

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:	Members Present: <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) Members Not Present: <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	Approval of Administrative Items B. Approval of Agenda and Filing of Certificate of Agenda Posting. C. Consideration and Approval of Minutes of the BEACON Meeting held on July 18, 2025.
Minutes/ Actions:	Board Members Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. Public Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. Item B: Motion to approve as set forth in the agenda. Moved by LaVere / Second by Kyriaco. Unanimously approved. Item C: Motion to approve as set forth in the agenda. Moved by Halter / Second by Gama, Kyriaco abstained. Approved.	

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

Item	3	Presentations - <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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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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	<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:	<p>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> <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>
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Item	5C	<p>BEACON Budget Actions <i>Recommended Action:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Receive a Staff Report on the BEACON Budget Fiscal Year 2026-27 setting forth three options to increase member dues (Exhibits I - III); and Provide direction to staff on the Recommended Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget.
Minutes/ Actions:	<p>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.</p>	

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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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Item	5D	<p>BEACON Contracts and Agreements <i>Recommended Actions:</i> 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>
Minutes/ Actions:	<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 Bayeler: 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 happened with the City of Carpinteria and the County on the BeachSMART project.</p>

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> <p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None.
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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.