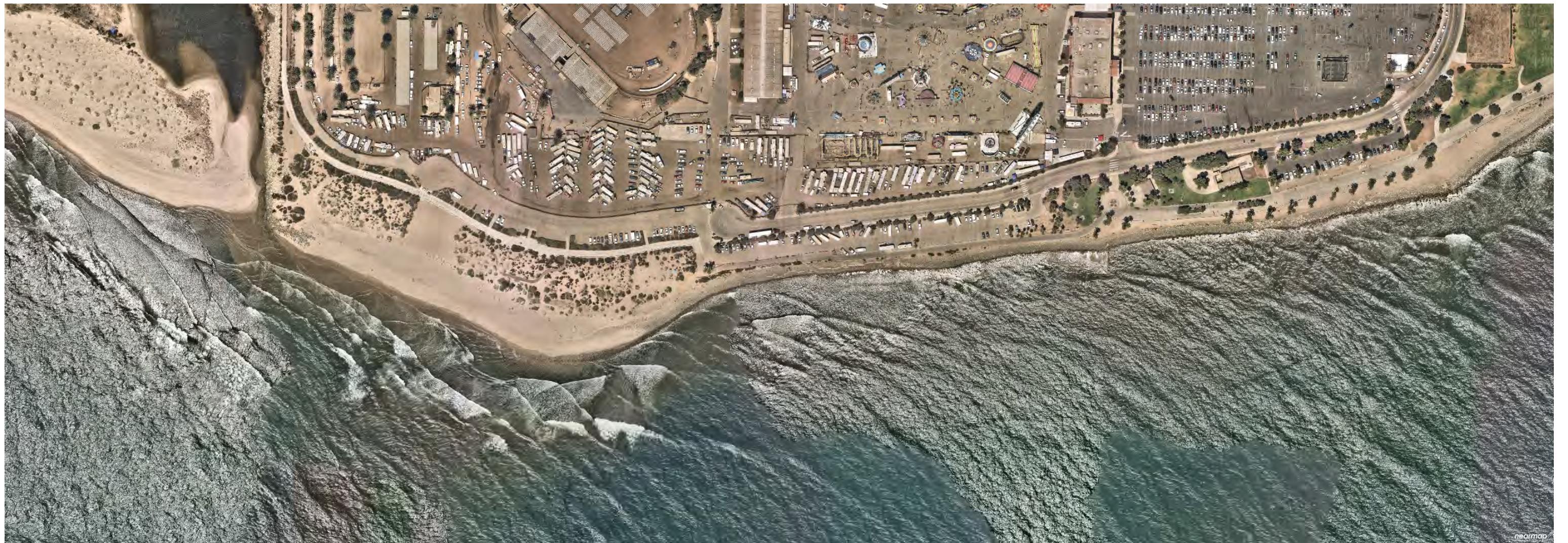
2021-02-06

Nearmap Imagery



2022-02-06

Nearmap Imagery



2022-08-06

Nearmap Imagery



2023-02-15

Nearmap Imagery



2023-07-09

Nearmap Imagery



2024-07-16

Nearmap Imagery

ITEM 4
Surfers Point Project

Attachment 2

Article on Surfers Point Project

Surfers Point managed shoreline retreat project: Lessons from a cobble beach pilot on a dynamic delta

By

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A. Paul Jenkin,⁴ Kiki Patsch,⁵ and Louis A. White, P.E.⁶

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ABSTRACT

The Surfers Point Managed Shoreline Retreat Project in Ventura, California, USA, demonstrates an alternative to conventional shoreline armoring by using natural materials and geomorphic design to avoid the negative consequences associated with riprap and seawalls. This paper evaluates the physical performance of Phase 1 of the project, which constructed a dynamic cobble berm/sandy beach and dune system within the active delta of the Ventura River. The design replicated shore form and function while relocating infrastructure inland to restore space for coastal processes. The project met multiple objectives including erosion and flood mitigation, access and recreation benefits, and restoration of natural morphology and ecology. Implementation required extensive coordination among public landowners, managers, regulators, funders, stakeholders, and the public. The engineering design consists of a base layer of cobble, topped with sand and vegetated dunes, intended to respond dynamically to elevated waves and river flows, and

variable sediment input from upcoast and the Ventura River. Monitoring from 2011 through 2024 shows a dynamically stable and resilient system. The project provides a valuable case study for cobble-based living shorelines in high-energy coastal environments. An applied geomorphology approach informed by reference sites is a valid basis for establishing the geometry and materials for cobble-boulder berms and vegetated dunes. Landward realignment of built infrastructure was required to provide sufficient space for natural processes. Setback distances were informed by wave run-up calculations. Parametric equations for wave run-up combined with engineering judgement can inform development setbacks. Native dune vegetation and low-relief foredune geometry have proven resilient within this coastal flood plain, with the cobble berm providing protection. The natural infrastructure has accommodated erosion events, dissipated wave run-up and recovered repeatedly with sand deposition since construction in 2012.

The Surfers Point Managed Shoreline Retreat Project in Ventura, California, has been identified as a model for nature-based solutions to mitigate coastal erosion and flooding (Newkirk *et al.* 2018; Judge *et al.* 2017). Constructed in 2010-2012, the project relocated a damaged pedestrian trail and parking lot 80 feet inland and built an engineered shoreline that mimics the native geomorphology of the Ventura River delta. Previously placed quarry stone revetment and fill were removed and replaced with cobble and sand. Opportunistically sourced sediments were used to construct a cobble berm covered by sand and vegetated dunes based on nearby reference conditions. Funding limitations restricted initial implementation to approximately half of the 2,000-foot shoreline. The success of Phase 1

KEYWORDS: Coastal adaptation, cobble, living shorelines, managed retreat, vegetated sand dunes.

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revised and accepted 3 November 2025.*

led to the funding and implementation of Phase 2 in 2024-2025 to address the ongoing erosion on the remaining 1,000 feet of shoreline. The popularity of the site for coastal access and recreation provides a highly visible public demonstration of the benefits of enhanced coastal resiliency in response to rising seas.

This paper focuses on the Phase 1 waterside “coastal engineering” component of the project, outlining the design approach and evaluating project performance using monitoring data gathered since construction. Phase 2 and the

substantial landside component of both phases are addressed only for context. Each of the authors participated in one or more implementation phases (i.e., planning, design, construction, monitoring) of the project.

LOCATION AND SETTING

The Surfers Point project lies within the City of San Buenaventura (Ventura) in southern California, USA, within the Santa Barbara Littoral Cell at the Ventura River mouth (Figure 1). The Ventura River forms a prominent cobble delta formed by flood deposits eroded from the steep erodible mountains of the transverse range in the upper watershed. The project encompasses approximately 2,000 linear feet of south-facing shoreline beginning just east of the Ventura River mouth (Figure 2). Historically, the area now occupied by the Ventura County

Fairgrounds and Surfers Point comprised the eastern portion of the Ventura River estuary (Beller *et al.* 2011). The estuary was filled and graded and is now separated from the river by a levee and coastal jetty. A portion of the estuary remains intact upstream and west of the river mouth within Emma Wood State Beach.

