

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 27, 2025

To: Emiko Innes
County of Los Angeles, Department of Beaches & Harbors

From: Greg Hearon, P.E.
Coastal Frontiers Corporation

Subject: LACDBH Regional Coastal Strategic Adaptation Plan
Stakeholder Workshop #2 Summary

CFC Project: 1240

The Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors (LACDBH) is leading an initiative to advance regional coastal resiliency by building a coalition of stakeholders, establishing a shoreline monitoring program, and developing a Regional Coastal Strategic Adaptation Plan (RCSAP). Four stakeholder workshops are planned as part of the coalition building effort. This memorandum summarizes the outcome of Stakeholder Workshop #2.

1. Introduction and Overview

Stakeholder Workshop #2 convened on October 20, 2025 at the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant Environmental Learning Center (ELC) in Playa del Rey, CA. A virtual (Zoom) option also was provided. The focus of Workshop #2 was to introduce the RCSAP project and the LA County Coalition to a broad group of stakeholders. In addition, background information on the history and current state of LA County beaches was provided, along with an overview of the economic importance of beaches. Two question and answer sessions were included to facilitate stakeholder input. The agenda for Workshop #2 is provided below:

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
2. Introduction
3. LA County Beaches Overview
4. Economic Importance of Beaches
 - *Q&A Session*

5. RCSAP Overview
6. LA County Coalition Structure
7. Examples of Projects
8. Shoreline Monitoring Program
 - Q&A Session
9. Next Steps

Workshop participation included a broad array of stakeholders, including representatives of the County, coastal cities, and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, community groups, NGO's, agency staff, academia, environmental and coastal zone professionals, and interested community members. While the majority of the participants were LA County entities or residents, several participants from neighboring counties also were in attendance.

Registration for the workshop exceeded 130 persons. A total of 97 people attended the workshop, consisting of 51 in-person participants and 46 virtual participants. A roster of registrants was compiled and will be used to facilitate future outreach. Attendees included representatives from the cities of Malibu, Los Angeles, El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, and Torrance as well as representatives from Los Angeles County and California State Parks. Representatives from the City of Santa Monica were invited although they were not present. The consultant team assisting the LACDBH consisted of representatives from Coastal Frontiers Corporation, Summit Environmental, CETO, and Moffatt and Nichol.

A welcome and opening remarks were provided by Gary Jones, Director of LACDBH. Supervisor Lindsey Horvath (LA County 3rd District) provided an additional welcome message via recorded video. An overview of the workshop was provided by Emiko Innes, LACDBH Planner for the Coastal Resiliency Section. The remainder of this memo summarizes main agenda items: The slide deck presented at the workshop accompanies this memorandum.

2. LA County Beaches Overview

An overview of LA County Beaches was provided to lend context for the RCSAP. The presentation included a review of coastal processes, including waves, water levels, and sediment budget components (sand sources, sinks, and transport paths). The evolution of LA County beaches and the history of coastal development over the last century was summarized. An overview of recent beach widths and shoreline change trends was provided. Salient details are provided below:

Coastal Processes

- **Waves:** The southern California wave climate is complex, with the occurrence of local seas and swell approaching from multiple directions. Sheltering from Point Conception and numerous offshore islands create various swell windows and shadow zones that significantly influence transformation of waves from deep water to the coastline. In general, the winter season is dominated by northerly swell produced by North Pacific storms. The summer season is typically characterized by southerly swell. Interannual and decadal weather patterns such as El Niño–Southern Oscillation and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation can modify the wave climate on like time scales.
- **Water Levels:** The occurrence of high astronomical tides (e.g., “King Tides”) and large storm waves can produce coastal flooding and expose infrastructure to storm damage under current sea level conditions. The vulnerability to flooding and storm damage is expected to increase with rising sea levels (projected to increase by 0.5 to 1.2 ft by 2050). Rising sea levels also will effectively reduce beach widths, reducing protective capacity and recreational opportunities.
- **Sediment Budget Components:** Sediment Sources (inputs), Sediment Sink (losses), and Sediment Transport Paths (how sand moves). The Santa Monica Littoral Cell has limited natural sediment sources, consisting primarily of fluvial contributions from small creeks and streams in the Santa Monica Mountains and modest contributions from bluff erosion in the Malibu area. At the northern end of the Cell, nearly all of the sand migrating down coast from the Santa Barbara Littoral Cell is lost to Mugu Submarine Canyon before it reaches LA County Beaches. During the last century, the primary source of sand has been artificial beach nourishment. The primary sediment sinks in the Cell consist of losses to Pt Dume Canyon and Redondo Canyon. Sediment tends to move from north to south over the course of a year. The exception is south of King Harbor, where sand tends to move from south the north.

