



Caring for Our Coast

♦ ♦ ♦  
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March 17, 2026

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 OF FIVE SEPTIC TANK SYSTEMS IN THE CITY OF MALIBU  
AND APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT  
(THIRD DISTRICT)  
(4 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 services for five septic tank systems serving DBH's public restrooms in the City of Malibu at a total cost of approximately \$1,300,000, and to approve the related 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 repair services to five septic tank systems serving DBH's public restrooms in the City of Malibu at a total estimated cost of \$1,300,000.
3. Approve an appropriation adjustment in the amount of \$300,000 to DBH's annual allocations from unbudgeted reimbursement revenue received for the Zuma 4, 5, 7 and Dan Blocker septic system repair project under the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Safe, Clean Neighborhood Park, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection and Water Conservation Measure A of 2016 (Measure A) Maintenance & Servicing Funds, to partially fund repairs to five

septic tank systems.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will find that the proposed septic system repair activities are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and allow the Director of the Internal Services Department to procure septic system repair services on behalf of 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. These systems have large septic tanks with capacities ranging from 2,000 gallons to 15,000 gallons.

Repairs to five of the 18 systems were funded in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25. DBH has identified the next group of five restrooms that require critical repair work to keep the septic systems functioning properly. Although the newly identified restrooms are currently open to the public, the aging infrastructure is in dire need of repairs to maintain the clean water standards set by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Critical maintenance and repairs to the septic systems include repairs to the primary, recirculation, and dosing tanks. This includes replacing floats and pumps, rewiring electrical components inside the tanks, and ensuring connections are watertight. Additional tasks include installing new PVC check valve relief and piping, adding new mixers 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. As such, the repair of septic systems within the public restrooms 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 services be procured so that the associated public restroom buildings can remain open to support the extreme volume 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, or welfare. Although portable chemical toilets can be 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 could pose a public health risk and threaten water quality in the Santa Monica Bay. For these reasons, procurement of the septic repair services is recommended to maintain the beach restroom facilities open and accessible to the public.

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 \$1,300,000. These repairs will restore the existing septic tank systems and allow the associated restrooms to remain open to the public.

The proposed services are partially funded with \$1 million from Fiscal Year 2024-25 departmental additional fund balance.

Approval of the appropriation adjustment (Attachment I) will reflect an increase of \$300,000 in services and supplies appropriation for the proposed services, fully offset by reimbursable revenues from DBH's RPOSD Measure A Maintenance & Servicing Funds to fully fund the proposed services.

Based on the proposed Project's description, DBH does not anticipate any one-time start-up or ongoing costs.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

This request complies with the maximum contracting authority set forth in Section 25502.5 of the California Government Code, as implemented by Board policy and approved by your Board on July 16, 2019. That section limits the purchasing agent's delegated authority to service contracts with an annual aggregate cost of \$200,000 or less; therefore, Board approval is required for service contracts exceeding that amount.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

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

The repair 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 services for the septic tanks is necessary to prevent an emergency. The proposed activities would provide for 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 DBH 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 Board letter to the Department of Beaches and Harbors.

Respectfully submitted,



GARY JONES

Director

GJ:PR:kd

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