The surf zone substrate consists of cobble and boulder discharged from the river and topped with sand from the river and littoral transport. Net littoral transport in this region moves predominantly eastward (downcoast), driven by prevailing northwest swell and oblique wave angles. Sand transport rates along the Ventura County shoreline are estimated to range from 130,000 to 390,000 cubic yards per year with additional deposits from the Ventura River totalling over 500,000 cubic yards per year, based on dredging records at Ventura Harbor (Patsch and Griggs 2006; BEACON 2009; Patsch and Griggs 2021). The shore in the area is eroding, in part due to reduced sediment supply (Patsch and Griggs 2008; Slagel and Griggs 2008).

The cobble-boulder and sand river mouth delta create breaking wave conditions favorable for surfing (Figure 3) and is a heavily utilized and well-known surfing area (Wright 1985; Surfer Magazine 2006; Surfline Ventura Point Surf Guide undated; PWA 2005). Ocean tides are mixed diurnal and semi-diurnal with an average diurnal tide range of 5.4 feet (NOAA Santa Barbara Tide Gauge 9411340). Long wavelength swells dominate the wave climate, approaching primarily from the west-northwest and south between the offshore islands, and refracting to arrive from the south-southwest (ESA *et al.* 2024). The 50-year wave height nearshore (depth of 30 feet) was estimated to be 20 feet (PWA 2005). The Ventura River mouth is seasonally closed by wave-driven sand deposits forming a lagoon, with winter flows breaching the mouth. Peak flows during wet years are typically in the 10,000 to 20,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) and 35,200 cfs computed for the 10-year event (ESA *et al.* 2024).

BACKGROUND

Public use of this portion of the Ventura shoreline, including Surfers Point and Seaside Park has been an active part of local community life for more than 100 years (Beyeler 2012). Over the decades, development of the Ventura County



Figure 1. Map shows the Surfers Point project location within the Santa Barbara Littoral Cell. Source: Modified from Patsch and Griggs 2006.



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of Surfers Point Project vicinity. Source: Google Earth, 12 April 2018.



Figure 3. Large long-period swell refracts around Ventura Point, 22 December 2024. Source: Rich Reid/Surfrider Foundation.

Fairgrounds encroached into wetlands and along the shore. Despite community opposition, in 1989 a bike path and parking lot was constructed on an artificial fill directly adjacent to the active shoreline. Large winter swells in 1990-1991 eroded the shore and damaged the infrastructure constructed just a few years earlier.

A working group of stakeholders and agencies was convened to resolve conflicts over the appropriate response, with some desiring a seawall to maintain the infrastructure in place while others recommending relocation. The working group ultimately identified a strategy that included relocation of the damaged parking lot with shoreline protection consisting of an engineered cobble berm and sand dunes that mimicked the local natural shoreline morphology. The stated goals of the project were to "...protect Shoreline Drive and Bike Path from future erosion, replace lost parking, stabilize shoreline, relocate bike path, and restore area to a more natural setting." (City of Buenaventura and Rincon 2003). Figure 4 shows the alternative selected based on a concept developed by the Surfrider Foundation and analyzed in the final environmental impact report (EIR).

Permits were received in 2006, and engineering design was completed in 2008. Funding constraints necessitated a phased approach. Phase 1, the western half of the project (about 1,000 feet of shore; Figure 2) installed the waterside cobble berm and landside hardscape in 2010-2011, with vegetated dunes constructed in 2012. Phase 2 construction began in 2024 with completion scheduled by late 2025 (Surfrider Foundation undated; VenturaRiver.org 2025).

The City of Ventura (City) took the lead implementing the project in cooperation with the 31st Agricultural District/Ventura County Fairgrounds and State Parks. Funding for the \$3.5 million first phase of the project was split between the State of California (State Coastal Conservancy) and federal transportation funding through the TEA-21 program. The Ventura Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation advocated for the project as part of a larger ecosystem management vision that includes removal of the Matilija Dam from the Ventura River (Jenkin 2009a; 2009b; 2021). RRM Consulting Group was the project lead designer in charge of the landside and Philip Williams & Associates Ltd. (PWA) was the

lead designer for the waterside. Coastal Restoration Consultants (CRC) led the vegetated dune design. Construction was accomplished by C.A. Rasmussen, Inc. (Rasmussen undated).

This paper addresses the performance of the Phase 1 waterside natural infrastructure components. "Waterside" was defined as the portion seaward of the edge of the new pedestrian trail along the shore, which was realigned about 80 feet landward of the previously constructed and damaged "bike path" (Figure 5). The waterside portion of the project included the demolition of a parking lot and bike path, excavation of underlying fill to an elevation of about 6-8 feet above low tide (10 feet below grade); removal of a 200-foot-long revetment; and construction of a cobble berm, covered with a sandy beach and vegetated foredunes. The cobble berm's nominal width is 60 feet (varies with location) with a crest elevation of 13.5 feet above mean lower low water (MLLW tidal datum elevation is close to the North American Vertical Datum in this location).

The Phase 1 cobble berm and beach required 33,000 cubic yards of cobble and

28,000 cubic yards of sand. An additional 16,500 cubic yards of sand was imported to create a vegetated sand dune above the cobble berm (PWA 2005, PWA 2008).

BASIS OF DESIGN

The Surfers Point Managed Shoreline Retreat project was formulated with the perspective that prior development was constructed too far seaward, and traditional shore protection was counterproductive toward maintaining coastal resources. A “nature based solution” was developed based upon the geomorphic setting on the cobble river delta at the mouth of the Ventura River exposed to Pacific Ocean swells. The design approach emphasized applied geomorphology for cobble berm and sand dune geometry, materials and location relative to the shoreline. A reference site was identified west of the Ventura River mouth at Emma Wood State Beach (Figure 6) and used to guide the design geometry and materials. Engineering equations were used to compute wave run-up which informed the setback to the seaward edge of new development. Standard public works construction specifications were adapted to the project.

Design criteria were compiled from prior city documents and supporting studies (Noble Consultants, Inc. 2002; City of Buenaventura and Rincon 2003; Everts 2000; CFC and IMC 2001; Everts *et al.* 2002). At the time, formal guidance for cobble berms was limited and evolving.

The sea level rise (SLR) design criterion was 0.5 feet, which is small relative to contemporary California guidance (OPC *et al.* 2024). The criterion was established based on nonregulatory SLR guidance circa early 2000s, an adaptive management framework, relatively low risk based on the trail and parking assets and hope for increased sediment supply following decommissioning of the Matilija Dam.

