

# MEMORANDUM

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Date: **May 12, 2026**

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

From: **Greg Hearon, P.E.**  
Principal, Coastal Frontiers

Subject: **LACDBH Regional Coastal Strategic Adaptation Plan**  
Stakeholder Workshop #3 Summary

CFC Project: 1240

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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 #3.

## 1. Introduction and Overview

Stakeholder Workshop #3 convened on May 4, 2026 at the Dockweiler Youth Center in Playa del Rey, CA. A virtual (Zoom) option also was provided. The objectives of Workshop #3 were to provide updates on the coalition structure, introduce current collaboration with partners, review current and potential projects, convey preliminary findings from the Regional Shoreline Monitoring Program, and present the economic screening tool developed for the RCSAP. Four question and answer sessions were included to facilitate stakeholder input. The agenda for Workshop #3 is provided below:

1. Introduction
2. RCSAP Goals and Objectives
3. Coalition Update
4. Collaboration with Partners
  - *Q&A Session*

5. Current and Potential Projects
  - Q&A Session
6. Shoreline Monitoring Potential Projects
  - Q&A Session
7. Economic Screening Tool
  - Q&A Session
8. Next Steps/Action Items

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 was 99 persons. A total of 74 people attended, consisting of 28 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, Santa Monica, Hermosa Beach, Redondo Beach, and Torrance as well as representatives from Los Angeles County and California State Parks. The consultant team assisting the LACDBH consisted of representatives from Coastal Frontiers, Summit Environmental, CETO, and Moffatt & Nichol.

The workshop was led by Emiko Innes, LACDBH Planner for the Coastal Resiliency Section. Ms. Innes provided opening remarks, introductions, and summarized the goals and objectives for the RCSAP. The remainder of this document summarizes main agenda items. The slide deck presented at the workshop accompanies this memorandum.

## 2. Coalition Update

The coalition name was revealed – *Our Coast LA*. Two new member agencies were announced, consisting of Caltrans and the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). Member agency updates included the following:

- LA County – Sand Compatibility and Opportunistic Use Program (SCOUP) estimated completion in June 2026.
- City of Malibu – Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment finalized.
- City of Santa Monica – Santa Monica Dunes Phase III initiated.
- City of Hermosa Beach - Hermosa Beach Vulnerability Assessment and Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan in progress.

The role of the Technical Advisory Committee was described and the eight experts comprising the committee were identified. The committee includes expertise from the fields of coastal engineering, coastal policy, beach ecology, sediment management, and project implementation.

### 3. Collaboration with Partners

Four current or planned collaborations with partners in the LA County region were summarized:

Project	Partner	Status
CoSMoS-Adapt	UC Santa Cruz	LA County coast is one of the study areas; Pending Grant Funding
Beach Ecology Certification Program	Beach Ecology Coalition	“Beach Ecology Basics” certification course: Basic, scientifically accurate information useful for anyone who works, plays, or lives on a beach
Dune Restoration Events	Bay Foundation	Volunteer opportunities to help dunes grow and maintain coastal habitats
CoastSnap Program	USC Sea Grant	A global citizen science project to capture changing coastlines over time. CoastSnap sites coming to Pt Dume, Malibu Surfrider, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach

### 4. Current and Potential Projects

Current practices, projects currently in development, and potential regional projects to be considered in the course of developing the RCSAP were discussed. A GIS database is under development to document historical beach nourishment projects. In addition, a database is being developed to chronicle current projects – recently completed, ongoing, those in the planning/concept phase, and proposed new projects. This database was informed by stakeholder input. Project types include dune restoration, living shorelines, shore protection structures, erosion mitigation, sediment management, harbor dredging and winter berm construction.

Projects currently in development by both LA County and member agencies were described. These included the following:

- SCOUP (Sand Compatibility and Opportunistic Use Program)
- County-led Living Shoreline Projects:
  - Zuma Beach and Point Dume
  - Dockweiler State Beach
  - Redondo Beach
- Other Nature-Based Shoreline Projects:
  - Adamson House Nature-based Shoreline Protection

- Playa-Dockweiler Dune Restoration Project
- Santa Monica Beach Dunes Expansion
- Topanga Lagoon Restoration/Living Shoreline
- Current Practices
  - Winter Berms
  - Marina del Rey Bypassing
  - King Harbor Dredging

Potential regional coastal resilience projects and studies were summarized. Those included in the RCSAP will be informed by stakeholders. These projects and studies included the following:

- Dune Restoration and Enhancement
- Offshore San Source Investigation
- 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

## **5. Regional Shoreline Monitoring Program Update**

The RCSAP effort includes initial grant funding to establish a one-year regional shoreline monitoring program. The data will inform decision makers on current shoreline conditions and shorezone trends, support the technical basis of grant applications, and provide the foundation for post-project monitoring. An update on the program was provided during Workshop #3.

The general objective of the Regional Shoreline Monitoring Program (“The Program”) is to develop a regional database of shorezone conditions across 13 designated reaches. The study area encompasses the Los Angeles County coastline from Leo Carrillo State Beach to Torrance Beach, focusing on the interconnected littoral dynamics of the Malibu and Santa Monica Bay sectors. The data derived from the Program provide 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 and coastal structures).

The Program builds upon comparable beach profile data obtained by multiple agencies dating back to 1935. While 437 previously established transects were available for reoccupation, a strategically thinned network of 85 representative transects was selected for the current Program to prioritize sites with (1) an extended historical record and (2) coverage at proposed project locations. This optimization was performed in an effort to establish a sustainable cost structure that facilitates consistent, annual data collection over the long term beyond the current grant period. By integrating representative beach profile data from the Fall 2025 (Pre-Winter) and Spring 2026 (Post-Winter) surveys with select historical surveys dating back to 1935, the study evaluates recent and long-term fluctuations in beach conditions. LACDBH solicited feedback from the local jurisdictions prior to finalizing the transect locations.

