

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

DATE: Friday, July 19, 2019  
TIME: 9:00 AM  
PLACE: Carpinteria City Hall, 5775 Carpinteria Ave, Carpinteria, CA. 93013

### MEETING AGENDA

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call and Introductions – Gregg Hart**
2. **Approval of Agenda and Filing of Certificate of Agenda Posting**  
**Action:** Approve and file.
3. **Consideration and Approval of Minutes of the BEACON Meetings held on May 17, 2019.**  
**Action:** Approve and file.
4. **Public Comment and Other Matters not on the Agenda**
  - a. Receive public comments.
5. **Reports**
  - a. Reports from legislative offices.
  - b. Board Members Reports and Updates.
6. **Port Hueneme Beach**
  - a. Receive an informational report from the Technical Advisor regarding the US Army Corp of Engineers effort to provide additional dredging at Channel Islands and nourishment of Port Hueneme Beach.
7. **Kelp Anchor Demonstration Project**
  - a. Receive an update from Staff on the Kelp Anchor Demonstration Project.
8. **Santa Barbara County Debris Basin OPC Grant**
  - a. Receive a report from Staff on the status of the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) grant for Debris Basin modifications in Santa Barbara County.
9. **BEACON Management**
  - a. Receive a report from the Executive Director regarding transition of BEACON Staff and succession strategy.
10. **Executive Director's Report and Communications**

The Executive Director will report on activities and achievements of BEACON, upcoming events of interest to the Board of Directors and the public, and general status of BEACON major projects.

**Adjourn to next regular meeting, September 20, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Carpinteria City Hall**

**Disability Access**



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#### **Member Agencies**

City of Carpinteria  
City of Goleta  
City of Oxnard  
City of Port Hueneme  
City of San Buenaventura  
City of Santa Barbara  
County of Santa Barbara  
County of Ventura

#### **Santa Barbara Address:**

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#### **Ventura Address:**

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*The City of Carpinteria Council Chambers is located on the ground floor of City Hall located at 5775 Carpinteria Ave, Carpinteria, CA. 93013 Fourth Floor of the County. The Council Chambers is wheelchair accessible. Accessible public parking is available behind the Council Chambers.*

*American Sign Language interpreters, Spanish language interpretation and sound enhancement equipment may be arranged by contacting the City Clerk (Fidela Garcia) by 4:00 p.m. on Friday before the Board meeting. Contact information for the City Clerk is (805) 684-5405.*

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*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](http://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.*

**STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: July 19, 2019  
Agenda Item: #2

To: BEACON Board of Directors  
From: Executive Director  
Date July 12, 2019

**Subject: Approval of Agenda and Filing of Certificate of Agenda Posting**

**REQUIRED ACTION:**

a. Approve and file.



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**STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: July 19, 2019  
Agenda Item: #3

To: BEACON Board of Directors  
From: Executive Director  
Date July 12, 2019

**Subject: Consideration and Approval of Minutes of BEACON Meeting held May 17, 2019**

**REQUIRED ACTION:**

a. Approve and file.



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## BEACON BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Friday, May 17, 2019

**TIME:** 9:00 AM

**PLACE:** City of Carpinteria, Council Hearing Room  
5775 Carpinteria Avenue, Carpinteria, CA. 93013

<b>Item</b>	1	Call to Order, Roll Call and Introductions – Chair, Janet Wolf.
<b>Minutes/ Actions:</b>		<p><b>Directors Present:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve Bennett (County of Ventura)</li> <li>• John Zaragoza (County of Ventura)</li> <li>• Das Williams (County of Santa Barbara)</li> <li>• Gregg Hart (City of Santa Barbara)</li> <li>• Christy Weir (City of Ventura)</li> <li>• Eris Friedman (City of Santa Barbara)</li> <li>• Fred Shaw (City of Carpinteria)</li> <li>• Kyle Richards (City of Goleta)</li> <li>• Carmen Ramirez (City of Oxnard)</li> <li>• Laura Hernandez (City of Port Hueneme)</li> </ul>
<b>Item</b>	2	<b>Approval of Agenda and Filing of Certificate of Agenda Posting</b>
		Action: Action: Approve and file.
<b>Minutes/ Actions:</b>		<b>The Agenda with the requested modification was unanimously approved by the Board.</b>
<b>Item</b>	3	<b>Consideration and Approval of Minutes of the BEACON Meetings held on March 15, 2019.</b>
		Action: Approve and file.
<b>Minutes/ Actions:</b>		<b>The minutes were unanimously approved by the Board as posted.</b>
<b>Item</b>	4	<b>Public Comment and Other Matters not on the Agenda</b>
		Receive public comments.
<b>Minutes/ Actions:</b>		<p>Paul Jenkins of Surf Rider and member of Matilija Coalition. Mr. Jenkins reported that on May 13, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announced a \$13.4 million funding award to Ventura County Watershed Protection District for the Santa Ana Bridge Replacement – a component of the Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project.</p> <p>Director Weir stated that the Matilija Dam project is finally under way in large due to people like Paul Jenkins.</p>
<b>Item</b>	5	<b>Reports</b>
		a. Reports from legislative offices. b. Board Member Reports and Updates
<b>Minutes/ Actions:</b>		<p>a. The Executive Director Brian Brennan reported that representative from Congress Member Brownley will attend the BEACON meeting in July to discuss Port Hueneme Beach.</p> <p>b. Director Richards reported that the City of Goleta has received a grant from the Coastal Conservancy to fund restoration work in Ellwood Mesa.</p> <p>c. Director Friedman reported the City of Santa Barbara expects to approve its Local coastal Plan (LCP) update in July 2019.</p>