A key component of the Project was realigning infrastructure landward to reduce exposure to coastal erosion and damaging levels of wave run-up. The “set-back” distance was defined relative to the existing pedestrian-bike path. The EIR identified an average setback of 64 feet. Realignment setbacks were subsequently evaluated by wave run-up calculations for the estimated 50-year event. The best available engineering methods were selected to approximate the extensive wave run-up resulting from long-period swell and wave groups on the California

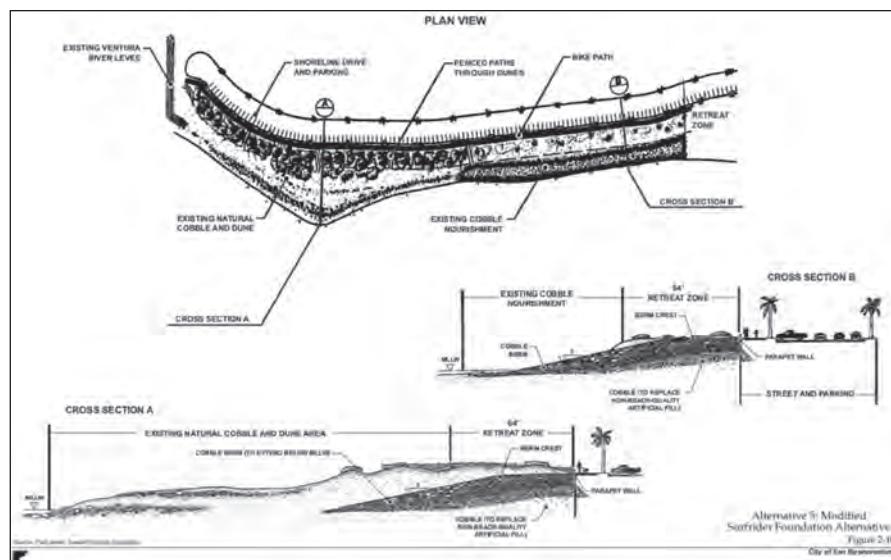


Figure 4. Project Alternative 5 selected in the EIR. Source: City of Buenaventura and Rincon 2003.

coast (FEMA 1991; Hedges and Mase 2004; PWA 2005), and subsequently vetted against newer approaches (Dean 2004; FEMA 2005; MacArthur *et al.* 2006; Stockdon *et al.* 2006). The effective coastal flood map for the area indicates similar wave run-up elevations for the 100-year coastal flood event (FEMA 2021). The landward extent of wave run-up was computed assuming overland travel of

a wave bore (Cox and Machemal 1986). Based on the run-up analysis, setbacks were increased to an average setback of 80 feet for Phase 1 (King *et al.* 2018). The retreat distance was maximized relative to land use constraints.

Voids in the cobble berm were filled with sand to provide a stable substrate for sand cover, provide sand supply for



Figure 5. Aerial photographs Surfers Point Phase 1 (A) before (2009) and (B) after (2017) construction. The solid line indicates the seaward edge of development before construction. Source: 2009 imagery collected by USACE; 2017 imagery collected by Sierra Overhead Analytics.



Figure 6. Emma Wood reference site located west of Surfers Point. The dead trees indicate landward migration of the beach and cobble berm subject to wave run-up. Source: Bob Battaglio, 2 December 2004.

dunes and facilitate pedestrian access to the water. The available river sand was nominally finer than the native beach and dune sand. Consequently, dunes were constructed with coarser sands opportunistically obtained from down coast in an area of excess sand deposition.

Table 1:
Design parameters for Surfers Point cobble berm and sand dunes.

Coastal hydraulics

Ocean water level 8.5 ft. mean lower low water
Offshore wave height of 20 ft., peak spectral period 9 to 25 seconds
Wave run-up 50-year return period and eroded shore profile
Development setback landward of design wave run-up
Target functional life: 50 years.

Cobble

Reference site geology, density, color, hardness, rounded subangular to oblate spheroid
Diameter: Nominal 8 to 10 inches; 4-inch minimum; 18-inch maximum

Cobble berm sand fill and cover

Opportunistic local river source, selected pre-construction.

Cobble berm geometry

Crest elevation: 13.5 ft. MLLW
Seaward slope: 5 horizontal to 1 vertical
Landward slope: 3 horizontal to 1 vertical
Foundation elevation: 6-8 ft. MLLW
Width: 80-100 ft.

Sand dunes

Local beach and dune sand, selected pre-construction
Fore dune geometry with low-relief sand mounds, light compaction
Native dune plants (cuttings and seeds)
Hay straw cast for erosion control
Seasonal planting, initial watering
Post-planting weed removal
Symbolic pedestrian barriers
Educational signs

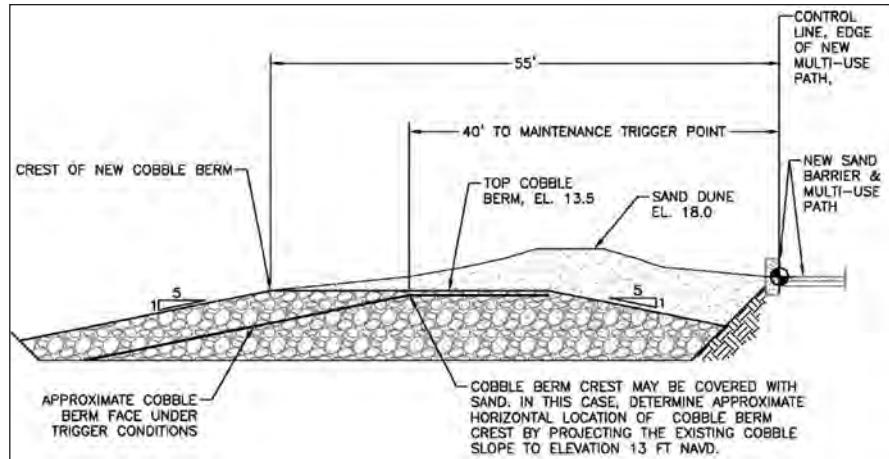


Figure 7. Schematic of cobble berm and sand dune with erosion threshold “trigger” for potential maintenance Source: PWA 2008.

Design parameters are provided in Table 1. The cobble berm and dune design is represented by a typical section (Figure 7).

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION MONITORING

Performance monitoring was required by Coastal Development Permit 4-05-148 (CCC 2006; 2021) and has been conducted by the City of Ventura, ESA and CRC, and California State University,

Channel Islands (CSUCI) with funding support from the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) (ESA 2021; 2024).

