



# CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH WATER QUALITY/COASTAL TIDELANDS COMMITTEE AGENDA

Crystal Cove room (Bay 2D)

Thursday, January 8, 2026 - 3:00 PM

## ***Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee Members:***

**Councilmember Michelle Barto, Chair**  
**Mayor Joe Stapleton, Vice Chair**  
**Curtis Black, Member**  
**Charles Fancher, Member**  
**Craig Hudson, Member**  
**Sharon Ray, Member**  
**John Wadsworth, Member**  
**Vacant, Member**  
**Vacant, Member**

## **Staff Members:**

**Jim Houlihan, Deputy Public Works Director/City Engineer**  
**Chris Miller, Administrative Manager**  
**Karen Gallagher, Administrative Assistant**

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The Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee meeting is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act. Among other things, the Brown Act requires that the Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee agenda be posted at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of each regular meeting and that the public be allowed to comment on agenda items before the Committee and items not on the agenda but are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee. The Chair may limit public comments to a reasonable amount of time, generally three (3) minutes per person.

The City of Newport Beach's goal is to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, we will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact John Kappeler, Water Quality Enforcement Manager, at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible at (949) 644-3218 or [jkappeler@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:jkappeler@newportbeachca.gov).

## **NOTICE REGARDING PRESENTATIONS REQUIRING USE OF CITY EQUIPMENT**

Any presentation requiring the use of the City of Newport Beach's equipment must be submitted to the Public Works Department 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

- 1) **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2) **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 3) **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS (10 min)**  
*Public comments are invited on agenda items. Speakers must limit comments to five minutes. Before speaking, we invite, but do not require, you to state your name for the record. The Committee has the discretion to extend or shorten the speakers' time limit on agenda items, provided the time limit adjustment is applied equally to all speakers. As a courtesy, please turn cell phones off or set them in silent mode.*
- 4) **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES (5 min)**  
  
[WQCT Draft Minutes 11/06/2025](#)
- 5) **CURRENT BUSINESS (60 min)**



(a) Coastal Quest (Tegan Hoffman) (10 min) Proposition 4 grant application opportunities.

Recommendation: Committee Discussion

(b) Restoration Planning (Heather Clayton) (25 min) Presentation on detailed concepts for proposed restoration projects for North Star Beach and Irvine Avenue (Upper Flathead).

Recommendation: Committee discussion on moving forward with grant applications.

(c) Beyond Plastics (Susan Keefe) (25 min) Presentation on a proposed trash awareness campaign strategy.

Recommendation: Committee Discussion

6) **COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS OR MATTERS WHICH MEMBERS WOULD LIKE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION OR REPORT (NON-DISCUSSION ITEM) (10 min)**

(a) Prado Dam sand mining (February 2026 - Lisa Haney)

(b) Lower Harbor Dredging status report (February 2026 - Chris Miller)

(c) Lower Harbor Eelgrass Plan (March 2026 - Chris Miller)

(d) Vector problem areas in Newport Beach (Spring 2026 - Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District)

(e) Status of trash source identification in Santa Ana River (Spring 2026 - John Wadsworth)

(f) Big Canyon Phase 3 Restoration Site Tour (June 2026 - Andy Tran)

(g) Ocean Beach Sand Renourishment plans, efforts, status - (May 2026, Chris Miller)

(h) Santa Isabella Restoration Grant Application (Summer 2026 - Heather Cieslak)

(i) Pumpout maintenance update (Summer 2026 - Chris Miller)

(j) Santa Ana River trash mitigation (Winter 2026 - TBD)

(k) Draft copper Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) (Winter 2026 - TBD)

(l) Newport Bay Trash Interceptor - Trash Characterization (Spring 2026 - Ellis Peterson)

7) **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (5 min)**

*Public comments are invited on non-agenda items generally considered to be within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee. Speakers must limit comments to three minutes. Before speaking, we invite, but do not require, you to state your name for the record. The Committee has the discretion to extend or shorten the speakers' time limit on non-agenda items, provided the time limit adjustment is applied equally to all speakers. As a courtesy, please turn cell phones off or set them in silent mode.*



8) **SET NEXT MEETING DATE (5 min)**

*Recommendation: February 5, 2026*



**Date:** November 6, 2025

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Crystal Cove Conference Room, Newport Beach Civic Center

**Meeting Minutes prepared by:**

**1. Call meeting to order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call and Introductions**

**Committee Members Present:**

Councilmember/Chair Michelle Barto

Committee Member Peter Belden

Committee Member Charles Fancher

Committee Member Craig Hudson

Committee Member Sharon Ray

Committee Member John Wadsworth

**Committee Members Absent:**

Mayor/Vice Chair Joe Stapleton

Committee Member Curtis Black

Committee Member George Robertson

**Staff Present:** Karen Gallagher, Administrative Assistant  
Jim Houlihan, Deputy Public Works Director  
John Kappeler, Senior Engineer  
Bob Stein, Assistant City Engineer  
Kayla Nyberg, Management Analyst  
Chris Miller, Administrative Manager

**Guests Present:** Nancy Gardner, Orange Coast River Park  
Nancy Scarbrough, SPON  
Nancy Skinner, SPON  
Dennis Baker, SPON  
Shelly Anghera, Moffatt & Nichol

**3. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

None.

