



Staff Report

TO: Board of Harbor Commissioners

FROM: John Moren, Director of Operations

THRU: James B. Pruet, General Manager

DATE: February 19, 2025

SUBJECT: Surfers Beach Restoration Pilot Project – Progress Update and Proposal for Project Management, Environmental Compliance, Biological Survey, and Surfing Conditions Monitoring

Recommended Motion:

Motion: Approve the proposal for \$430,868 from consultant Brad Damitz and subconsultants MTS, Coastal Futures, and Wood Biological Consulting for the Surfers Beach Restoration Pilot Project, environmental compliance, project management, biological survey and monitoring, and approve an increase in Capital Expenditure Appropriations of \$430,868 to be funded by available working capital and grant funds.

Policy Implications:

Consistent with the District's goal to use excess sediment build-up from within the Harbor for beneficial re-use on Surfers Beach.

Background:

Construction for the Surfers Beach Restoration Pilot Project (Project) is being planned for a spring/summer 2025 timeframe. Permits have been approved by California Coastal Commission, SF Regional Water Quality Control Board, National Marine Sanctuaries, Army Corps of Engineers, and Caltrans. The Project design/engineering team at ESA is finalizing Project plans and Technical Specifications and consultants Brad Damitz, ESA, and District staff are readying bid documents for release this month.

The Project is being led by the San Mateo County Harbor District (District) and planning has been underway since 2017. The project area is located inside and adjacent to Pillar Point Harbor. The overall goal for the proposed Project is to address the significantly accelerated coastal erosion rates that have occurred on the beaches adjacent to the Harbor due to the construction of the East Breakwater approximately 60 years ago and address the severe shoaling that has occurred inside the Harbor since the outer breakwaters were constructed.

The project involves dredging up to 100,000-cubic yards of clean sand along the Harbor's East Breakwater and near the Boat Launch Ramps and using that sand to restore a previously existing beach through construction of an elevated berm along a ~1,000-foot-long section of shoreline at Surfers Beach. The project also will mitigate for

current and future damages to eelgrass by creating new eelgrass habitat and relocating eelgrass within the harbor to improve conditions for fish and wildlife species.

The District recently was approved for a \$2,956,250 SB 1 Track 2 grant from Ocean Protection Council (OPC). The District received and submitted fourteen letters of support for the grant from elected officials, agencies, local municipalities, and NGOs. The Board of Harbor Commissioners passed a resolution on 11/20/2024 approving the funding. The District is currently coordinating with OPC to finalize the Grant Agreement.

A detailed Surfers Beach project description along with download links for various project planning documents, including recent planning and permitting status updates, is available on the District's Surfers Beach project webpage at <https://www.smharbor.com/surfers-beach-pilot-restoration-project>.

The attached proposal from consultant Brad Damitz to continue to assist the San Mateo County Harbor District (District) with Project Management and Environmental Compliance for the Surfers Beach Restoration Pilot Project (Project) and the Pillar Point Harbor-Wide Eelgrass Mitigation Program (eelgrass mitigation) over the next 5.5 years. This includes pre-construction planning and logistics, and the construction and 5-year maintenance and monitoring phases of the Project. In addition to consultant Brad Damitz, this proposal also includes subconsultants Marine Taxonomic Services, Ltd., Wood Biological Consulting, and Coastal Futures, LLC to complete biological and surfing conditions monitoring tasks, as required by permit conditions for the Project. The total cost in the proposal, including a 10% contingency, is \$430,868. Grant funds from the District's Ocean Protection Council SB 1, Track 2 grant have been approved for up to \$73,000 of the proposed work to be completed by Damitz for the pre-construction and construction phases of the Project (Phase 1 and 2). The proposal includes a detailed scope of work and cost breakdown for Damitz and subconsultants.

Damitz has worked as a consultant for the District on the planning of the Surfers Beach Restoration Pilot Project since 2017. His project management work has included all aspects of project planning, permitting and CEQA environmental review. He has coordinated with District staff and the ESA engineering and design team to bring the project from an initial concept to a well-designed and comprehensive project with final plans completed and bid documents prepared.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the proposal for \$430,868, including a 10% contingency, to continue project management and permitting and environmental compliance tasks necessary to complete the construction bid process and prepare for construction. Approve an increase in Capital Expenditure Appropriations of \$430,868 to be funded by available working capital and grant funds.

Attachments:

- 1) [Proposal from Consultant Damitz and Subconsultants](#)
- 2) [Pillar Point Harbor-wide Eelgrass Mitigation and Monitoring Plan](#)