Objective and methods

The primary objective of the monitoring is to check for erosion of the cobble berm beyond limits identified as the minimum desirable to prevent damage to the backshore hardscape during the design event. Simplified metrics were developed to indicate this threshold in terms of cobble berm erosion (Figure 7). A secondary objective was to collect data to support a broader assessment of project performance and serve as a database to inform design guidelines. Monitoring consisted of the following elements:

- Evaluation of performance in terms of changes to cobble and dune geometry, erosion triggers and any damage to hardscape, including post-event (ocean and river) observations and assessments;
- Elevation surveys of terrain using ground-based survey transects and drone-based photogrammetric and Lidar remote sensing;
- Re-Photography (repeated at same vantage points) using hand-held cameras and georeferenced drone photographic surveys and digital terrain models;
- Comparison of recent and prior survey data (quantitative) and photographs (qualitative);
- Vegetation surveys (native / non-native percent cover; extents, density); and,
- Summary of environmental conditions (tides, waves, winds and river flows).

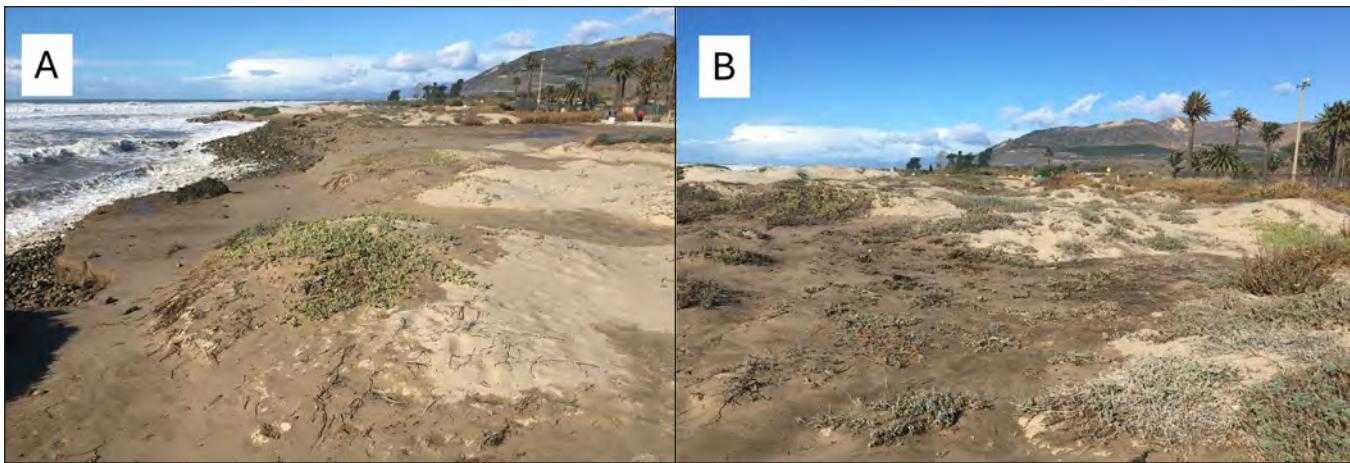


Figure 8. Photographs following large-swell event 11 December 2015. (A) Shore erosion and exposed cobble. (B) Wet sand and wrack indicating extent of wave run-up across vegetated dunes. Source: Photos Paul Jenkin/Surfrider Foundation, 11 December 2015.

*Extreme wave events
(event observations, land-based
photo monitoring)*

The project has experienced multiple large swell events, computed at a 35-foot depth to range from 10 feet, 17 seconds to 17 feet, 20 seconds (CDIP 2025). The large swell event of December 11, 2015, resulted in coastal erosion, flooding and structural damage in Ventura (ESA 2016). Recorded water levels at the Santa Barbara gauge reached 7 feet NAVD, offshore waves were approximately 24 feet high at 18-second periods, and nearshore wave conditions were computed to be 17 feet at 20 seconds. These conditions are similar to but less than the design criteria used to compute the 50-year wave run-up event (PWA 2005). A review of annual maximum wave run-up calculated using available data from 1904 to 2021 (ESA 2022) indicates a return period of approximately 30 years. Wave run-up propagated into the dunes at Surfers Point (Figure 8), but didn't reach the backshore hardscape except at the gap in the dunes provided for kite board equipment staging and rigging. The low relief vegetated dunes reduced the landward extent of wave run-up by about 20 feet without scarping or vegetation loss and appeared to facilitate sand deposition. The event eroded the beach and cobble berm forming an erosion scarp, but the



Figure 9. Photographs of erosion by large-wave event on 11 December 2015 and subsequent recovery.

(A) March 2016 eroded shore with exposed cobble. Source: Paul Jenkin/Surfrider Foundation.

(B) November 2017 recovered shore with sand covering cobble. Source: ESA et al. 2018.



Figure 10. Elevation survey transects (Profiles A-J and REF) at Surfers Point Phase 1 (A-E), Phase 2 (F-J) and the Emma Wood reference Site (REF). The shore-parallel line is a station line along the new pedestrian path. Source: ESA et al. 2024.

shore recovered sufficiently to bury the cobble by November 2017 (Figure 9). The greatest erosion has occurred at Transects B and C (Figure 11; Transect locations are shown in Figure 10). The erosion triggers were not reached. In addition to the 2015 event, the period 2021-2024 produced seven of the top 20 extreme wave events computed for the period 2003-2025

(CDIP 2025), indicating the resilience of the cobble-dune system.

Land-based elevation surveys

Survey transects were established to provide temporal comparison of the waterside improvements (Figure 10). These shore profiles (Figure 11) illustrate the changes in the dune, cobble berm and beach width since the project was

constructed. The minimum beach width occurred in 2015-2017 directly following the extreme winter storms and during a prolonged drought, with erosion of a seaward portion of the cobble berm. The tremendous growth in beach width in 2023-2024 is the result of the 2023 flood which deposited large quantities of cobble at the river mouth enlarging the delta as

