

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation  
October 31, 2013

**CITY OF PORT HUENEME EMERGENCY SHORELINE STABILIZATION**  
Project No. 13-038-01

Project Manager: Joan Cardellino

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse up to \$2 million to the City of Port Hueneme for the purpose of placing an emergency shoreline stabilization structure at Hueneme Beach to prevent imminent loss of a public road, parking lot and other infrastructure.

**LOCATION:** City of Port Hueneme, Ventura County

**PROGRAM CATEGORY:** Public Access

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**EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1: [Project Location Map](#)

Exhibit 2: [Site photos](#)

Exhibit 3: [SB 436 and AB 606](#)

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**RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:**

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31000 *et seq* of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes disbursement of up to two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to the City of Port Hueneme (City) for the purpose of placing an emergency shoreline stabilization structure on approximately 2,200 linear feet of Hueneme Beach from the intersection of Market Street and Surfside Drive to the foot of the Port Hueneme Fishing Pier, subject to the following conditions:

1. Prior to the disbursement of funds, the City shall provide for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy evidence that the California Coastal Commission has approved a permit for the work.
2. Prior to the disbursement of funds, the City shall provide for the review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, schedule and budget for the project.
3. The City shall post a sign acknowledging ‘Proposition 12’ funding for this project in accordance with the guidelines of the Secretary for the Natural Resources Agency.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed authorization is consistent with Chapter 9 of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, regarding public access.
2. The proposed project will protect a public accessway that serves more than local public needs.
3. The proposed authorization is consistent with Senate Bill No. 436 (Jackson) and Assembly Bill No. 606 (Williams) approved by the Governor on September 28, 2013.”

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**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

Staff recommends authorization to disburse up to \$2 million to the City of Port Hueneme (the City) for the purpose of placing a 2,200 linear foot emergency shoreline stabilization structure on Hueneme Beach to prevent imminent loss of a public road and other infrastructure. The shoreline stabilization structure will consist of either rock revetment or vertical sheet pile or a combination of both.

As can be seen in Exhibit 2, erosion of Hueneme Beach is severe. As a result, public infrastructure, including Surfside Drive, sidewalks, restrooms, and the Hueneme Beach parking lot are at risk of being severely damaged in the upcoming winter storm season. The erosion also threatens private structures, including 436 homes on the landward side of Surfside Drive, staging areas at the deep-water Port of Hueneme and the railroad. The City has formally declared the situation to be a local emergency.

The City seeks this grant pursuant to legislation enacted on September 28, 2013 (Assembly Bill 606 and Senate Bill 436) that appropriates a total of \$2 million to the Conservancy for a grant to the City for “emergency measures to prevent severe infrastructure damage to streets and property along the Hueneme Beach caused by beach erosion and flooding.” The appropriation provides that the funds may only be used for erosion control projects for which a permit has been approved by the California Coastal Commission. The City intends to build the proposed shoreline stabilization structure upon the Coastal Commission’s approval of one or more emergency coastal development permits for the structure. Thus, the proposed authorization will enable the Executive Officer to disburse up to \$2 million, but funds will be disbursed only for work for which the Coastal Commission has approved a permit.

How did the City end up in such a dire situation? In short, the problem stems from a lack of funding for beach nourishment by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Hueneme Beach is located immediately downcoast of the deep-water Port of Hueneme, which was constructed in 1939-40. The Port’s entry jetties form a nearly complete barrier to littoral sand transported alongshore. Hueneme Beach is entirely dependent upon the Channel Island Harbor (CIH) Sand Bypassing Project (Bypass Project), which the USACE has operated for approximately 50 years. The Bypass Project entails the collection of sand in a “sand trap” constructed in the CIH. Every other year, the USACE dredges the collected sand and targets placement of approximately 2.4 million cubic yards (cy) of the dredged sand on Hueneme Beach. However, due to federal funding limitations, in 2012 the USACE placed only 400,000 cy of sand on Hueneme Beach;

that sand was washed away over the course of several months. The net longshore sand transport rate of about 1.2 million cy per year (Herron & Harris, 1966) is resulting in significant erosion at Hueneme Beach which will continue until the next USACE dredge cycle, tentatively planned for the Fall of 2014. The City expects the USACE to place over 3 million cy of sand that has accumulated in the CIH sand trap on Hueneme Beach in 2014.