## BEACON BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Friday, May 17, 2019

**TIME:** 9:00 AM

**PLACE:** City of Carpinteria, Council Hearing Room  
5775 Carpinteria Avenue, Carpinteria, CA. 93013

<b>Item</b>	6	<p><b>Surfers Point Project</b></p> <p>a. Approve and authorize the Executive Director to execute the Grant Agreement P-1-2-07 with the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) for the Surfers Point Project in the amount up to \$355,000 with a period of performance up to December 31, 2020.</p> <p>b. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the City of Ventura to implement the planning grant project in the amount up to \$355,000 with a period of performance up to December 31, 2020.</p>
<b>Minutes/ Actions:</b>		<p>Mr. Marc Beyeler explained that a grant from OPC had been secured for phase 2 of the Surfers Point Project and that today the Board was being asked to execute the Grant Agreement as well as approve a cooperative agreement with the City of Ventura. Marc explained that the Surfers Point Project was a good example of a successful managed retreat project.</p> <p>Mr. Brad Stark of the City of Ventura indicated that the City would lead the phase 2 project. The schedule was tight but that he was confident that the project would be delivered on schedule.</p> <p>Paul Jenkins of Surf Rider Foundation commended BEACON on its extensive role in delivering the Surfers Point Project, it was a good example of collaboration. Paul also wanted to recognize Brian Brennan for his amazing work over the years on this project first at the City, then at BEACON and at the County.</p> <p>Director Weir indicated that this grant was a good example of the value of BEACON.</p> <p><b>BOARD ACTIONS:</b> <b>The Board approved both actions unanimously.</b></p>

## BEACON BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Friday, May 17, 2019

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<b>Item</b>	7	<p><b>Membership Dues / Assessments (unanimous vote required)</b></p> <p>a. Adopt an increase to voting member assessments (membership dues) by 3.2% for fiscal year 2019-2020 to provide an additional \$4,565 in revenue (Exhibit I). (Requires unanimous approval (10/10th vote).</p>
<b>Minutes/ Actions:</b>		<p>Executive Director explained that BEACON survives on membership dues and grant funding only. Membership dues during the last ten years have historically been a little frozen and even been reduced during the recession. In recent years the Board has tried to adjust the dues up.</p> <p>Port Hueneme indicated that it will vote yes for the dues increase but is not supportive of CPI increases and expects more return on its investment.</p> <p>Director Ramirez indicated that Oxnard is having budget issues but will vote yes due to the criticality of coastal issues.</p> <p>Director Zaragoza indicated that the recent dredging at Channel Islands was important for Port Hueneme Beach, but he did not think it was enough.</p> <p>Director Richards indicated that the dues paid for a highly qualified BEACON team at a very reasonable cost. Goleta appreciates BEACON's work and is very happy to see the kelp anchor project on Goleta Beach.</p> <p><b>BOARD ACTIONS:</b> <b>The Board approved action unanimously.</b></p>