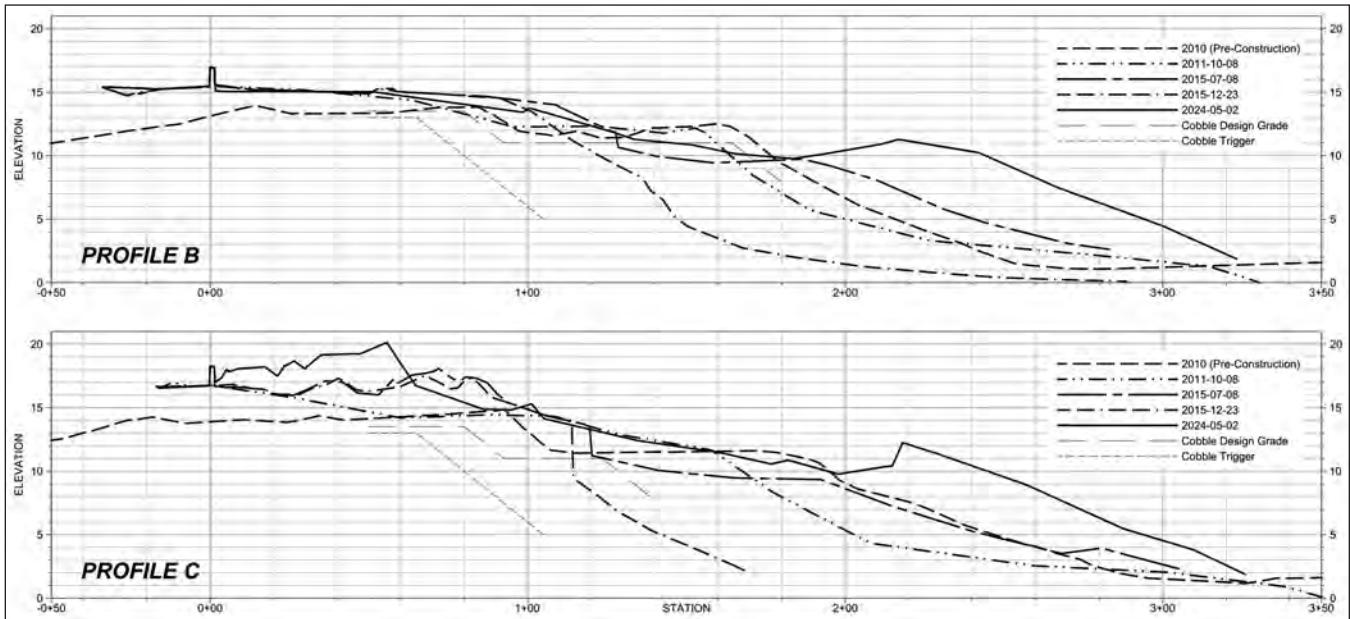


Figure 11. Changed shore elevations 2010-2024 along Profiles B and C where greatest fluctuations have occurred. The cobble berm extents and erosion triggers are also graphed. Dunes were not installed at Profile B, allowing a bare area for kite and sail board staging. Source: ESA et al. 2024.

sediment was transported downcoast through the project site.

Dune and vegetation monitoring

Vegetation monitoring was performed following project implementation to assess project success 2013 through 2024. Five shore normal (inland to seaward) transects with three replicates were used. The percent cover of each species of live plant (with at least green shoots) was estimated to the nearest percent, including native plants and non-native plants (weeds), and accounting for unvegetated ground.

The site-wide cover of native vegetation in the restored dune area at Surfer's Point Phase I increased from a minimum of 0% zero percent cover following construction in 2011 to a maximum of 21% in 2024 (Fig. 12, solid black line.) Vegetation cover varied with management zone type: fenced perimeter and/or paths through 2019, unfenced, and kite surfer launch area. Vegetative cover in the fenced areas reached a maximum of 27 percent in 2017 and has declined since the fencing was removed in 2020. Estimated vegetation cover in the kite launch area was zero until 2024, when it was estimated at 3.5%. (Kite surfers actively clear vegetation to prevent interference with their equipment.)

The cover of non-native plants (weeds) has been consistently low at the project site as a result of regular volunteer workdays sponsored by the Surfrider Foundation through 2019. In May 2024, the site-wide cover of non-native species was 1.4%. The extent of the vegetated zone at Surfer's Point Phase I doubled between 2015 and 2024 corresponding with increased beach width. The total cover of native plants has increased as the vegetated zone expanded beyond the original planted footprint (Fig. 13). This increase reflects natural recruitment of plants from seeds produced at the site and elsewhere, not the effects of active management.

Aerial ortho-imagery and topography

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs; also known as Unmanned Aerial Systems [UAS] or drones) have enabled high-resolution, cost-effective coastal monitoring. Since 2016, CSU Channel Islands (CSUCI) has conducted annual and post-storm UAV surveys at Surfers Point. Flights were completed once or twice per year between 2016 and 2024,

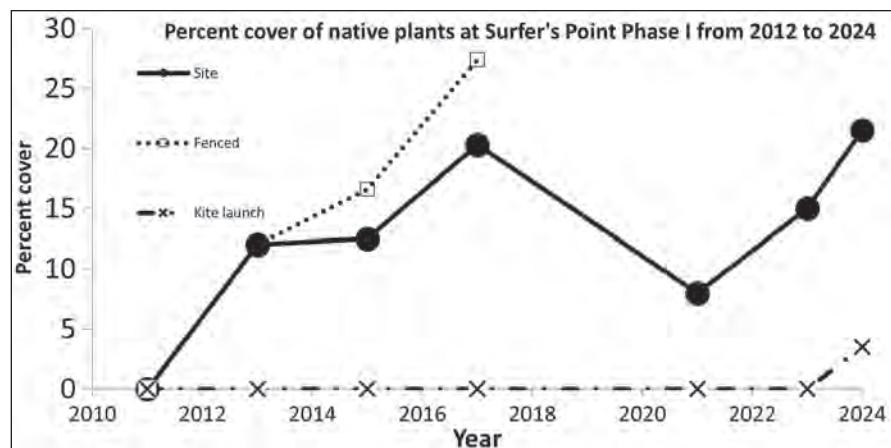


Figure 12. Percent cover of native plants, 2011 to 2024. Source: CRC 2024.

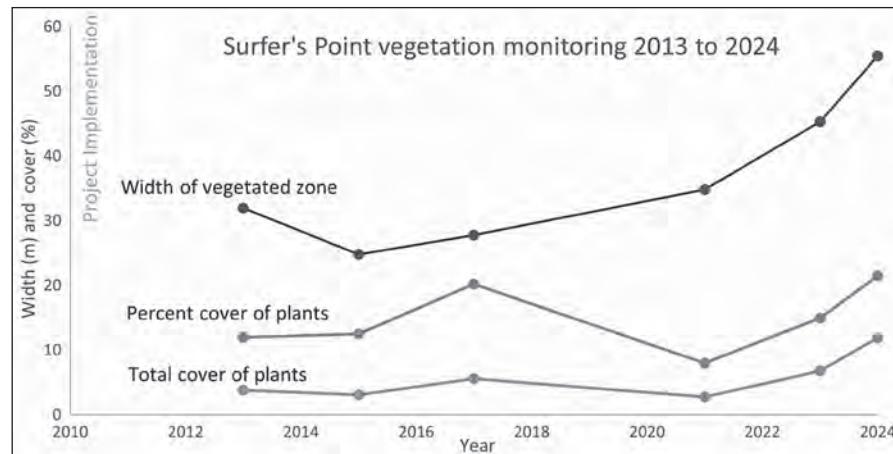


Figure 13. Three metrics for vegetation at Surfer's Point Phase I from 2013 to 2024: width of vegetated zone, percent cover of plants in the vegetated zone, total cover of plants. Source: CRC 2024.

capturing imagery suitable for Structure-from-Motion (SfM) photogrammetry. These datasets produced 25-cm resolution digital surface models (DSMs) and orthomosaics used to assess sediment dynamics, beach width and volume, and dune migration. Ground control points and careful georeferencing ensured accurate change detection, following best practices described in Westoby *et al.* (2012), Smith *et al.* (2016), and Enwright *et al.* (2021).

