



Staff Report

TO: Board of Harbor Commissioners

FROM: John Moren, Director of Operations

THRU: James B. Pruet, General Manager

DATE: April 16, 2025

SUBJECT: Surfers Beach Restoration Pilot Project – Progress 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:

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 have finalized Project plans and Technical Specifications. The Invitation for Bid for actual construction was posted on April 7, 2025, with bids due May 6th.

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 100,000-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 ~1,000-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 11/20/2024 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>.