The objective of the proposed project is to provide “last-line-of-defense” shore protection of infrastructure. The City is currently investigating whether to place a rock revetment (which would be a continuation of the emergency 500-foot long revetment constructed in July and August 2013) or vertical sheet pile, or possibly a combination of both. The City’s intent is to place the stabilization structure as far landward as possible (i.e., aligned along the sidewalk edge) and below the natural beach berm elevation to allow for burial by sand when the USACE carries out the Bypass Project. Thus, in years when the USACE carries out the Bypass Project, the proposed stabilization structure would be buried by sand. The design of proposed project will incorporate use of rock from a remnant emergency revetment constructed by the USACE along Hueneme Beach in 1978. This reuse of rock was done for the earlier 2013 emergency revetment and serves to pull back the USACE rock landward.

As soon as the City obtains both this authorization and an emergency permit from the Coastal Commission, it will go out to bid. The goal is to have the stabilization structure in place before the first major winter storm event.

**Site Description:** As mentioned above, Hueneme Beach is located immediately downcoast of the entrance to Port Hueneme. The Port’s entry jetties interrupt the littoral transport and deposition of sand, so the beach is artificially maintained by the USACE through dredging from the CIH and placement of sand.

**Project History:** Hueneme Beach showed its vulnerability to erosion due to wave action in early 2013. (See photos in Exhibit 2.) By June 2013, the City had obtained emergency permits from the Coastal Commission to place 500 feet of rock revetment on the beach along Surfside Drive. The City paid for the rock revetment with its own funds. Alarmed at the rate of erosion, the City approached its State representatives seeking state funding for the needed shoreline stabilization structure. On September 28, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 436 (Jackson) and Assembly Bill 606 (Williams), as urgency measures that went into effect immediately. Conservancy staff was contacted by Senator Jackson’s staff as soon as the legislation was signed, and has been working with staff from the City to prepare for board authorization of the funds.

## PROJECT FINANCING

<b>Coastal Conservancy</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>Project Total</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>

The anticipated source of Conservancy funds is a 2013 emergency appropriation to the Conservancy pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (Proposition 12), Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5096.300, et seq. AB 606 and SB 436 each appropriates \$1 million to the Conservancy pursuant to Proposition 12

(in particular PRC § 5096.310(o)) for a grant to the City “for emergency measures to prevent severe infrastructure damage to streets and property located along the Hueneme Beach caused by beach erosion and flooding.” Proposition 12 makes funds available to the Conservancy for “parks and resources improvements.” PRC § 5096.310(o). These funds may be used by the Conservancy for projects that are consistent with the Conservancy’s enabling legislation and that are for “preservation, restoration, and enhancement of real property or an interest in real property in coastal areas and watersheds . . . and the development of public use facilities . . .” PRC § 5096.352. The proposed project will preserve Surfside Drive, which is an approximately 2,700-foot long, public road fronting Hueneme Beach that provides direct public access to the beach and ocean. The proposed project will also protect the Hueneme Beach parking lot, a sidewalk and restrooms, all of which facilitate public access to the beach. Thus, the proposed project protects real property and public use facilities in a coastal area. The proposed project is also consistent with the Conservancy’s enabling legislation as discussed below. Accordingly, the proposed project is an appropriate use of Proposition 12 funds.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S ENABLING LEGISLATION:**

The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 9 of the Conservancy’s enabling legislation, i.e., PRC § 31400-31409, regarding the provision of a system of public accessways. PRC § 31400.1 authorizes the Conservancy to award grants to public agencies to develop, operate or manage lands for public access purposes to and along the coast. Grants may be awarded to local agencies only if the Conservancy has first determined that the subject accessway will serve more than local public needs. The proposed authorization will enable the City to continue operating Surfside Drive and the Hueneme Beach parking lot for public access to Hueneme Beach. Surfside Drive is the primary ocean-fronting road along Hueneme Beach. It serves not only residents of the area but the many tourists and Port-related visitors that visit the City. Accordingly, Surfside Drive serves more than local public needs.

PRC § 31400.3 states “[t]he Conservancy may provide such assistance as is required to aid public agencies... in establishing a system of public coastal accessways, and related functions necessary to meet the objectives of this division.” By awarding a grant to the City to enable it to protect Surfside Drive, the Hueneme Beach parking lot, a sidewalk and restrooms, the Conservancy will be providing assistance that is necessary to enable the City to provide public access to the shoreline.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY’S 2013 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**

It is not necessary to consider the consistency of the proposed project with the goals and objectives of the Conservancy’s 2013-2018 Strategic Plan because the legislature appropriated \$2 million specifically for the proposed project.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:**

It is not necessary to consider the consistency of the proposed project with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines, last updated on November 10, 2011, because the legislature appropriated \$2 million specifically for the proposed project.

**COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:**

The proposed project is statutorily exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15269 (c), which exempts specific actions that are necessary to mitigate or prevent an emergency. The proposed project is necessary to prevent severe damage to Surfside Drive and other infrastructure, the damage of which would create an emergency situation. Upon approval, staff will file a Notice of Exemption.