Comparative analyses of these data 2016 through 2024 (Figure 14) document patterns of erosion and accretion, and show that the hybrid shore system has retained sediment and sustained natural processes over more than a decade of high wave exposure and a range of river discharge conditions (ESA *et al.* 2024).

Influence of the river mouth (aerial imagery)

Shoreline position and coastal sediment flux on a river delta are highly dependent on river hydrology. Climatic conditions in Southern California are

characterized by years of drought punctuated by wet years, some of which generate significant flood events (10 yr recurrence or greater). Aerial photos provide the best illustration of the dynamic nature of the river mouth and delta which influence the project site (Figure 15). The shore was changed significantly by a large flood event that occurred in January 2023 (flowrate 34,700 cfs; USGS River Gauge #11118500), which scoured the shore but also delivered sediment (Figure 16).

CONCLUSIONS

Surfers Point Managed Shoreline Retreat Project is a valuable reference site to assess the utility of nature-based shore protection, approaches to coastal hazards, and to inform the design of similar projects. Project monitoring provided data to assess performance over time and enable adaptive management and learning.

In this location on an active river delta, a cobble berm, sandy beach and vegetated dune system has proven to be a viable approach to hazard mitigation and provides multiple co-benefits based on

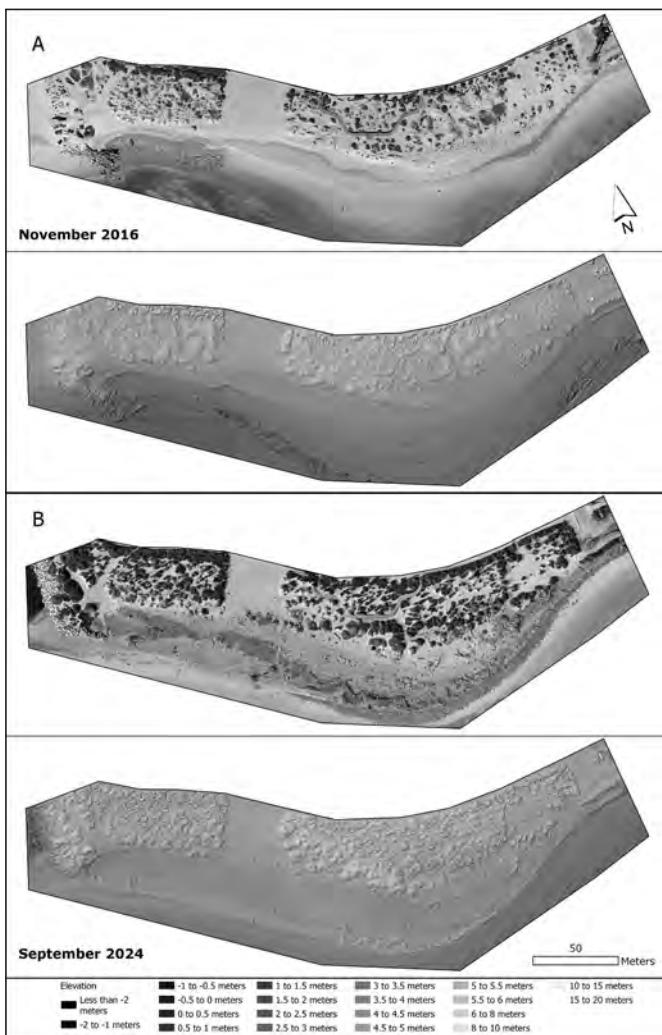


Figure 14. Example of aerial photogrammetry and digital terrain from drone surveys. (A) November 2016 photo (top) and terrain (bottom). (B) September 2024 photo (top) and terrain (bottom). Source: Kiki Patsch, CSUCI 2025.

12 years of monitoring. So far, it appears that restoration of the coastal flood plain to the landward extent of extreme wave run-up is an effective hazard mitigation and adaptation strategy.

The Surfers Point Managed Shoreline Retreat project was implemented prior to a record dry period followed by significant floods. The project re-established a reasonable setback within which these natural variations in beach width could occur without damage to hard infrastructure. The constructed cobble berm and dune may be seen as “soft” infrastructure which increases resilience to extreme events by mimicking and reinforcing the natural shore morphology.

The constructed cobble berm and vegetated foredune natural infrastructure

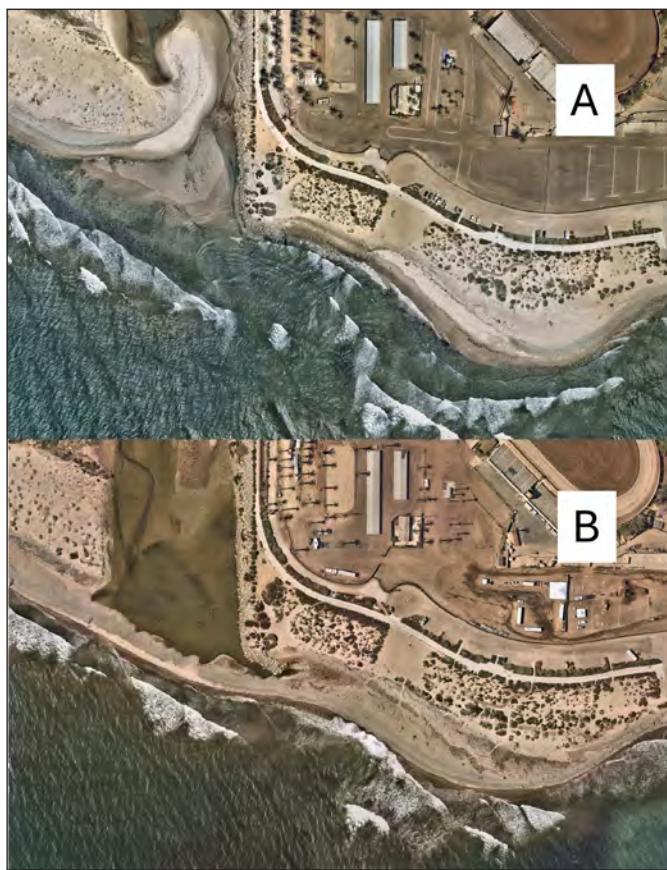


Figure 15. Aerial photographs showing the effect of Ventura River discharges on the shore. (A) 30 June 2019 eroded shore. (B) 9 July 2023 recovering shore following the January 2023 event (Figure 15). Source: ESA 2024. Photographs from Nearmap.

accommodated multiple high wave events without damage to hard infrastructure. Post-event monitoring documented erosion of a portion of the cobble berm, but maintenance triggers have not been reached, and the shore has recovered without intervention.