<b>Item</b>	8	<p><b>Auditor Controller's Recommended Actions</b></p> <p>a. Receive and file the audited financial statements for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 (Exhibit I);</p> <p>b. Receive and file the Management Letter for the audit of the financial statements for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2018 and 2017 (Exhibit II);</p> <p>c. Adopt the proposed final budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 (Exhibit III);</p> <p>d. Authorize the Auditor-Controller's Office to adjust contingency for the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget where the fiscal year 2018-2019 actual year-end closing fund balance differs from the budget estimate;</p> <p>e. Receive and file the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget-to-Actual Report for the year-to-date period ending April 30, 2019 (Exhibit IV); and</p> <p>f. Authorize the Auditor-Controller's Office to make budgetary adjustments as follows: (requires 6/10th vote):</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>INCREASE</td> <td>Other Professional &amp; Specialized Services</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>DECREASE</td> <td>Travel Expenses:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 5,000</td> </tr> </table>	INCREASE	Other Professional & Specialized Services	\$ 5,000	DECREASE	Travel Expenses:	\$ 5,000
INCREASE	Other Professional & Specialized Services	\$ 5,000						
DECREASE	Travel Expenses:	\$ 5,000						
<b>Minutes/ Actions:</b>		<p>Mr. Carlos Maldonado of Ventura County Auditor Controllers Office presented six budget items.</p> <p>Director Weir indicated that the biennial audit indicated no deficiencies, which is very rare for a public agency.</p> <p><b>BOARD ACTIONS:</b> <b>The Board approved unanimously the Auditor Controller Recommended Actions.</b></p>						

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<b>Item</b>	9	<p><b>Amendment 1 to Agreement with Marc Beyeler</b></p> <p>a. Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute an Amendment 1 to the Agreement with Marc Beyeler for an additional \$5,000 for project management services of the Surfers Point Project during Fiscal Year 2018-2019.</p>
<b>Minutes/ Actions:</b>	<p>The Executive Director explained that this amendment to Mr. Beyeler's contract was necessary to continue his project management role on the Surfers point Project.</p> <p><b>BOARD ACTIONS:</b> <b>The Board approved unanimously action item.</b></p>	

<b>Item</b>	10	<p><b>FY 2019-2020 Annual Staff and Consultant Agreements</b></p> <p>a. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute Auditor Services Contract for an amount not to exceed \$15,000 with County of Ventura Auditor-Controller's Office for the term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.</p> <p>b. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Legal Services Contract for an amount not to exceed \$12,000 with County of Santa Barbara County Counsel's Office for the term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.</p> <p>c. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Technical Advisor Services Contract for an amount not to exceed \$22,000 with James A. Bailard for the term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.</p> <p>d. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Strategic Planning and Grant Pursuit Services Contract with Marc Beyeler and Associates for an amount not to exceed \$27,000 for the term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.</p> <p>e. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Web Site and Facebook Page maintenance Services Contract with Pam Baumgardner for an amount not to exceed \$2,000 for the term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.</p> <p>f. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the Program Management Services Contract with COM3 Consulting for an amount not to exceed \$49,500 for the term of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.</p>
<b>Minutes/ Actions:</b>	<p>The Executive Director presented the six annual contracts that keep BEACON operating.</p> <p><b>BOARD ACTIONS:</b> <b>The Board unanimously approved all six annual contracts.</b></p>	

## BEACON BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

**DATE: Friday, May 17, 2019**

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<b>Item</b>	11	<p><b>Port Hueneme Beach</b></p> <p>a. Receive an informational report from the Executive Director on the recently completed dredging of Channel Islands Harbor and nourishment of Port Hueneme Beach.</p>
<b>Minutes/ Actions:</b>		<p>Dr. Jim Bailard – Technical Advisor, explained that the recent dredging of Channel Island Harbor and subsequent by-pass to Port Hueneme Beach resulted in insufficient sand for the beach. This problem is a result of fixed Federal funding and increasing dredging costs resulting in less volume of dredged cubic yards. The resolution is to work with the Federal Agencies to ensure enough budget allocation.</p> <p>Mr. Rick Willburn, provided a photo summary of the recent dredging operations. Mr. Willburn indicated that the Federal budget was \$14M but that this number has not been increased for many years while dredge costs have increased.</p> <p>Director Ramirez indicated that she was concerned about the Federal funding shifting away from local jurisdictions.</p> <p>Director Hart asked if BEACON needs to re-instate its lobbying consultant.</p> <p>Paul Jenkins of Surf Rider indicated that this was a perfect example of Federal dysfunctionality – the Federal Gov puts in a military base at Pont Magu but cannot pay for a 1 M CY dredging operations and so will ultimately loose the base all together.</p> <p>Director Zaragoza recommended that BEACON meet with Naval Command to discuss the dredging needs.</p> <p><b>The Board received and filed the Port Hueneme Beach report.</b></p>

<b>Item</b>	12	<b>Executive Director's Report and Communications</b>
<b>Minutes/ Actions:</b>		The Executive Director indicated that BEACON had been contacted by Caltrans District 7 requesting assistance in establishing an opportunistic beach program in southern Ventura County and norther LA County. Staff are trying to determine more details.

