



Staff Report

TO: Board of Harbor Commissioners

FROM: John Moren, Director of Operations
THRU: James B. Pruet, General Manager

DATE: March 19, 2025

SUBJECT: Surfers Beach Restoration Pilot Project – Financial status update and Proposal for Project Management, Environmental Compliance, Biological Survey, and Surfing Conditions Monitoring

Recommended Motion:

Motion: Receive Surfers Beach Project financial update and approve the remaining \$330,868 of the proposal from consultant Brad Damitz and subconsultants MTS, Coastal Futures, and Wood Biological Consulting for the Surfers Beach Restoration Pilot Project, environmental compliance, project management, biological surveys and monitoring, and approve an increase in Capital Expenditure Appropriations of \$330,868 to be funded by available Non-Personnel Expenditures and grant funds.

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:

Construction for the Surfers Beach Restoration Pilot Project (Project) is being planned for a spring/summer 2025 timeframe. Permits have been approved by California Coastal Commission, SF Regional Water Quality Control Board, National Marine Sanctuaries, Army Corps of Engineers, and Caltrans. The Project design/engineering team at ESA is finalizing Project plans and Technical Specifications and consultants Brad Damitz, ESA, and District staff are readying bid documents for release this month. 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>.

At the February 19, 2024, Board meeting, Commissioners received an update on the status of the Project and the details of the proposal under consideration, for services to be provided over the next 5.5 years, including tasks required by Project permits prior to, during and post-construction. At that meeting the Board approved \$100,000 of the proposed costs, to allow Project planning tasks to proceed, and requested more information about the Project's planning costs to date and current financials, before considering approval of the remaining funds at the March 19, 2024, Board meeting.

In response to the Board's request, below is an overview of expenses to date for the Surfers Beach Restoration Pilot Project. It also includes a summary of the proposed services, costs and timeline for the proposal being considered, and identifies other anticipated future costs beyond what is being considered today.

Summary of Current Proposal:

The attached proposal from consultant Brad Damitz is to continue to assist the San Mateo County Harbor District (District) with Project Management and Environmental Compliance for the Surfers Beach Restoration Pilot Project (Project) and the Pillar Point Harbor-Wide Eelgrass Mitigation Program (eelgrass mitigation) over the next 5.5 years. This includes pre-construction planning and logistics, and the construction and 5-year maintenance and monitoring phases of the Project. Total proposed cost for work to be completed by Damitz: **\$127,710**

In addition to consultant Brad Damitz, this proposal also includes the following subconsultants to complete biological and surfing conditions monitoring tasks, that are required by permit conditions for the Project:

- **Marine Taxonomic Services, Inc.** – Robert Mooney, PhD and team of biologists to complete pre- and post-construction eelgrass surveys and black abalone surveys and implementation of the 5-yr permit-required Pillar Point Harbor-wide Eelgrass Mitigation Plan (attached). Total proposed cost for work to be completed by MTS: **\$156,050.00** (includes \$30K Contingency for black abalone relocation and monitoring)
- **Wood Biological Consulting** – Chris Rogers to complete several biological monitoring tasks required by the Project's permits. This includes numerous bird and special status plant surveys, along with implementation of a Worker Environmental Awareness Training for all construction personnel. Total proposed cost for work to be completed by Wood Biological Consulting: **\$41,175** (includes \$17,414 contingency for snowy plover active nests)
- **Coastal Futures, LLC** – Bob Battalio to oversee the required surfing conditions monitoring program that is required by the Coastal Commission Coastal Development Permit. Total proposed cost for work to be completed by Coastal Futures, LLC: **\$47,175.00**

The total cost in the proposal, including a 10% contingency, is \$430,868. The attached proposal includes a detailed scope of work and cost breakdown for each of the above consultants is included as an attachment, along with a matrix of all permit conditions and CEQA requirements.

Breakdown of Project Expenses to Date:

Total Project planning costs to date: \$595,360

Below is a description of costs incurred to date for the Project's planning phase, which includes permitting, environmental review, engineering and design. This does not include District staff time working on the Project. For a detailed description of the work completed during the planning phase of the Project, refer to the attached memo prepared by consultant Damitz in February 2024.

1. Brad Damitz, Coastal Management Consultant – Project Management and Permitting:

Total Amount to date for Damitz: **\$286,761***

Work completed July 2017 – Present: Project management, permit compliance and agency coordination, prepare and submit CEQA environmental impact assessment documents, grant writing and grant management, public outreach.

