



Staff Report

TO: Board of Harbor Commissioners

FROM: John Moren, Director of Operations

THRU: James B. Pruet, General Manager

DATE: September 17, 2025

SUBJECT: Surfers Beach Pilot Restoration Project Construction Update

Recommended Motion:

Information only.

Policy Implications:

Consistent with the District's goal to use excess sediment build-up from within the Harbor for beneficial re-use on Surfers Beach.

Background:

Contractor Vortex Marine Construction, Inc., has successfully mobilized equipment needed for construction of the Surfers Beach Restoration Pilot Project (Project), and construction officially began on July 28, 2025.

The initial phase of the project, dredging near the boat launch and hydraulically pumping the sediment over to the eelgrass mitigation area in the west basin of the harbor off the west outer breakwater, was completed by late August. Eelgrass salvage and transplant from the dredging areas to the eelgrass mitigation area was successfully completed by subcontractor Marine Taxonomic Resources August 31 – September 12.

Construction is now focused on dredging and pumping sand to Surfer's Beach. The contractor re-routed the dredge pipeline previously discharging to the eelgrass mitigation area over to Surfer's Beach, and the dredge was moved over from the recently completed Dredge Areas 1B and 1C, to Area 1A. A second dredge, mobilized in mid-august, is operating in Dredge Area 2, along the east breakwater, with a second pipeline over to Surfer's Beach. Both dredges are currently operating and hydraulically pumping sand over to the south end of the Surfer's Beach placement area.

The Project is being led by the San Mateo County Harbor District (District) and planning has been underway since 2017. The project area is located inside, and adjacent to, Pillar Point Harbor. The overall goal for the proposed Project is to address the significantly accelerated coastal erosion rates that have occurred on the beaches adjacent to the Harbor due to the construction of the East Breakwater approximately 60 years ago and address the severe shoaling that has occurred inside the Harbor since the outer breakwaters were constructed.

The project involves dredging up to 75,000-cubic yards of clean sand along the Harbor's East Breakwater and near the Boat Launch Ramps and using that sand to restore a

previously existing beach through construction of an elevated berm along a ~1,300-foot-long section of shoreline at Surfers Beach. The project also will mitigate for current and future damages to eelgrass by creating new eelgrass habitat and relocating eelgrass within the harbor to improve conditions for fish and wildlife species.

The District recently was approved for a \$2,956,250 SB 1 Track 2 grant from Ocean Protection Council (OPC). The District received and submitted fourteen letters of support for the grant from elected officials, agencies, local municipalities, and NGOs. The Board of Harbor Commissioners passed a resolution on November 20, 2024, approving the funding. The District is currently coordinating with OPC to finalize the Grant Agreement.

The IFB and a detailed Surfers Beach project description along with download links for various project planning documents, including recent planning and permitting status updates, is available on the District's Surfers Beach project webpage at <https://www.smharbor.com/surfers-beach-pilot-restoration-project>.

Attachments:

- 1) [Updated presentation from consultant Brad Damitz.](#)