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Caring for Our Coast

♦ ♦ ♦
Gary Jones
Director

Amy M. Caves
Chief Deputy Director

LaTayvius R. Alberty
Deputy Director

Warren Ontiveros
Deputy Director

September 02, 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 SURFRIDER BEACH SEPTIC TANK SYSTEM IN THE CITY OF
MALIBU AND APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT
(THIRD DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) 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 the Surfrider Beach septic tank system in the City of Malibu at a total cost of approximately \$350,000; and approve the appropriation adjustment to fund the project.

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 repair services for the Surfrider Beach septic tank system in the City of Malibu at a total estimated cost of \$350,000.
3. Approve an appropriation adjustment in the amount of \$350,000 to DBH's annual allocations grant funding provided by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection, and Water Conservation Measure A of 2016 (Measure A) to fully fund the repair and maintenance of the Surfrider Beach septic tank system.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended action will find that the septic tank 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 tank 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. Surfrider Beach is one of DBH's most popular beaches, visited annually by thousands of surfers and beachgoers.

The Surfrider Beach restroom has been closed since February 2023 when the DBH began refurbishing the restroom facility using its Measure A) annual allocations grant funding provided by RPOSD. Construction was completed in September 2023. However, during initial testing of the septic system, it was discovered that the system required various costly repairs.

Critical maintenance and repairs to the septic system include repairing the primary tank, the recirculation tank, and the dosing tank. 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, ozone systems and flow meters, as well as cleaning of filters and screens.

Maintaining and repairing this septic system 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 the only public restroom available at this location constitutes an emergency due to septic system failure and requires 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 building can be reopened to support the extremely high numbers of visitors to Surfrider Beach.

Closure of the restroom 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 this beach restroom facility.

Pursuant to California Government Code ("Section 25502.5"), Board approval is required for any services where the cost is \$200,000 or greater annually.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The repair of Surfrider Beach's aging septic system 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 that DBH can continue to provide clean, safe, and sanitary conditions for the public's enjoyment at County-operated beaches.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The total project cost for repairing the septic tank system at Surfrider Beach is currently estimated at

\$350,000. The restrooms at Surfrider Beach were refurbished in 2023 using grant funding provided by RPOSD's annual Measure A allocations to DBH.

This project will be fully funded by DBH's annual Measure A allocations from RPOSD.

Approval of the appropriation adjustment (attached) will provide \$350,000 for the repair and maintenance of the Surfrider Beach septic tank system, offset with \$350,000 in grant revenue from RPOSD's Measure A to fully fund the proposed project.

These repairs will restore the existing non-operational septic tank system at Surfrider Beach and allow the reopening of the associated restroom. Following completion of the project, ongoing maintenance and operational costs will be funded within existing budgetary resources.

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 system is categorically exempt from CEQA as it includes no expansion in use, and is within a class of projects that has 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 activity is 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 system 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 action to repair the septic system is 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 system 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 this service 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 clean and safe County-operated beaches with adequate public restroom facilities.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, authorize the Executive Office of the Board to send an adopted copy of the Board letter to the Department of Beaches and Harbors.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Jones', with a stylized, cursive script.

GARY JONES

Director

GJ:WO:PR:kd

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