**Meeting Minutes by Gerald Comati, Program Manager, BEACON.**

**Adjourn to next regular meeting July 19, 2019, 2019 at 9:00 AM in Carpinteria City Hall**

**STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: July 19, 2019  
Agenda Item: #4

To: BEACON Board of Directors  
From: Executive Director  
Date July 12, 2019

**Subject: Public Comment and Other Matters not on the Agenda**

**REQUIRED ACTION:**

a. Receive Public Comments.



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**STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: July 19, 2019  
Agenda Item: #5

To: BEACON Board of Directors  
From: Executive Director  
Date July 12, 2019

**Subject: Reports**

**REQUIRED ACTION:**

- a. Reports from Legislative Offices.
- b. Board Member Reports and Updates.



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## STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: July 19, 2019

Agenda Item: 6

To: BEACON Board of Directors

From: Executive Director

Date July 12, 2019

### Subject: Port Hueneme Beach

#### Required Action:

- a. Receive an informational report from the Technical Advisor regarding the US Army Corp of Engineers effort to provide additional dredging at Channel Islands and nourishment of Port Hueneme Beach.

#### DISCUSSION:

BEACON member, the City of Port Hueneme completed its dredging cycle for 2018-2019 in March and due to several circumstances, there is a major concern that not enough sand was fed to the beach. Between winter storms and breakdowns to the dredge itself there were periods where the dredging was interrupted but eventually 1.6 million cy of sand were delivered to Pt Hueneme Beach. In examining the beach on an ongoing basis, it has become apparent that 1.6 million cubic yards is not enough to keep the beach whole and protect valuable infrastructure.

Dr. Jim Bailard, BEACON Dredging Advisor Emeritus had previously examined the sand budget required to keep the beach whole and did so again recently relying on historical data put forward in Army Corp documents along with his own prior research. Below are the conclusions that Jim was able to draw from that research.

The erosion problem at Hueneme Beach has been caused by repeated incomplete dredging of the sand trap at Channel Islands Harbor over the past few decades. Prior to World War II, the rate of longshore sand transport between the Santa Clara River Mouth and Point Mugu averaged about 1.2M cubic yards per year. During the war, the north breakwater to the Port of Hueneme was lengthened causing the longshore sand transport to be diverted into Hueneme Submarine Canyon. With their natural supply of sand cut-off, Hueneme Beach and beaches to the south rapidly eroded causing widespread problems all the way down to Point Mugu. Eventually, in the 1960's, the federal government stepped in and helped to build Channel Islands Harbor as a way of bypassing sand past the Port and thereby nourish Hueneme Beach and points south. The Navy agreed to pay for 19% of the cost of all future dredging at Channel Islands Harbor.

During the first couple of decades, things worked well with 2.4M cubic yards of sand being dredged at Channel Islands Harbor every two years (i.e. an average of 1.2M cubic yards per year). This was just enough to balance the rate of sand being removed from Hueneme Beach by incident



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wave energy. At the start of the dredging cycle, Hueneme Beach would see a large influx of sand, greatly increasing its width. Gradually, the dredged sand would be transported downcoast so that at the end of the cycle the beach width would be back to its initial point. All the beaches between Port Hueneme and Point Mugu were in equilibrium. The problems began in more recent times as dredging costs went up and the dredging budget remained static. The average bi-annual dredging rate gradually dropped so that it averaged something closer to 1.6M cubic yards per cycle (800K cubic yards per year). This has caused Hueneme Beach to suffer long-term erosion with the problem being most apparent in the second year of the dredging cycle. As the problem became worse, the City of Hueneme was eventually forced to build an emergency rock revetment as a way of protecting critical infrastructure.

Various ideas have been put forth for dealing with the beach erosion problem at Hueneme Beach. One idea has been to build a series of rock groins to hold the sand on the beach, much like what was done at Pierpont Bay in Ventura. Another idea has been to build a series of submerged, offshore breakwaters as a way of reducing incident wave energy and slowing the rate of sand loss. Both these ideas have the same problem: sand will continue to be removed at the same rate from the south end of the protected zone. Basically, the erosion problem will just be shifted a bit downcoast.