Timeline of Funding Approved by Board of Harbor Commissioners:

- July, 2017 – \$50,000
- April 2019 – \$56,000
- April 2020 – \$64,500
- June 2022 – \$57,000
- October 2023 – \$38,400
- July 2024 – \$38,400

*A Prop 68 grant from Ocean Protection Council paid for \$75,000 of these costs

2. Environmental Science Associates (ESA) – Engineering and Design

Total Amount to date for ESA: **\$235,177**

Work completed September 2018 – Present: Engineering and design. Prepared Project plans, technical specification, Preliminary Design Report, and permitting figures.

Timeline of Funding Approval:

- September 2018 – \$105,000
- November 2020 – \$121,400
- November 2023 – \$50,000

3. Marine Taxonomic Services (MTS) – Eelgrass Surveys and Planning

Total Amount for MTS: **\$33,538**

Work completed November 2019 – Present: Completed eelgrass surveys, prepared reports, prepared PPH Eelgrass Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, attended meetings with permitting agencies, preparing Biological Monitoring Plan.

4. Kinetic Laboratories, Inc. – Sediment Sampling and Analysis

Total Amount for Kinetic: **\$35,543**

Work completed September 2018 – April 2019: Completed sediment sampling by vibracore, analyzed results, prepared sediment Sampling and Analysis Plan and Sediment Analysis Report.

Timeline of Funding Approval:

- October 2018 – \$24,800
- March 2019 – \$15,080

5. Zentner Planning and Ecology – Biological Assessment and Surveys

Total Amount for Zentner: **\$17,055**

Work completed October 2021 – January 2022: Completed wetland and jurisdictional determination, and Biological Assessment.

Timeline of Funding Approval:

- October 2021

6. Peter Baye, PhD – Habitat and Vegetation Re-assessment

Work completed February/March 2023: Prepared Surfer's Beach Pilot Restoration Project Special Status Habitat and Species Analysis

Total Amount for Peter Baye: **\$2,187.50**

7. Coastal Futures, LLC – Develop and implement surfing conditions monitoring program

Work completed February/March 2023: Conducted surfing condition monitoring, developed surfing conditions monitoring program, coordinated with Surfrider Foundation members.

Total Amount to date for Coastal Futures: **\$740**

8. San Mateo County Clerk – CEQA filing fee

Total Amount: **\$2,814**

Additional Project Costs:

The following anticipated expenses for implementation of the Surfers Beach Project, which will still need to be approved by the District Board of Harbor Commissioners, include:

- Project Construction for harbor dredging, Surfers Beach restoration, and eelgrass mitigation. (Grant funds have been approved for \$2,883,250 to be applied toward Project construction).
- Construction phase engineering support, 3rd party Construction Management, and implementation of 5-yr Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan.
- Biological Monitoring Plan implementation (required by National Marine Sanctuaries permit) – final requirements yet to be determined. (Grant funding available).
- Contingency costs for adaptive management measures following construction. This could include actions to address scarping on the beach and clean up windblown sand from beach on coastal recreational trail.

Available Funding Sources:

The District's FY 2025 operating budget includes \$4,700,000 for the East Outer Harbor Dredge Project to Include Surfers Beach Replenishment and Eelgrass Mitigation.

The District recently was approved for a \$2,956,250 SB 1 Track 2 grant from Ocean Protection Council (OPC). The Board of Harbor Commissioners passed a resolution on 11/20/2024 approving the funding. The District is currently coordinating with OPC to finalize the Grant Agreement. Grant funds from the District's Ocean Protection Council SB 1, Track 2 grant have been approved for up to \$73,000 of the proposed work to be completed by Damitz for the pre-construction and construction phases of the Project (Phase 1 and 2), and the remaining \$2,883,250 to be applied toward Project construction.

Staff Recommendation:

Receive Surfers Beach Project financial update and approve the remaining \$330,868 of the proposal from consultant Brad Damitz and subconsultants MTS, Coastal Futures, and Wood Biological Consulting for the Surfers Beach Restoration Pilot Project, environmental compliance, project management, biological surveys and monitoring, and approve an increase in Capital Expenditure Appropriations of \$330,868 to be funded by available Non-Personnel Expenditures and grant funds.

Attachments:

- [Proposal from Consultant Damitz and Subconsultants](#)
- Link to Surfers Beach Project Planning and Permitting Process Overview, February 2024: [2024_02_21_Item_F2_Memo+-+Surfers+Beach+Update+Feb+2024-1+Updated+2+20.pdf](#)
- Link to Pillar Point Harbor-wide Eelgrass Mitigation and Monitoring Plan: [PillarPoint_EelgrassMitigationPlan_ReviseDec2023V3](#)