Sand fill of the cobble berm voids provided a stable substrate for the beach and pedestrian access. However, the sand fill reduced the porosity of the cobble mass and likely contributed to cobble erosion and scarp formation during large wave events, thereby reducing the resilience of the cobble berm. Also, the grain sizes of the opportunistically-sourced river sands were finer than desired resulting in excessive wind-blown sand. This condition was rectified by installation of vegetated dunes using coarser sand.

The use of reference sites to inform design is supported by project performance. Key parameters are the locations relative to the shoreline and wave run-up, geometry of the cobble berm and sand dunes, and the physical characteristics

of the cobble and sand. The sourcing of local materials, including cobble, sand, and dune vegetation seeds and stock contributed to the success of the project.

The dunes were constructed to emulate native foredunes, which have low height and flat slopes forming irregular hummocks. This geometry and native vegetation are resilient to wave erosion events, dissipate wave run-up and limit scarp formation, and encourage deposition of sand and organic materials.

Landward relocation of built infrastructure (also referred to as “retreat”) is a fundamental consideration for a nature-based adaptation project. This is (a) because the fundamental driver of coastal hazards is the location of development too far seaward, and (b) because nature-based approaches require space to accommodate environmental extremes and sufficient supply of sediment to recover from disturbances. The setback distance was established using relatively simplified engineering equations, although limited by practical land use



Figure 16. Ventura River mouth following the 2023 flood; view looking southeast toward the Surfers Point project, 18 January 2023. Photograph: Rich Reid/Surfrider Foundation.

considerations, and monitoring shows sufficient space for wave dissipation and other natural functions at this location.

The integration of aerial photography, UAV surveys and terrestrial LiDAR with on-the-ground photography and survey transects at Surfers Point provides a scalable framework for monitoring and adaptive management. These data help evaluate shoreline behavior in response to ocean swell and riverine flood deposition, contributing to improved understanding of cobble beach performance and nature-based shoreline adaptation. Post event observations to document changes and assess mechanisms inform performance assessments and adaptive management.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- City of San Buenaventura (Ventura)
- Thirty-First District Agricultural Association
- Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON)
- Surfers Point Working Group
- RRM Design Group
- Environmental Science Associates- Philip Williams & Associates, LTD
- Coastal Restoration Consultants
- California State University-Channel Islands
- Ninyo and Moore
- Ocean Protection Council
- California State Coastal Conservancy
- Surfrider Foundation
- C.A. Rasmussen Construction
- Federal Highway Administration

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ITEM 4
Surfers Point Project

Attachment 3

ASBPA Award Presentation to Surfers Point Project

Dr. Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios, Mayor, City of Ventura
Leslie Conejo, Board of Directors, Ventura County Fairgrounds, 31st Agricultural District
Accept ASBPA Project Award for the Surfers Point Project
October 6, 2025



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STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 23, 2026
Agenda Item: 5A

To: **BEACON Board of Directors**
From: **Executive Director**
Date: **January 16, 2026**

Subject: Board Member Reports

Directors are invited to provide reports and updates on items of interest in their County or City.

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STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 23, 2026
Agenda Item: 5B

To: **BEACON Board of Directors**
From: **Executive Director**
Date: **January 16, 2026**

Subject: **BEACON Budget Actions and Financial Reports**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive and file the attached Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget-to-Actual financial report for the year-to-date period ending December 31, 2025 (Exhibit 1).

DISCUSSION:

BEACON staff are presenting a summary of Budget-to-Actual totals for operational BEACON budget line items to actual expenditures prepared by the Ventura County Auditor-Controller's staff. Staff are sharing this information with the Board to document the methods BEACON employs to track its operational revenues and expenditures through the fiscal year (July 1st through June 30th).

The attached financial report (Attachment 1) summarizes BEACON's operational budget expenses through 12-31-25. The staff of the Ventura County Auditor-Controller's Office regularly provide these reports to the BEACON executive and program staff to track BEACON's spending and financial obligations through the year.

Staff is recommending the Board receive and file the attached report.

ITEM 5B
BEACON Budget Actions

EXHIBIT I

**Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget-to-Actual financial report for the year-to-date
period ending December 31, 2025**

BEACON FUND 0025
YEAR TO DATE UNADJUSTED BUDGET TO ACTUAL FY 2025-26
FOR THE MONTH ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025

				BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD		
				Adopted Budget	Budget Mod	Revised Budget	Total
				Actual	Encumbered	Revenue/Obligatic	Variance
FUND 0025 - UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	Unit	Account					
Fund Balance							
Appropriation of Fund Balance		5420-5950					
				-	-	-	-
Subtotal - Unassigned Fund Balance							
REVENUE - OPERATIONS DIVISION 5665	Unit	Account					
Revenue							
Operating Revenue:							
Investment Income (Interest Earnings)	5665	8911	GFUN	14,374		14,374	
BEACON Counties and Cities Membership Dues	5665	9371	GFUN	397,960		397,960	
Grant and Project Revenue	5665	9252	GFUN	-		-	
Contributions and Donations	5665	9770	GFUN	-		-	
Miscellaneous Revenue	5665	9790	GFUN	-		-	
Subtotal - Operating Revenue:				412,334	-	412,334	
EXPENDITURES - OPERATIONS DIVISION 5665							
Operating Expenses (Overhead):							
Communications	5665	2031	GFUN	10,000	-	10,000	
Insurance	5665	2072	GFUN	6,500	-	6,500	
Memberships and Dues	5665	2131	GFUN	2,500	-	2,500	
Miscellaneous Expense	5665	2159	GFUN	5,000	-	5,000	
Technical Services	5665	2183	GFUN	145,000	12,032	157,032	
Attorney Services	5665	2185	GFUN	15,500	2,790	18,290	
Other Professional & Specialized Services	5665	2199	GFUN	198,544	804	199,348	
Education Conference and Seminars - (Registration fees for conferences)	5665	2273	GFUN	15,000	-	15,000	
Travel Expenses - (Mileage, Travel & Conf.)	5665	2292	GFUN	5,000	-	5,000	
Subtotal - Operating Expenses:				403,044	15,626	418,670	
Contingencies:							
Contingencies - Grant matching, Contract Amendments, New Programs.	5665	6101	GFUN	9,290	-	9,290	
Subtotal - Contingencies:				9,290	-	9,290	
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) IN OPERATIONS DIVISION				-	(15,626)	(15,626)	
REVENUE - GRANTS DIVISION 5668	Unit	Account		Budget Mod			
Grant and Project Revenue:				Rebudgeted			
Grant Funding (Santa Barbara County - BeachSMART Project-BSMR)	5668	9252	BSMR	-	147,000	147,000	
Grant Funding (OPC Grant - Debris Basin Project-DBMF)	5668	9252	DBMF	-	-	-	
Grant Funding (Governance Study - RSM/SLR-RSMP)	5668	9252	RSMP	70,963	-	70,963	
Grant Funding (Cooperative City of Santa Barbara - RCAM)	5668	9252	RCAM	220,704	-	220,704	
Grant Funding (The Bay Fdn - Coastal Access & Beach Visitor Data-CABV)	5668	9780	CABV	207,125	-	207,125	
Subtotal - Grant and Project Revenue:				498,792	147,000	645,792	
EXPENDITURES - GRANTS DIVISION 5668				Rebudgeted			
Grant Funding Expenditures:							
Other Professional & Specialized Services - (Project Mgmt.)	5668	2199	BSMR	-	81,000	81,000	
Engineering and Technical Surveys-BSMR	5668	2183	BSMR	-	66,000	66,000	
				-	147,000	147,000	
Santa Barbara County - BeachSMART Project-BSMR							
Engineering and Technical Surveys - OPC Grant - Debris Basin Removal Project (Tasks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) - SB County Flood Control	5668	2183	DBMF	56,110		56,110	
OPC Grant - Debris Basin Project-DBMF				56,110	-	56,110	
Other Professional & Specialized Services - (Project Mgmt.)	5668	2199	RSMP	1,000		1,000	
Engineering and Technical Surveys - RSM/SLR	5668	2183	RSMP	4,928		4,928	
Governance Study - RSM/SLR-RSMP				5,928	-	5,928	
Other Professional & Specialized Services - (Project Mgmt.)	5668	2199	RCAM	27,000		27,000	
Engineering and Technical Surveys - CA Coastal Commission - RCAMP	5668	2183	RCAM	204,292		204,292	
Engineering and Technical Surveys - CA Coastal Commission - RCAMP	5668	2183	GFUN	-		-	
Cooperative City of Santa Barbara - RCAM				231,292	-	231,292	
Other Professional & Specialized Services - (Project Mgmt.)	5668	2199	CABV	4,252		4,252	
Engineering and Technical Surveys - The Bay Foundation	5668	2183	CABV	164,376		164,376	
The Bay Foundation - Coastal Access & Beach Visitor Data-CABV				168,628	-	168,628	
Subtotal - Grant Funding Expenditures:				461,958	147,000	608,958	
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) IN GRANTS DIVISION				36,834	-	36,834	
FUND 0025 - COMBINED							
TOTAL REVENUE				911,126	147,000	1,058,126	
TOTAL FINANCING SOURCES				911,126	147,000	1,058,126	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES				874,292	162,626	1,036,918	
Net Income/(Loss)				36,834	(15,626)	21,208	
				181,652			

Ending Unassigned Fund Balance

553,929

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Eric Friedman, Chair
City of Santa Barbara

Laura Capps
Roy Lee
County of Santa Barbara

Vianey Lopez
Matt LaVere
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Executive Director
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STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 23, 2026
Agenda Item: 5C

To: BEACON Board of Directors

From: Executive Director

Date: January 16, 2026

Subject: Contracts and Agreements

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Coastal Access Data Research Project

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 3 with Nate Merrill/Matunuck Research, to provide scientific and technical services supporting coastal and beach access planning to extend the period of performance three months with a revised ending date of June 30, 2026, without an increase in the total funding amount of \$75,000. (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION:

Professional and Technical Services Contracts and Agreements

BEACON uses its own funds and funding from others to support its project and program activities, including research, planning, development and implementation activities. BEACON is currently involved in projects to address improvements in beach access planning, regional monitoring, ecological assessment, and expanded regional sediment management to support climate adaptation.

Coastal Access Program: BEACON is supporting multiple activities addressing coastal and beach access, including research and program planning using its own funds and funding from others. One of the important activities is developing current data on beach use and coastal access. BEACON is assisted in developing coastal access data by Mr. Nathaniel Merrill of Matunuck Research. Formerly, Mr. Merrill was employed by the US EPA assigned to help BEACON with these efforts. Upon his discharge from federal service, BEACON engaged Mr. Merrill to continue to assist BEACON with these research and program planning efforts. The amendments will allow the contractor to complete contract work through June 30, 2026.

Attachment 1. Nate Merrill/Matunuck Amendment

ITEM 5C
BEACON Contracts and Agreements

ATTACHMENT 1

Coastal Access Data Research Project
Amendment No. 3 with Nate Merrill/Matunuck Research

Amendment No. 3
Between
Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment
And
Matunuck Research Group LLC

This Agreement (hereafter, "Agreement") made March 2025 by and between the BEACH EROSION AUTHORITY FOR CLEAN OCEANS AND NOURISHMENT (hereafter, "BEACON") and Nathaniel Merrill/Matunuck Research Research Group LLC (Contractor), individually referred to as Party, or collectively as Parties, is hereby amended ("Amendment No. 3") as follows:

Agreement Section 4. "Term" is deleted in its entirety and replaced with:

CONTRACTOR shall commence performance on March 20, 2025 and end performance upon completion, but no later than June 30, 2026 unless otherwise directed by BEACON or unless earlier terminated.

Ratifications. The terms and provisions set forth in this Amendment No. 3 shall modify and supersede all inconsistent terms and provisions set forth in the Agreement and Amendments No. 1 and 2. The terms and provisions of the Agreement and Amendments No. 1 and 2, except as expressly modified and superseded by this Amendment No. 3 are ratified and confirmed and shall continue in full force and effect, and shall continue to be legal, valid, binding, and enforceable obligations of the parties.

Counterparts. This Amendment No. 3 may be executed in several counterparts, all of which taken together shall constitute a single agreement between the parties.

[This area intentionally left blank. Signatures on following page.]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Amendment is executed by the Parties hereto and shall be effective as of January 23, 2026.

Beach Erosion Authority for Clean
Oceans and Nourishment

Matunuck Research Group LLC

By:

Chair

By:

Nathaniel Merrill

Date: _____

Date: _____

ATTEST:

By: 

Marc Beyeler
Executive Director, BEACON

Approved as to Form:

Rachel Van Mullem
County Counsel

By:

Senior Deputy County Counsel
Counsel for BEACON



A California Joint Powers Agency

Member Agencies

Julia Mayer
City of Carpinteria

James Kyriaco
City of Goleta

Gabe Teran
City of Oxnard

Steven Gama, Vice-Chair
City of Port Hueneme

Doug Halter
City of San Buenaventura

Eric Friedman, Chair
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Laura Capps
Roy Lee
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STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 23, 2026
Agenda Item: 6

To: BEACON Board of Directors
From: Executive Director
Date: January 16, 2026

Subject: 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.

March 2026 Meeting Agenda:

- A. Presentations
- B. Project Updates
- C. BEACON Financial Action: BEACON Member Dues and Budget Review