The best way of dealing with the erosion problem on a long-term basis is to increase the amount of dredging at Channel Islands Harbor so that it averages 1.2M cubic yards per year (i.e. 2.4M cubic yards every two years). This should stabilize Hueneme Beach and other beaches down to Point Mugu without the need for further revetment construction. Funding for the dredging program at Channel Islands Harbor comes from Congress via the Los Angeles District Office of the Army Corps of Engineers. The district typically receives a lump sum amount for dredging all the harbors in Southern California, with no specific amount allocated to each harbor. As a result, as dredging funds have become more scarce, difficult trade-offs must be made and not everyone gets the funding they need for each cycle. Decisions must be made based on available funds and not on actual need. The result is our present situation.

The course of action that BEACON has suggested to the City of Port Hueneme is to bring together important stakeholders at a meeting at City Hall. Invitees would include representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, Port of Hueneme, the U.S. Naval Station Point Mugu, and Congresswoman Julia Brownlee's office. The purpose of the meeting would be to present information on the cause of the problem and the current funding situation. Then, the group could explore possible avenues for increasing funding for the dredging program at Channel Islands Harbor so that the dredged volume can be increased to 2.4M cubic yards per cycle and kept at that level in future years.

## STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: July 19, 2019  
Agenda Item: 7

To: BEACON Board of Directors  
From: Gerald Comati PE  
Date July 12, 2019

**Subject: Kelp Anchor Demonstration Project**

### ACTIONS:

- a. Receive an update from Staff on the Kelp Anchor Demonstration Project.

### DISCUSSION:

For the past eight years BEACON has been the Lead Agency in delivering an innovative project to demonstrate a method to re-establish kelp in Goleta Bay. The method was developed by Mr. Bob Kiel of the Seattle Aquarium and requires the insertion of three-foot long (2-inch square) granite columns that are water-jetted into the sandy seabed of Goleta Bay. Four to six inches of the top of the columns protrude providing an immovable and environmentally benign “toe-hold” for kelp spores to attach. The re-establishment of a kelp bed in Goleta Bay is considered an environmental benefit to marine life as well as a recreational opportunity and is consistent with BEACON’s mission.

The scope of the original project consisted of approximately 200 kelp anchors to be installed. BEACON secured permits from the California Coastal Commission and US Army Corps of Engineers for the project as well as State Lands Commission Lease and in 2015 the BEACON Board authorized the project to proceed into the construction (installation) phase. By October 2016, 200 Kelp Anchors had been installed into the seabed of Goleta Bay. Since that time the project has shown a good deal of success in securing new kelp growth. However, this growth has been significantly impacted during the last eighteen months by kelp-eating invertebrates such as kelp crabs and top snails. To mitigate these impacts, Mr. Kiel adapted the design of the kelp anchor to include a bulb-out along the column that would serve as a safe dwelling space for octopi. By including this design feature, octopi can secure a safe residence at the base of kelp anchors and feed on the kelp crabs and top snails. Mr. Kiel named this type of kelp anchor the “octocolumn”. A few of the octocolumns were installed in late 2018 with great success. In March of this year Mr. Kiel made a presentation to the BEACON Board on the project status and outlined a potential Phase 2 for the project.

After hearing Mr. Kiel’s presentation to BEACON in March, the County of Santa Barbara County Community Services Department – Parks Division (County Parks Division) expressed interest in assisting Mr. Kiel in delivering Phase 2 and approached him to partner in the pursuit of grant funding. The County identified a grant from the National Fish and



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Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The proposed grant would contribute towards the cost of Phase 2 of the project which would expand the existing footprint of installed anchors from a one-acre area to a 13.3-acre area.

The scope of the Phase 2 effort would include securing new permits, preparation of an environmental document, fabrication and installation of new anchors (including octocolumns) and post installation monitoring. As with the original anchors, the additional granite columns would provide a substrate for kelp plants to affix to and take a bigger step towards reestablishing the historic 200-acres kelp forest of Goleta Bay.

The “Goleta Bay Kelp Forest Restoration Project” is seeking a \$300,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Following a grant pre-application in May, the project has been placed on a short list for further consideration, with the full grant application due on July 22, 2019. If the County is successful in securing the grant funding, the County would take over from BEACON as the lead and sponsoring agency for the Kelp project. BEACON would support the project along with UCSB, Goleta Sanitary District, Friends of Goleta Beach, and local environmental and commercial diving organizations.

## STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: July 19, 2019  
Agenda Item: 8

To: BEACON Board of Directors  
From: Gerald Comati, PE  
Date July 12, 2019

### Subject: Santa Barbara County Debris Basin OPC Grant

#### Required Action:

- a. Receive a report from Staff on the status of the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) grant for Debris Basin modifications in Santa Barbara County.

