

BEACON BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES FOR

DATE: Friday, July 17, 2026

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: • Vianey Lopez (County of Ventura) • Laura Capps (County of Santa Barbara) • Roy Lee (County of Santa Barbara) • Eric Friedman (City of Santa Barbara) • James Kyriaco (City of Goleta) • Doug Halter (City of Ventura) • Gabe Teran, (City of Oxnard) • Steven Gama (City of Port Hueneme) - REMOTE Members Not Present: • Julie Mayer (City of Carpinteria) • Matt LaVere (County of Ventura) participated unofficially as a member of the public	
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 May 22, 2026.
Minutes/ Actions:	Board Members Comments: • None. Public Comments: • None. Item 1B and 1C: Motion to approve as set forth in the agenda. Moved by Kyriaco / Second by Teran. Unanimously approved.	

Item	2	Public Comment and Other Matters not on the agenda Receive public comments.
Minutes/ Actions:	Board Members Comments: • None. Public Comments: • None.	

Item	3	Presentations - Presentation on the City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Adaptation Plan Receive a presentation from Timmy Bolton, Senior Climate Adaptation Analyst, on the progress and status of City's Waterfront Adaptation Plan.
Minutes/ Actions:	Executive Director Marc Beyeler introduced presenter Timmy Bolton, Senior Climate Adaptation Analyst from the City of Santa Barbara. Mr. Bolten made a presentation of City of Santa Barbara's Waterfront Adaptation Plan. The presentation is available on the BEACON Website.	

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Board Members Comments:

- **Member Teran** asked if other jurisdictions that have taken some of the same strategies to address anticipating for sea level rise and implemented them and if there were certain cities we could look at to see it in practice.
- **Timmy Bolten** responded that City of Santa Barbara is ahead of most California communities in this. Many are still at the high-level, first-order sea-level-rise risk assessment stage rather than moving into implementation. What the City is now doing is beyond that, and it's tied into existing consultant contracts so that once Council blesses a direction, the City can move straight into construction design and build. Not many California communities are at that stage yet. There are some related efforts elsewhere at Oceanside and the City of Alameda.
- **Member Teran** clarified that his question was on a global basis. Are there other cities or jurisdictions, anywhere, that have taken any of these strategies and already implemented them or have them in practice.
- **Timmy Bolten** responded that none of what the City is doing is truly groundbreaking. Many communities have adopted these approaches, such as strategically pulling infrastructure back out of hazard areas. The elevated walking/biking path concept has been branded many ways in different places, but it's essentially a "living levee" concept with multi-benefit components (transportation, adjacent park space). These concepts are applied around the globe, and the City's consulting team has national and global experience to draw on.
- **Member Teran** continued that looking ahead a couple of decades, if there's a societal shift away from private vehicle ownership toward autonomous transportation, public transit, or non-motorized transportation, he wondered about the need for a parking garage, or about the reuse/repurposing of such a structure.
- **Timmy Bolten** acknowledged this point as a fair, forward-looking consideration that is noted as one possible scenario among several.
- **Member Teran** asked if the slide deck be made available through the minutes after this meeting.
- **Timmy Bolten and Executive Director Beyeler** responded that the materials will be made available, and the presentation is also on the City's project website, which was referenced during the presentation.
- **Member Halter** indicated that the City of Ventura very successfully implemented the Surfers Point Project with a managed retreat to address SLR. Also, transportation is certainly a huge challenge worldwide, it would be great to improve mass transportation options.
- **Member Capps** indicated that she would like to follow up separately on this subject since we represent this area, for a deeper dive at some point. She also indicated that she was curious about what the Harbor Commission's role is in the project.
- **Timmy Bolten** responded that the Harbor Commission is one of the many boards/commissions in the project's outreach "roadshow" and staff have presented to them two or three times. The commission has a subcommittee/working group that works