History of LA County Beaches

The beaches in the central and southern portions of Santa Monica Bay have been substantially altered by coastal structures and beach nourishment during the past century. Numerous sediment blocking structures were built along the coast for the purposes of retaining sand (e.g., Will Rogers Beach groins) or creating harbors (e.g., Santa Monica Breakwater, Marina del Rey, and King Harbor). These structures effectively compartmentalize the shoreline, reducing the rate of alongshore transport and the loss of sediment down Redondo Canyon. During the same time frame, nearly 32 million cy of sand were placed on the beach. Most of the material was opportunistic, derived from

projects whose primary purpose was not beach restoration (e.g., Hyperion and Marina del Rey Harbor). The added sand increased beach widths by 150 to 500 ft. The combined effect of coastal structures and sand nourishment has been the creation of wide, stable beaches in a formally sediment-starved region.

Recent Beach Conditions

Recent beach conditions were summarized in terms of beach width and shoreline change trends. Beach widths were derived from a 2016 LiDAR survey, while trends were developed from CoastSat (satellite derived) for the period 1983 to 2021.

- **Beach Widths:** Beach widths vary substantially along the LA County coastline. The narrowest beaches (< 100 ft) are concentrated in the Malibu area. The widest beaches (> 300 ft) tend to occur in the Santa Monica and South Bay region.
- **Shoreline Change Trends:** The Malibu region is generally characterized by a mix of stable and eroding beaches. The stretch from Santa Monica to Torrance Beach generally consists of stable or accreting beaches. The primary exception is the Dockweiler region, where erosion predominated during the 1983-2021 period.

3. Economic Importance of Beach

Beaches are a major economic driver for the LA County region, with about 27 million visits per year and spending of about \$2 billion per year. Local sales tax and transient occupancy tax each account for about \$50 million each year totaling \$100 million. LA County beaches are the most visited beaches in the state.

Economics can help understand the value of a project alternative, guide decisions to maximize public benefit, and ultimately justify investment. Economic benefits are derived from a variety of sources, including: Tourism Revenue; Recreation; Public Health, Existence; Property Value; Storm Damage Reduction; Ecological Value, and Employment.

Economists will perform a high-level evaluation of the economic impact of beach loss in LA County as part of the RCSAP. The assessment will focus on factors including changes in attendance, towel space, access, and amenities. The results will provide planners information necessary to identify the most vulnerable beaches in the region.

4. RCSAP Overview

The RCSAP is funded by a grant provided by the California Ocean Protection Council. The initiative seeks to advance regional coastal resiliency by building a coalition of

stakeholders, establishing a shoreline monitoring program, and developing a Regional Coastal Strategic Adaptation Plan (RCSAP).

The RCSAP is intended to be a regional, collaborative Strategic Plan which guides and advances implementation of regional shoreline management projects, programs and activities to address eroding beaches in LA County. Development of the RCSAP will be driven by an iterative process informed by stakeholder input and feedback through meetings, workshops, online surveys, and review of draft RCSAP materials.

The project goals and objectives are summarized below:

1. Develop a Regional Coastal Coalition
 - Conduct regional planning and decision-making
 - Coordinate shoreline management activities
2. Conduct Shoreline Monitoring
 - Create a sustainable and quantitative database of shorezone changes
 - Establish baseline for project prioritization and performance evaluation
3. Prepare the RCSAP
 - Identify and prioritize projects
 - Funding strategy

The overall RCSAP schedule spans two years. Major milestones are summarized below:

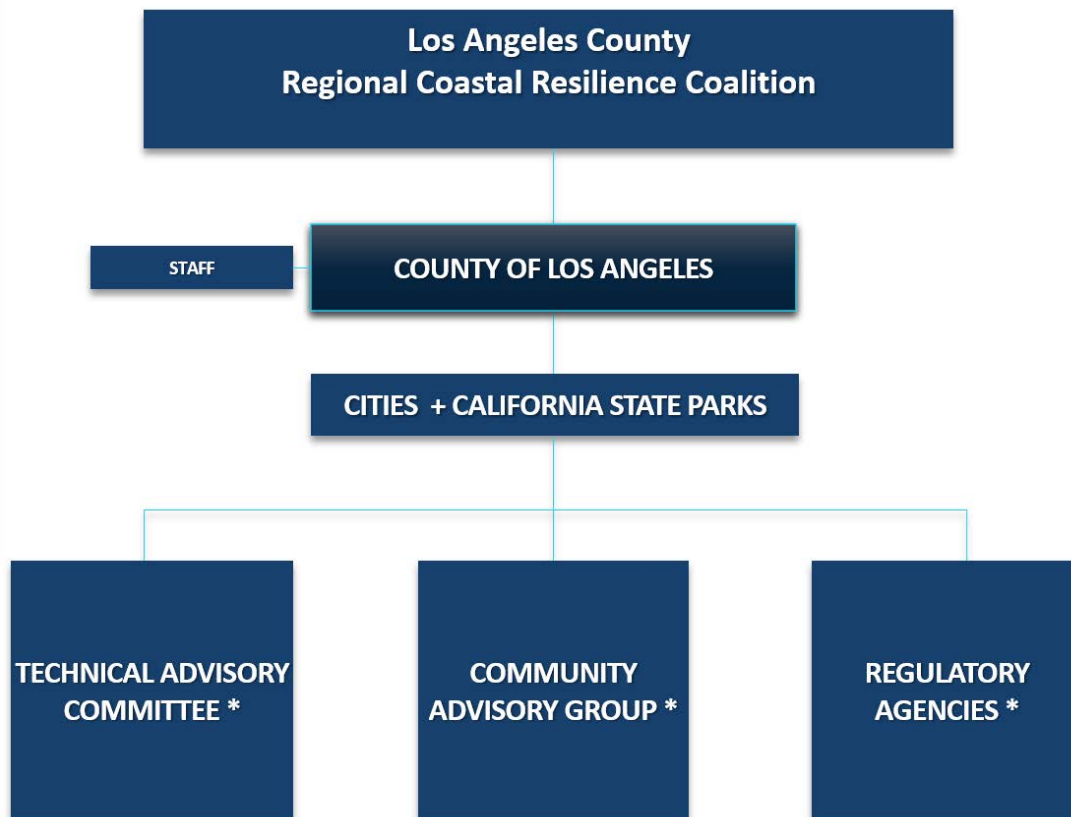


5. LA County Coalition Structure

The LA County Regional Coastal Resilience Coalition (name to be determined) will be led by the County of Los Angeles. Member agencies (those responsible for beach management and maintenance) will consist of coastal cities and California State Parks. The coalition will include a Technical Advisory Committee, a Community Advisor Group, and Regulatory Agencies. The primary objectives of the coalition are summarized below:

- Encourage regional coastal management.
- Leverage regional approach to grant funding.

- Create efficiencies and economies of scale for coastal projects.
- Promote regional collaboration.



6. Examples of Projects

Current practices, projects currently in development and potential regional projects to be considered in the course of developing the RCSAP were discussed. The example projects are summarized below:

- Current Practices:
 - Dune Restoration
 - Winter Berms
 - Marina del Rey Sediment Management.
- Projects in Development:
 - SCOUP (Sand Compatibility and Opportunistic Use Program)
 - Offshore Sand Source Investigation
 - Living Shoreline Projects: Zuma, Dockweiler, Redondo