#### DISCUSSION:

##### Background

The largest natural process feeder of sediment to the BEACON coast is from our creeks and rivers. However, this natural process is often obstructed by debris basins. Consequently, as previously presented to the Board, BEACON staff has coordinated with the Flood Control Districts of Santa Barbara and Ventura to discuss the potential for removal or modification of existing debris basins to allow sediment to flow unobstructed to the coast. Both agencies have plans in place for debris basin modification/removals projects.

##### Ocean Protection Council Grant

In the fall of 2015, the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) released a call for proposals for Proposition 1 (Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014) funded projects that could “provide more reliable water supplies, restore important species and habitat, and develop a more resilient and sustainably managed water that can better withstand inevitable and unforeseen pressures in the coming decades”. BEACON Staff approached the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District to identify debris basin removal projects already in development that could benefit from an infusion of supplemental grant funding. The Flood Control District identified two debris basin removals, one at Rattlesnake Creek and one at San Ysidro Creek.

##### Grant Award

In December 2015, BEACON Staff submitted a Letter of Intent to the OPC for Rattlesnake Creek and San Ysidro Creek debris basin removal projects. The OPC approved the Letter of Intent and authorized BEACON to prepare a full proposal. BEACON Staff, working closely with Flood Control Staff, submitted a full proposal to OPC in February 2016. The proposal requested \$539,000 of Proposition 1 funds for use in the project development, construction and monitoring phases of the Rattlesnake and San Ysidro Creeks debris basin removal projects.



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#### Member Agencies

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City of Oxnard  
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City of San Buenaventura  
City of Santa Barbara  
County of Santa Barbara  
County of Ventura

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In June of 2016 the OPC Commission awarded to BEACON the \$539,000 of requested funding for the projects. The total project cost is estimated at \$1,076,000. OPC will fund \$539,000, the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District will fund \$532,000 and BEACON will contribute \$5,000. While BEACON is contributing \$5,000 of its own funds, \$40,000 of the OPC funding will be available to fund BEACON staff and any necessary consultants to administer the Grant and develop a “Best Practices Manual”. The Best Practices Manual will be developed to provide guidance to other statewide agencies interested in implementing similar debris basin projects.

For the two debris basin projects, the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District is the lead agency for environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Grant was approved in the Spring of 2017.

### **January 9, 2019 Debris Flow Event**

On January 9, 2018 a high intensity rainstorm caused massive debris movements and mudslides in Montecito. It is estimated that over one million cubic yards of mud inundated public and private properties.

The Thomas Fire occurred in between December 4, 2017 and December 20, 2017 resulting in 440 square miles of burned hillsides throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. On January 9, 2018 a high intensity storm event occurred which resulted in a devastating debris flow due to the recently destabilized landscape. The flows in the watershed from the Thomas Fire Debris Flow Event of January 9, 2018, were exceptional, as tons of sediment, rocks and large boulders were mobilized upstream of existing debris basins. As debris plummeted downstream, it filled the existing debris basins and overtopped and damaged the grouted rock dams of the basins. Post event, the debris dams were immediately restored in order to maintain the integrity of the basins in the context of follow-on debris flow events.

The January 9<sup>th</sup> Debris Flow Event emphasized the protection that the debris basins provide and the removal of any of them can no longer be supported by the County Flood Control District, the Santa Barbara Community or Flood Control Board of Directors (County Board of Supervisors). While the community suffered many losses, more losses would have been realized had the basins not been in place.

### **Request for Scope Modifications to OPC Grant**

As a consequence of the County’s new policy regarding debris basin removal, in the spring of 2018, BEACON Staff alerted OPC Staff that the proposed scope of the approved OPC grant was no longer viable and that BEACON hoped OPC would be willing to approve a scope and schedule modification to the grant in light of the extraordinary events of January 2018. OPC Staff responded positively and requested more details.

During the summer and fall of 2018, BEACON Staff met with Flood Control Staff to develop a strategy on how to proceed with the OPC Grant. Flood Control had completed an assessment of its debris basin projects priorities and it was agreed that the following scope and schedule modifications to the approved OPC grant would be proposed to OPC Staff.

