



Caring for Our Coast

♦ ♦ ♦
Gary Jones
Director

Amy M. Caves
Chief Deputy Director

Carol Baker
Deputy Director

LaTayvius R. Alberty
Deputy Director

February 04, 2025

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF FIVE SEPTIC TANK SYSTEMS IN THE CITY OF MALIBU AND
UNINCORPORATED SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS COASTAL ZONE
(THIRD DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Beaches and Harbors is seeking Board of Supervisors (Board) approval to authorize the Director of the Internal Services Department, as the County's Purchasing Agent, to solicit and acquire repair and maintenance services for five beach septic systems at a total cost of approximately \$1,000,000.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, for the reasons stated in this Board letter and in the record of the proposed project.
2. Authorize the Director of the Internal Services Department, as the County's Purchasing Agent, to proceed with the acquisition of maintenance and repairs services to five septic systems along the Malibu coastline at a total estimated cost of \$1,000,000.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will find that the septic system repair and maintenance activities are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and allow the Director of the Internal Services Department to procure septic system repair and maintenance services on behalf of the Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH). DBH is responsible for operating and maintaining 18 septic systems that span 63 miles of coastline, from Royal Palms Beach in San

Pedro to Zuma Beach in Malibu, and serving thousands of beach goers annually. These systems have large septic tanks that can hold between 2,000 gallons and 15,000 gallons.

Currently, 11 of the 18 restrooms are closed due to various issues with the septic systems, ten of which are located along the Malibu coastline. Of the 11 locations that are currently closed, DBH has identified five locations that require critical maintenance and repairs.

Critical maintenance and repairs to septic systems include repairing the primary tanks, the recirculation tanks, and the dosing tanks. This includes replacing floats and pumps, rewiring electrical components inside the tanks, and ensuring connections are watertight. Other tasks include installing new PVC check valve relief and piping, adding new blenders and chemical pumps, setting up new UV lights and housings, upgrading computer motherboards and flow meters, and the cleaning of filters and screens.

Maintaining and repairing these septic systems is essential for the health and safety of beachgoers and to meet the clean water standards set by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. As such, the closure of public restrooms due to septic system issues constitutes an emergency in that it demands immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of essential public services. It is imperative that the septic system repair and maintenance services be procured so that the associated public restroom buildings can be reopened to support the extremely high numbers of visitors to Los Angeles County's beaches along the Malibu coastline.

Closure of the restrooms due to septic system issues creates a risk to public health, safety, and/or welfare. Although portable chemical toilets are deployed on a temporary basis, portable toilets must be serviced by vendors up to three times weekly and are more vulnerable to vandalism and potential overflows which can pose a public health risk and threaten water quality in the Santa Monica Bay. For these reasons, procurement of the septic repair and maintenance services is recommended to facilitate the reopening of beach restroom facilities.

Pursuant to County Policy, Board approval is required for any services where the cost is \$200,000 or greater annually.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The repair of the DBH's five aging septic systems will promote and further the County's Strategic Plan North Star 2, Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities in the Focus Area Goal of Public Health as well as Community Connections, and North Star 3, Realize Tomorrow's Government Today in the Focus Area Goal of Flexible and Efficient Infrastructure by ensuring the Department can continue to provide clean, safe, and sanitary conditions for the public's enjoyment at County-operated beaches.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total cost for repairing the identified septic systems along the Malibu coastline is currently estimated at \$1,000,000. These repairs will restore the existing non-operational septic tanks and allow the reopening of the associated restrooms. Any additional repair work will be funded through the existing DBH operational budget on an as-needed basis.

There is sufficient funding in DBH's Fiscal Year 2024-25 Final Adopted Budget to cover the total repairs requested. No additional Net County Cost (NCC) is required.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

This request complies with the maximum contracting authority set forth in Section 25502.5 of the California Government Code and approved by your Board on July 16, 2019. This Government Code Section and policy require that departments obtain Board approval to contract services, with or without the furnishing of material, when the annual aggregate cost exceeds \$200,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed action, to the extent that it is considered a "Project" under the CEQA laws, is exempt from CEQA.

The repair and maintenance services to the septic tank systems are categorically exempt from CEQA as they include no expansion in use, and are within a class of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which meets the criteria set forth in sections 15301(d) and 15302(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines ("Guidelines") and Classes 1 and 2 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G. In addition, there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemptions inapplicable based on the project records.

The proposed activities are also statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to section 21080(b) of the State Public Resources Code and section 15269(b) and (c) of the CEQA Guidelines because approval of repair and maintenance services for the septic tanks is necessary to prevent an emergency. The proposed activities would provide for emergency repairs to publicly owned facilities necessary to maintain services essential to the public health, safety, or welfare. The specific actions to repair the septic systems are necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency whereas the anticipated period of time to conduct an environmental review would create a risk to public health, safety, or welfare; are minor alterations to existing facilities; and replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involve negligible, or no expansion of capacity and the replacement systems will be located on the same site.

Upon the Board's approval of the recommended actions, DBH will file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk in accordance with section 21152 of the California Public Resources Code.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

The acquisition and purchase of these services is under the statutory authority of the County Purchasing Agent. The acquisition will be competitively solicited in accordance with the standard County Purchasing policies and procedures.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Your approval will ensure that the Department of Beaches and Harbors can continue to maintain County-owned or County managed beaches clean and safe with adequate restroom facilities available for public use.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, authorize the Executive Office of the Board to send an adopted copy of the

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

2/4/2025

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Board letter to the Department of Beaches and Harbors.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Jones", with a stylized flourish at the end.

GARY JONES

Director

GJ:PR:WRO:kd

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Internal Services Department