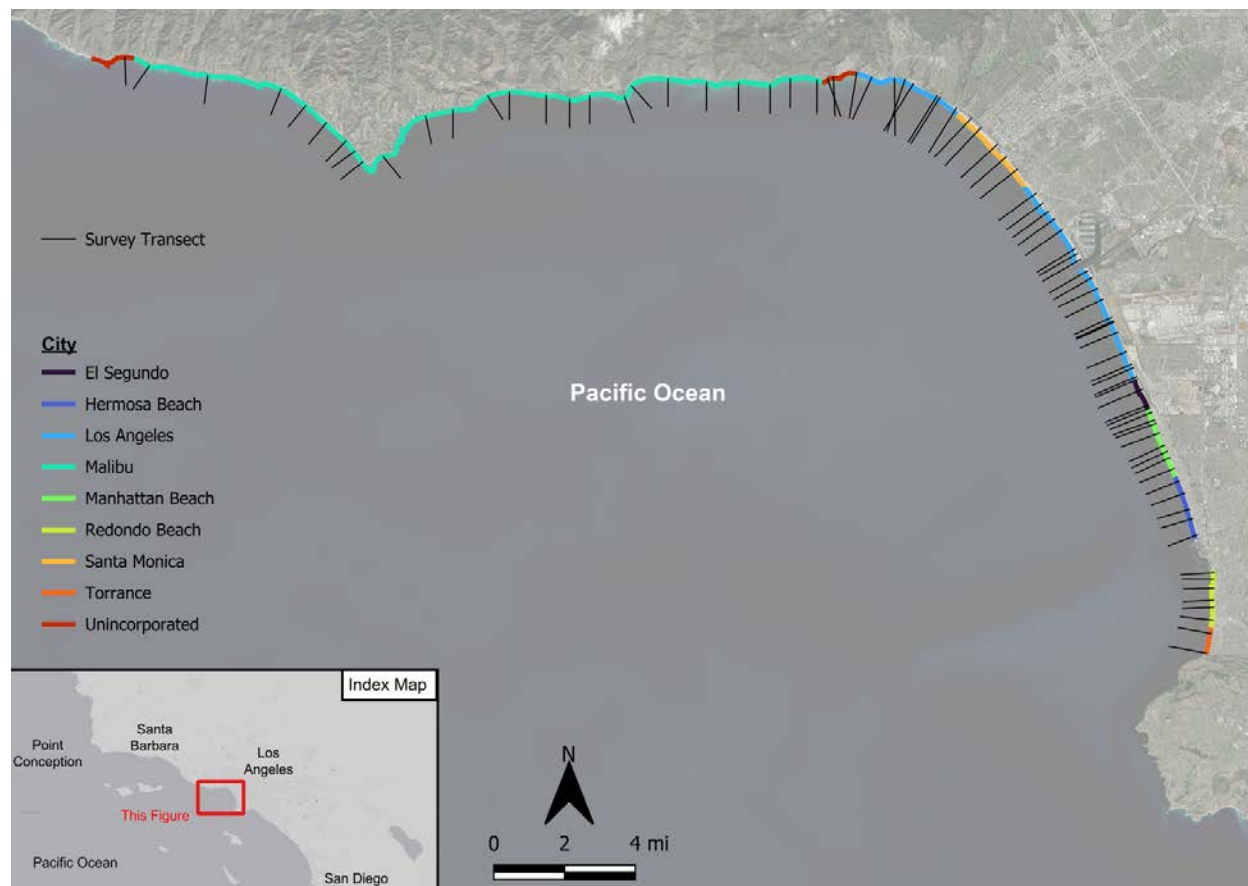
- Potential Regional Projects
 - Dune Restoration and Enhancement
 - Regional Beach Nourishment
 - Expanded SCOUP
 - Managed Sand Bypassing / Backpassing
 - Sand Retention Structure Inventory / Evaluation
 - Coastal Studies
 - Sediment Transport
 - Shoreline Monitoring
 - Socio-Economic
 - Structure Inventory / Assessment
 - Surfing Resources
 - Habitat Inventory

7. Shoreline Monitoring Program

The LACDBH RCSAP effort includes initial grant funding to establish a one-year regional shoreline monitoring program comparable to those conducted in the San Diego, Orange County and Ventura County. The intent is to create a sustainable program that will continue beyond the grant period if additional funding is procured.

The new regional beach profile survey program will fill a historical 20-year data gap and provide current information. The general objective of the program is to build a sustainable database of nearshore beach changes in LA County between Leo Carrillo State Beach and Redondo Beach, thereby providing a basis for evaluating the impacts of natural events (e.g., El Niño conditions or sea level rise) and human intervention (e.g., beach nourishment). The data will inform decision makers on shoreline conditions, support the technical basis of grant applications, and provide the foundation for post-project monitoring.

The monitoring program will build upon comparable beach profile data obtained by multiple agencies dating back to 1935. The program re-occupies 85 historical beach profile transects. Selection of transects prioritized sites with an extended historical record, that provide coverage for proposed projects, and that provide sufficient spatial coverage in each jurisdiction to evaluate shoreline conditions on a sub-reach basis.



8. Next Steps

The overall RCSAP schedule spans two years as summarized in Section 5. Workshop #3 will be conducted in Spring 2026. Proposed topics will include an update on the RCSAP and a summary of LACDBH resiliency efforts. The second beach profile survey is scheduled for Spring 2026.

9. Post-Workshop Materials

The following information and documents accompany this memorandum as separate files:

- Workshop #2 Presentation
- Stakeholder Engagement Survey #3 (Post-Workshop #2)