Preliminary findings based on the Fall 2025 survey were conveyed as a preview to the information that will be included in the Shoreline Monitoring Annual Report. Current beach widths were discussed in context of historical conditions. Long-term shoreline evolution was summarized. The findings are summarized below:

Reach	MHW Beach Width Sept. 2025	Beach Width Change		Trend 1997-2025
		1935-2025	1997-2025	
West Malibu	45 ft	-	-40 ft	-1.7 ft/yr
Zuma	162 ft	-	-56 ft	-1.8 ft/yr
Central Malibu	59 ft	-	-23 ft	-0.9 ft/yr
East Malibu	141 ft	-	-2 ft	-1.0 ft/yr
Topanga	96 ft	-	-39 ft	-1.1 ft/yr
Will Rogers	164 ft	+ 128	-73 ft	-1.9 ft/yr
N. Santa Monica	587 ft	+ 478	+25 ft	+0.6 ft/yr
S. Santa Monica	714 ft	+ 581	+88 ft	+3.6 ft/yr
Venice	648 ft	+ 607	+71 ft	+3.3 ft/yr
Dockweiler Beach	384 ft	+ 451	-45 ft	-0.9 ft/yr
Manhattan/Hermosa	389 ft	+ 249	-14 ft	0.0 ft/yr
Redondo Cyn	121 ft	+ 39	-26 ft	-0.8 ft/yr
S. Redondo	187 ft	+ 128	-5 ft	0.0 ft/yr

## 6. Economic Screening Tool

Dr. Phil King and Dr. Kiki Patsch of Ceto Consulting provided an overview of an Economic Screening tool developed for the RCSAP. The tool provides a high-level evaluation to target beaches where coastal residence projects may provide public benefit. It identifies where intervention may prevent loss of benefits and where proactive investment may enhance value.

Current beach widths and shoreline change trends form the foundation of the screening tool. This information was used to develop recreational beach areas for present day and in the year 2050. Shoreline retreat attributable to projected sea level rise also was incorporated. Three potential benefit categories were evaluated based on the beach information:

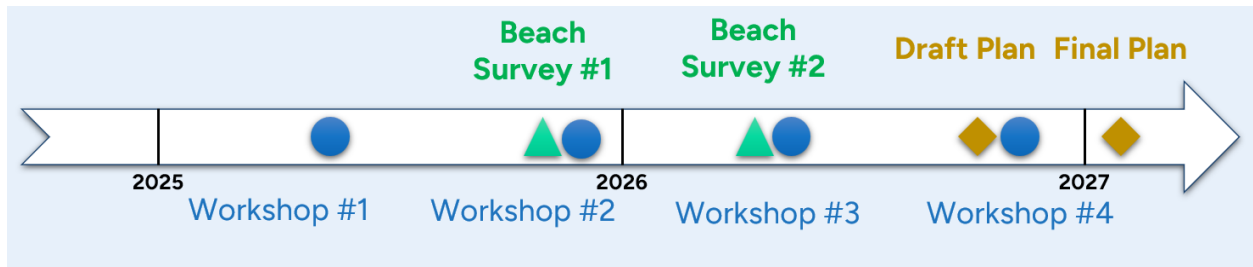
- Recreation Value: Evaluated based on annual visitation and vulnerability to recreational loss. Annual visitation was estimated using a four-year average (2021–2024) of anonymized mobile device–derived visitation data. Vulnerability to recreational loss was assessed by comparing beach carrying capacity, defined as the amount of usable dry-sand beach (“towel space”), to observed and projected visitation levels.
- Ecological Values: Assessed based on the potential for habitat supporting threatened and endangered species (TES), with a focus on Western snowy plover habitat using a published assessment prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Habitat risk due to erosion was evaluated to identify sites where projected loss of sandy beach area overlaps with habitat importance. In addition, habitat enhancement and dune restoration that may provide ecological benefits regardless of erosion risk also were identified.
- Storm Damage Protection: First-order storm protection benefits were assessed using the U.S. Geological Survey Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) to identify areas of inundation along the Los Angeles County coastline under a 25 cm (0.8 ft) sea-level rise scenario with annual storms.

When considered together, the three benefit categories highlight distinct roles that different beaches may play in future resilience investments. Most Los Angeles County beaches do not exhibit overlapping vulnerabilities. Instead, the results identify a smaller subset of beaches where two or more benefit categories intersect. The findings are summarized below:

Recreation-driven	Ecology-driven	Public Asset-driven	Multi-Criteria Sites
Redondo Beach (North)	Dockweiler Beach	Will Rogers State Beach	Westward Beach
Point Dume	Hermosa Beach	Surfrider	Zuma Beach
Las Tunas Beach	Manhattan Beach	Westward Beach	Will Rogers State Beach
Lechuza Beach	Santa Monica Beach	Zuma Beach	
Broad Beach	Surfrider/Malibu Lagoon		

## 7. Next Steps

The overall RCSAP schedule spans two years and is summarized below:



Upcoming activities and milestones are shown below:

- Continue partnership building with communities
- Finalize Shoreline Monitoring Program funding strategy
- Prepare Shoreline Monitoring report: August 2026
- Prepare Draft RCSAP: October 2026
- Conduct Next Public Workshop: November 2026

## 8. Post-Workshop Materials

The slide deck shared at the Workshop accompanies this memorandum as separate file.