<b>Santa Barbara County/BEACON Debris Basin - OPC Grant</b>					
<b>Approved Grant Scope (2017)</b>			<b>Requested Modifications to Grant Scope</b>		
<b>Debris Basin</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Termination Date (complete construction)</b>	<b>Debris Basin</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Termination Date (complete construction)</b>
Rattlesnake Debris Basin	Basin Removal	December 2018	Cold Springs Debris Basin	Basin Modification	December 2020
San Ysidro Debris Basin	Basin Removal	December 2018	San Ysidro Debris Basin	Basin Modification	December 2021

**Attachment 1** to the staff report shows the Memorandum to OPC prepared by BEACON outlining and justifying the requested change of scope and schedule of the OPC grant.

The key elements of the proposed scope and schedule change to the OPC grant are:

1. Elimination of the Rattlesnake Debris Basin as a project and replace it with a Cold Springs Debris Basin project.
2. Change the scope of projects such that instead of debris basin removals, the two debris basins are modified to stay in place but allow sediment to flow through the basin to downstream. The debris basin modifications would follow the design of the very successful Gobernador Debris Basin modification project completed in 2008.
3. Shift the project delivery dates out to December 2020 and December 2021 respectively for the two debris basins.

### **Next Steps**

Upon receipt of the scope and schedule change Memorandum from BEACON (Attachment 1), OPC Staff met with BEACON and Flood Control Staff to review the project sites in the field. Currently, Flood Control Staff and BEACON staff are working collaboratively to develop a new Work Plan for the grant that is aligned to the new scope and schedule. The new Work Plan will be submitted to OPC in late July 2019. Once OPC has reviewed the new Work Plan a decision by the OPC Director will be made to approve a grant amendment or deny it. This decision is expected to occur by September 2019.

**BEACON – Santa Barbara County Debris Basin Removal Project  
Justification for Scope/schedule change**

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**Memorandum**

**From:** Gerald Comati, Program Manager – BEACON  
**Date:** December 2018  
**To:** Chris Potter, OPC, California Resources Agency  
**Subject:** Santa Barbara County Debris Basin Removal Project - Justification for Scope/schedule change  
**Reference:** Natural Resources Grant Number P01-1-06C

The following provides a justification to OPC re/ BEACON’s request for scope and schedule changes to the OPC Grant awarded to BEACON for the Santa Barbara County Debris Basin Projects. The requested changes are as follows:

OPC Grant					
Approved			Requested		
Project	Scope	Termination Date (complete construction)	Project	Scope	Termination Date (complete construction)
Rattlesnake Debris Basin	Basin Removal	December 2018	Cold Springs Debris Basin	Basin Modification	December 2020
San Ysidro Debris Basin	Basin Removal	December 2018	San Ysidro Debris Basin	Basin Modification	December 2021

The justification for the requested scope/schedule changes are as follows:

**The Thomas Fire and Debris Flow Event**

The Thomas Fire occurred in between December 4, 2017 and December 20, 2017 resulting in 440 square miles of burned hillsides throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. On January 9, 2018 a high intensity storm event occurred which resulted in a devastating debris flow due to the recently destabilized landscape. The flows in the watershed from the Thomas Fire Debris Flow Event of January 9, 2018, were exceptional, as tons of sediment, rocks and large boulders were mobilized upstream of existing debris basins. As debris plummeted downstream, it filled the existing debris basins, overtopped and damaged the grouted rock dams of the basins. Post event, the debris dams were immediately restored in order to maintain the integrity of the basins in the context of follow-on debris flow events.

The January 9<sup>th</sup> Debris Flow Event has emphasized the protection that the debris basins provide and the removal of any of them can no longer be supported by the County Flood Control District, the Santa Barbara Community or our Board of Directors. While the community suffered many losses, more losses would have been realized had the basins not been in place.

**Justification for Project Scope Change (debris basin design modification)**

The County Flood Control design concept for Debris Basin Modifications is based on the existing debris basin design of Gobernador Debris Basin site which was modified in 2008 with the design objective of replacing the current culvert crossing with a crossing that allows winter-run adult migration, significantly improves the channels hydraulic capacity, and allows for smaller sediment transport while maintaining the debris basin function. The overall goal of this type of debris basin modification project is to increase the performance of the

## **BEACON – Santa Barbara County Debris Basin Removal Project**

### **Justification for Scope/schedule change**

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debris basin by increasing capacity, improving the outlet structure design, and providing fish passage. Since its construction, during normal and even larger events, sediment, including spawning gravels, has been shown to be successfully transported downstream. During the Thomas Fire Debris Flow Event of January 9, 2018 the Gobernador Debris Basin performed exceptionally well, successfully retaining large sediment while allowing the flow of water/mud and small sediment and without incurring damage.