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	directly with the relevant City director, who is part of the core project team, so the Commission is genuinely integrated into the process. Staff will return to them at every decision point and again when the public draft solution is released. • Member Capps indicated that the presentation mentioned Spanish-language outreach, but she wondered what interface with the Chumas Tribes has occurred. • Timmy Bolten responded that Staff held a dedicated stakeholder/community group meeting with the tribal community that was well attended and very productive. The City wants to elevate and integrate that input throughout the process. Ideas raised include space for Chumash art, improved canoe/paddle storage, and educational or equipment storage • Member Kyriaco indicated that the City of Goleta is going through a Local Coastal Plan development process and wondered how this effort aligns with the City of Santa Barbara's Local Coastal Plan (LCP) or is an amendment to the LCP needed. • Timmy Bolten responded that at a high level, this is already aligned with the City's Land Use Plan. The City was among the first in the state to comprehensively update its Coastal Land Use Plan, in 2017, which built in sea-level-rise development standards and helped lead to the citywide adaptation plan. However, a Local Coastal Program (LCP) Amendment will be needed at the conclusion of this process to incorporate the specific outcomes. The goal is to comprehensively permit the work through a single Coastal Development Permit, with an LCP amendment providing the framework. This is also required because the project is grant-funded by the Coastal Commission. • Member Kyriaco continued that given everything else happening in Santa Barbara, State Street revisioning, re-do of Dwight Murphy Field, a possible eastside pedestrian overcrossing across Highway 101 near the roundabout, how is the City integrating this project with these other projects, particularly for the East Beach and West Beach portions. Is your outreach roadshow talking to the State Street merchants and stakeholders, the hotels around Dwight Murphy, etc., given the opportunity to better connect West Beach and East Beach into those neighborhoods. • Timmy Bolten responded that the City has done direct engagement with the teams responsible for those other projects and a lot of staff-level coordination. The goal is to improve access and connections to key nodes across the city, including the projects mentioned. The transportation focus initially centered on the project's own footprint, but it became clear that access to this area is tied into the broader network. We'll emphasize those connections in the recommended solution, particularly the elevated multimodal path, and are looking at parking-deficient areas where added parking could let people "park once" and then walk or bike to other destinations . • Chair Friedman indicated that he appreciated these comments from Member Teran. The City very much supports the "park once," sustainable transportation notion. • Chair Friedman indicated that the City has multiple plans in progress, and one, related to the waterfront is the infrastructure work addressing the Estero (wastewater treatment plant). Chair Friedman asked if Mr. Bolten could briefly describe how that factors in, since what happens there will directly impact this plan. Some jurisdictions may not understand how that challenge relates to waterfront planning.
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- **Timmy Bolten** responded that everything is fundamentally related to where water wants to flow. The City completed a separate wastewater/water infrastructure study, recently adopted by Council, that looked at all infrastructure including the Estero plant and system. In the near term, that infrastructure is more vulnerable to rain-driven inflow/infiltration (cracked collection pipes, leaky sources) than to coastal flooding. The Estero plant itself was intentionally built on raised fill, so near-term coastal flooding risk to the plant is less. The bigger near-term concern is access and getting workers and chemicals to the site and maintaining operations during storms. The City updates these infrastructure plans on a roughly five to ten year rolling basis based on real-world conditions, not just modeled predictions. Work done under the waterfront plan to protect the lower downtown/inland neighborhoods would also help protect Estero access.

Public Comments:

- **Mark Mosby** indicated that it seems that sea-level-rise projection numbers are all over the place. For example, if you take a seven-foot-high tide today and add five feet, you get a very different number. I'd like to understand the basis for the SLR projection numbers being used by the City.
- **Timmy Bolten** responded that the numbers used are state-provided planning figures that the City is required to use, based on standard state scenarios. The modeling is based on "high tide in the spring" (an elevated but not the most extreme tide condition) and follows standard professional methods required statewide, ensuring consistency across California. Projection ranges have shifted somewhat over the past decade, but the planning amounts used have stayed consistent even as the low/high uncertainty band has changed. The project leans heavily on triggers, monitoring, and phased implementation to right-size investments, and why it uses a shorter (30-year) planning horizon for major infrastructure.
- **Mark Mosby** indicated that regarding sand nourishment, dredging plays a major role in maintaining beaches, but it was not included in the presentation. There are thousands of sand-nourishment projects on the East Coast driven by economic impact and suggest looking into the East Coast experience.
- **Timmy Bolten** responded that sand nourishment is an important topic.
- **Marc Beyeler** noted that Santa Barbara and Ventura County jurisdictions' work is informed by advanced planning happening nationally and globally, and that Santa Barbara is presenting to the Board specifically so other, less-advanced jurisdictions in the region can learn from its experience. Structural interventions considered by one jurisdiction (e.g., groins or reefs) can have cumulative or related effects on neighboring jurisdictions (specifically mentioned in relation to Carpinteria), which is part of why BEACON is involved in coordinating this work. Mr. Beyeler reiterated that BEACON's RCAMP regional monitoring program (discussed further under the Executive Director's report) is central to tracking changing conditions against defined triggers, and that BEACON will bring a fuller options analysis back to the Board once available.