**4. Review and approval of minutes**

**Recommendation: Approve minutes as presented**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Committee Member Fancher to approve the October 2, 2025, minutes as presented, seconded by Committee Member Ray. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Current Business**

- a. Committee Goals/Objectives Sub-Committee Final Reports (Committee Members)  
Final reports/presentations from each subcommittee.

**Recommendation: Committee Discussion**



Assistant City Engineer Bob Stein reported that there are 13 potential goal recommendations, adding that the initial target was to have three beach protection projects, three Santa Ana River trash reduction projects, and three restoration projects. He noted that this leaves four more potential projects than the original goal and encouraged the Committee to consider them within a context of whether there can be meaningful progress in two years, if there is possible grant funding, who the Committee Member lead would be, and if a feasibility study can be completed. He recommended that each Committee Member vote for nine of the 13 options and assess the results.

Assistant City Engineer Stein noted that he and John Kappeler will be leaving their roles with the Committee, so the responsible Committee Member will have to get the momentum started while Management Analyst Kayla Nyberg and Administrative Manager Chris Miller adapt to their roles.

Assistant City Engineer Stein cautioned that the first two projects – sand transportation from Prado Dam and Santa Ana River sand mining – could be too big for the Committee alone but noted that both Assemblymember Diane Dixon and Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley are supportive of them, which can help with needed partners. He added that the Orange County Water District (OCWD) may have had some discussions about mining at Prado Dam.

Still Protecting Our Newport (SPON)'s Nancy Scarborough reported attending a Prado Dam tour with OCWD, adding that Newport Beach is not the only jurisdiction inquiring about getting its sand.

In response to Committee Member Hudson's inquiry, Chair Barto reported that Council Member Erik Weigand serves on the OCWD and has been working on Prado Dam sand matters for the City, along with Assemblymember Dixon. She agreed that the City of San Clemente also has a measure of priority in how the sand is distributed.

In response to SPON's Dennis Baker's inquiry, Assistant City Engineer Stein stated that the "sand rush" effort on Newport Beach's behalf could be bigger than the Committee alone because it involves the County, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and other large organizations. He cautioned that projects involving a coalition tend to move slowly.

Chair Barto noted that there has been no progress on Prado Dam sand movement despite it being discussed for over a year. She agreed that the City should be in line for the sand but recommended focusing on proposed Committee goals that can be more easily accomplished to show residents that work is being done on their behalf over the next two years. She recommended keeping the Prado Dam's sand on their Agenda so that it stays topical but not making it a heavy focus.

Orange Coast River Park's Nancy Gardner agreed with Mr. Baker. She noted that this project would require the support of the City Council but lamented that the Committee could potentially push the project too far down the road due to scope concerns, and nothing will be accomplished, allowing others to get the sand.

Chair Barto stated that it should be a standing item on the Agenda.

Senior Engineer Kappeler noted that OCWD Executive Director of Planning and Natural Resources Lisa Haney has a pre-prepared hour-long presentation on the Prado Dam sand. He recommended inviting her to a future meeting if the goal moves forward.

Chair Barto recommended incremental monthly work as this is not a project where the Committee can get a quick result to generate Council excitement.

Committee Member Wadsworth reported attending a recent event sponsored by the Orange County Business Council discussing the economic impacts of beach erosion, hosted by Council Member Robyn Grant and attended by Assemblymember Dixon and Supervisor Foley. He added that Assemblymember Dixon was extremely supportive of making beach erosion a priority before cities like Newport Beach lose significant income, adding that she should be a good advocate.



Chair Barto added that keeping it as a standing Agenda item will help the Committee's awareness of events like the one Committee Member Wadsworth attended and keep the subject relevant. Committee Member Fancher encouraged his peers to keep these two projects in focus as part of the Committee's larger work. He noted that the ongoing General Plan updates provide an enhanced focus on the beach serving as an economic engine. He added that the City could create a dedicated team like the Harbor Commission to deal with the beaches. He stated that there should be a more concerted effort by the Committee than merely a monthly Agenda item, with the creation of a direct and actionable program.

Committee Member Hudson stated that alliances must be created for these matters, as they cannot be handled by the Committee alone.

Committee Member Fancher acknowledged that the Committee cannot do it alone, but it can push for action and find the team that will make it happen.

Chair Barto stated that the Committee can get other projects on the list done. She encouraged having it on the monthly Agenda to discuss what they are doing each month to increase the sand base. She agreed that a larger alliance would be needed and should be structured into an annual plan around engaging with OCWD, elected officials, and other stakeholders.

Assistant City Engineer Stein stated that Chair Barto's recommendation is fine.