#### **Justification for requested shift of funding from Rattlesnake Debris Basin to Cold Springs Debris Basin**

The basins were originally prioritized for removal in terms of cost, complexity, and the desire to learn from the smaller basins. Our Biological Opinion allows the District to prioritize the debris basins to meet our goals. The January 9, 2018 Debris Flow Event has changed our priorities and the County must tackle the modification of Cold Springs Debris Basin. It takes between 3-5 years for a watershed to recover after a fire and due to the January 9, 2018 Debris Flow Event that stripped the vegetation, rocks and sediment from the hillsides, it may be more than 5 years before this watershed has recovered. During that time, there continues to be an elevated risk of large volumes of material delivered through the system with even small rainfall events. As such, Cold Springs Debris basin has become a higher priority for modification than Rattlesnake Debris Basin.

In addition, Rattlesnake Debris Basin is outside of the Thomas Fire boundary, it is a very small debris basin, and the County Flood control is spending staff resources and funds on the larger basins within the Thomas Fire and January 9, 2018 Debris Flow Event boundary.

#### **Justification for requested schedule change**

**Rattlesnake Debris Basin (Requested to be changed to Cold Springs Debris Basin):** The original Complete Construction Date was December 2018. The requested change is to shift this out to December 2020.

Cold Springs Debris Basin, with its larger volume will afford the community more protection than San Ysidro Debris Basin so the priority is to proceed first with Cold Springs. The new design approach of debris basin modification versus removal requires considerably more specialized design work which requires more time.

**San Ysidro Debris:** The original Complete Construction Date was December 2018. The requested change is to shift this out to December 2021.

San Ysidro Debris Basin has a smaller capacity and therefore does not have the same immediate benefit for the post Debris Event condition. Consequently, as a result of the limited available resources in Santa Barbara County Flood Control, the implementation of this debris basin project is being pushed out to occur after the more safety critical and larger Cold Springs Debris Basin. In addition, similar to Cold Springs Debris basin, the new design approach of debris basin modification versus removal requires considerably more specialized design work which requires more time.

## STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: July 19, 2019  
Agenda Item: #9

To: BEACON Board of Directors  
From: Executive Director  
Date July 12, 2019

**Subject: BEACON Management**

### Required Action:

- a. Receive a report from the Executive Director regarding transition of BEACON Staff and succession strategy.

### DISCUSSION:

The current BEACON management team is as follows:

Name	Position	Responsibilities
Mr. Brian Brennan	Executive Director	Leadership, political interface, strategic planning.
Dr. Jim Bailard PE	Technical Advisor	Technical assessments of coastal engineering issues/projects.
Mr. Gerald Comati PE	Program Management (COM3 Consulting)	Project and contract management, agenda preparation and administration, strategic planning, grant preparation.
Mr. Marc Beyeler	Strategic Consulting (MBA Associates)	Project management, strategic planning, grant preparation.
Ms. Susan McKenzie	Legal Counsel (SB County)	Legal Counsel.
Mr. Carlos Maldonado	Auditor Controller (Ventura County)	Financial/accounting Services and oversight of bi-annual audits
Mr. Karl Trieberg	Advisor (City of Santa Barbara Waterfront)	Technical Advisor.

The management structure described in the table above has been in place for over fifteen years. In 2008, Mr. Brian Brennan stepped into the role of Executive Director in a pro-bono capacity after serving on the BEACON Board as the City of Ventura Council Member for ten years. Aside from Mr. Brennan and Mr. Karl Trieberg, all the management positions listed are funded.

Dr. Bailard has been part of the BEACON team since 1992 serving as its Technical Advisor. Jim's expertise in coastal engineering has been a very valuable asset to the agency. Sadly, at the end of June, Jim announced to the Executive Director that he had decided to step down from this position. Jim's departure leaves a significant void in the BEACON team at a time when the environment within which BEACON operates is also changing. Coastal issues are becoming more relevant with climate



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change and sea-level-rise, and the BEACON member agencies have by necessity, become more active in assessing their individual coastal issues including completing updates to their coastal plans. During the last few years, BEACON has conducted an assessment of how it can best serve its member agencies, given the shifting context within which it exists. This assessment included an online survey of all its member agencies and other key players in regional and statewide coastal concerns.

Given the above, it is an opportune time to revisit both the vision and purpose of BEACON as well as a succession strategy of its key staff.

**STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: July 19, 2019  
Agenda Item: #10

To: BEACON Board of Directors  
From: Executive Director  
Date July 12, 2019

**Subject: Executive Director's Report and Communications**



A California Joint Powers Agency

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