Item	4	Project Update - Goleta Bay Kelp Project
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		<i>Recommended Actions:</i> A. Receive a presentation by Mr. Bob Kiel on the next phase of the Goleta Bay Kelp Project. B. Approve and authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement, with Gravity Consulting LLC, for an amount of \$8,000, to fund preliminary testing of octo-cylinder installation methods, with a period of performance from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. (Attachment I). C. Approve and authorize the Executive Director to obtain a permit in BEACON's name and fund Permit Fees associated with the implementation of the Phase 2 Goleta Bay Kelp Project for an amount not to exceed \$5,000
Minutes/ Actions:		Executive Director Marc Beyeler introduced Mr. Bob Kiel to make a PowerPoint presentation on the next phase of the Kelp Anchor Project Mr. Kiel's presentation is available on the BEACON Website. Board Members Comments: • Member Teran asked if there are any peripheral effects or lessons learned so far from this project in terms of a ripple effect, further down the coast in the Ventura County coastal cities. • Bob Kiel responded that the primary thing is that "we do no harm", citing Florida's historical practice of dumping tires in the ocean to create fishing reefs as a cautionary example. This practice became a costly environmental problem requiring millions of dollars to remediate, in addition to damage to living reef systems. By contrast, the granite columns and now the vitrified-clay/sulfate-resisting-cement "octo-cylinders" are 100% natural materials chosen specifically to avoid that kind of problem. Core sampling was done in advance to specifically understand episodic wave/current forces on the seafloor, which determined how deep the structures needed to be embedded for stability. This approach replicates a structure that used to exist naturally in Goleta Bay rather than introducing a new type of hard structure and that the proposed 50-foot spacing between units is deliberately wide. The project is trying to jump-start a naturally occurring recovery process (using a known predator, the octopus, to address the kelp grazing by other wildlife. • Member Teran added that he imagined positive outcomes for the project that could be looked at for replication further down the coast. Public Comments: • None. Motion to approve as set forth in the agenda. Moved by Halter/ Second by Lopez. Unanimously approved.

Item	5A	BEACON Organization and Program Board Members Reports
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Minutes/ Actions:	Board Members Comments: • None. Public Comments: • None.
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Item	5B	BEACON Board Actions and Financial Reports <i>Recommended Action:</i> Receive and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Moss, Levy, Hartzheim, LLP to provide financial audit services in an amount not to exceed \$10,375 with a period of performance from July 17, 2026, through March 31, 2027. (Attachment I).
Minutes/ Actions:		The Executive Director presented the presented the proposed audit contract with Moss, Levy, Hartzheim, LLP. This is 4th financial audit engagement for BEACON in the last five years the firm, conducted every other year (covering fiscal years 2025–26), and in collaboration with the Ventura County Auditor-Controller's Office. The value of the contract is approximately \$10,000 and the results are expected by next spring, in time for the next FY budget cycle. Board Members Comments: • None. Public Comments: None. Motion to approve as set forth in the agenda. Moved by Halter/ Second by Lee. Unanimously approved.

Item	5C	BEACON Contracts and Agreements <i>Recommended Actions:</i> i. Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute an Agreement with Marc Beyeler/Beyeler & Associates to provide Executive Director Services to BEACON with a period of performance from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2028, with an optional additional one year ending June 30, 2029, upon agreement of the parties, in an amount not to exceed \$171,836.50 for each fiscal year, with a total not to exceed amount of \$515,509,50 inclusive of the optional period. (Attachment I). ii. Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute Amendment No. 1 between BEACON and Pamela Baumgardner to add administrative, contract, and grant services to the scope of work and to increase the amount by \$30,000 for a revised total not to exceed \$36,000 without a change in the period of performance from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. (Attachment II).
Minutes/		Legal Counsel Susan McKenzie reported that under Government Code Section 54953(c)(3)

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Actions:	the Board is required to receive a verbal summary of the changes to the Executive Director's compensation prior to taking action. That verbal report included: The Action recommends a salary increase for the Executive Director of \$6,609, effective July 1, 2026, resulting in an annual salary of \$171,837. The total agreement value is approximately \$515,509.50, covering a two-year term with an optional third year. Board Members Comments: • Member Lopez expressed her appreciation for the Executive Director and his "small and mighty" team working across the counties and cities. Member Lopez cited the Santa Barbara presentation as a good example of the work being done to carry out BEACON's mission and appreciated his willingness to continue. • Vice Chair Gama reflected on the complexity of sustainability work across shoreline and kelp-forest topics noting every member city's differing coastal experience. The Executive Director has helped the Board navigate those differences and Mr. Gama expressed his strong support for the compensation agreement. • Chair Friedman conveyed his appreciation to the Executive Director on behalf of the full Board, noting the multi-year agreement reflects the longer time horizon of BEACON's projects, and praised BEACON's regional leadership role (including the RCAMP program). • Executive Director Beyeler clarified that Item 5C covers two agreements, the Executive Director contract, and a contract for a new Administrative Services Specialist position that BEACON has been trying to fill for a long time. The candidate is Pam Baumgardner, who recently retired from the City of Ventura's Public Works Department, and has extensive prior experience with BEACON. Pam has agreed to be trained in the role under Program Manager Gerald Comati. This position is intended to improve efficiency in administering BEACON's grant and project funds and to provide continuity, since current staff (Gerald, Jenna, and the Executive Director) are stretched thin. The motion on the floor was to approve both contracts together. Public Comments: • None. Motion to approve as set forth in the agenda. Moved by Gama/ Second by Lopez. Unanimously approved.
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Item	6	Executive Director's Report and Communications The Executive Director will report on recent activities and achievements of BEACON, upcoming events of interest to the Board of Directors and the public, and general status of BEACON major projects, including the status of recent BEACON presentations on activities and accomplishments to our member agencies. There will be no Board discussion except to ask questions or refer matters to Staff; no action will be taken unless listed on a subsequent agenda.
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Minutes/ Actions:	Executive Director Marc Beyeler provided the following report: • Presentation materials from today's agenda are posted to BEACON's website. • Zoom meeting recordings are retained only by standard business practice and are not available long-term, but detailed written minutes are maintained as the permanent record. • Membership dues have been received to date from three of eight member agencies • The Executive Director provided a report to the Port Hueneme City Council on BEACON's work and dues use and remains available to present to any member jurisdiction's board. Please note that it is sometimes difficult to secure agenda time with member agencies, e.g., the County of Santa Barbara declined an oral update slot this cycle in favor of a written status report). • The Executive Director is meeting with Scripps Institution of Oceanography and NOAA representatives this week to discuss regional buoy/monitoring coverage gaps. • BEACON is coordinating on several other regional initiatives, including a Ventura County grant application for coastal adaptation planning in the Calleguas Creek/Mugu area, and continued discussion of aging groin fields in the region, referencing a recent USGS study of the Pierpont groin field alongside interest in exploring resilient reef alternatives. • BEACON continues to hold an existing permit for potential restoration work at the Ellwood Pier area (previously stalled due to the Great Recession/funding constraints) and continues to partner with the City of Santa Barbara on efforts such as the East Beach living shoreline concept. • The RCAMP (Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program), funded by the Coastal Commission, is intended to create a shared monitoring framework/template so member jurisdictions do not each have to develop their own. The current four-year RCAMP grant from the Coastal Commission concludes next year; staff will bring a report on outcomes and a plan for institutional continuation. • A joint science-and-policy summit (management committee, city/county representatives, and BEACON's Science Advisory Committee) is planned for fall 2026, likely late October/early November, to review implementation activities and a stakeholder-informed research agenda, including continued Chumash partner engagement. Public Comments: • None.
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The next Board Meeting will be held on September 18, 2026, at 9:00 AM, at the City of Carpinteria City Council Chambers.

Meeting Minutes by Gerald Comati, Program Manager, BEACON.