SPON's Nancy Skinner stated that one or two people on the Committee can make a significant difference if they dedicate time to the goal. She added that Prado Dam's sand should be a high Committee priority and is one they can accomplish. She lamented that the Committee would put the project last and do other things first.

Chair Barto clarified that she is not advocating for making it last but is being realistic about a likely inability to accomplish it within two years. She encouraged setting Committee goals around what can be accomplished.

Committee Member Fancher recommended maintaining a Subcommittee of Committee Members, Black, Wadsworth, and himself with a charge to come up with regular sand-related action items. He added that it could be a 10-minute monthly update.

Chair Barto agreed.

Assistant City Engineer Stein presented on the proposed goal of sand mining at the end of the Santa Ana River with hydraulic dredging. He added that bringing Public Works Director Dave Webb into the discussion on this topic could be helpful, as he is an advocate for this work. He added that the City would have to develop a viable concept for this work to apply for grant funding, making it perhaps more of a challenge than the Prado Dam sand removal.

In response to Committee Member Ray's inquiry, Mr. Baker stated that the sand is of good quality and not highly toxic. Committee Member Wadsworth added that it is a good opportunity when it is dry but would be less so after a rain event.

In response to Ms. Gardner's inquiry, Assistant City Engineer Stein stated that the County is responsible for the area. Administrative Manager Chris Miller added that the USACE also has a role.

Ms. Gardner stated it would be helpful if the City could assist with funding.

Committee Member Belden reported that the USACE is responsible for doing this every seven years.

Administrative Manager Miller clarified that the Surfside Sunset is where the USACE pumps offshore sand onshore in the City of Sunset Beach, and the City piggybacks off it with dredged sand. He added that part of his responsibility is to keep this project on track.



In response to Chair Barto's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller clarified that whenever it is time for the USACE to activate the Surfside Sunset Beach Nourishment, the City encourages them to include Newport Beach as well. He confirmed that this tactic has worked for several cycles. He encouraged keeping sand at the forefront of the City's minds as they can expect less assistance from the federal government than in the past.

Ms. Scarborough reported speaking to Supervisor Foley and Orange County Coastal Resources Manager Makana Nova with Supervisor Foley stating that she has formed a new sand committee focused on the City of San Clemente, with an insufficient presence from Newport Beach. She called for better advocacy from the City on this committee. She added that Ms. Nova is mistaken in her assumption that sand from the City of Seal Beach gets to Newport Beach instead of stopping in the City of Huntington Beach.

Committee Member Hudson clarified that there is a bubble at Sunset Beach where the sand collects.

Ms. Scarborough offered to advocate with Supervisor Foley, adding that they speak regularly.

Administrative Manager Miller added that he serves on the Southern California Sand Collaborative, reporting that Newport Beach is the first city to join alongside primarily county-level representatives.

Assistant City Engineer Stein reported that the three beach protection projects include the Peninsula Point Foredunes Habitat Enhancement and Creation Project. He reported that a pre-application for funding was submitted to the California State Coastal Conservancy, which requested a full proposal. He pledged to formalize the proposal before he and Senior Engineer Kappeler leave with a request for \$150,000, which he foresees being approved.

Assistant City Engineer Stein reported that beach armoring with nature-based restoration has tentative leadership from Committee Members Fancher, Wadsworth, and Belden.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiry, Assistant City Engineer Stein stated that the California Coastal Commission does not want armoring of beaches.

Committee Member Belden stated that surfers will not like beach armoring for its negative impact on waves, adding that he would advocate against armoring.

Committee Member Wadsworth agreed with Committee Member Belden.

Committee Member Belden cited Balboa Pier as the only way it could work, adding that the public would not like to see armoring anywhere north of the pier.

Assistant City Engineer Stein emphasized that the armoring would happen in selective locations.

In response to Mr. Baker's inquiry, Committee Member Fancher recommended "restoration" as a less-polarizing term than "armoring."

Committee Member Wadsworth stated that, if they do bring sand in at a high cost, they must have a way to preserve what the City imports. He noted that armoring would be performed only in key strategic spots with frequent problems, and not along the entire peninsula.

Committee Member Belden stated that the Balboa Pier area is critical. He recommended specifying the Balboa Pier area in the goal.

Committee Member Wadsworth reported speaking with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) about potential consulting work, presenting them with a proposal to start studying the Balboa Peninsula to find the problem spots and potential solutions for them. He added that the solutions would focus on a natural base and not armoring.



In response to Committee Member Ray, Senior Engineer Kappeler confirmed that there are a lot of grant money opportunities.

Chair Barto stated that General Fund money could be possible but grant funding would be better.

Committee Member Wadsworth stated that ESA has relevant experience as the lead engineer on the Surfers Point project in the City of Ventura.

In response to Committee Member Ray's inquiry, Committee Member Wadsworth confirmed that ESA is familiar with hydraulic dredging as many of its projects involve it.

Administrative Manager Miller noted that the City has been surveying its beaches for over 20 years, accumulating data that has not been sufficiently utilized. He encouraged better study of the data to find long-term trends and better assess the big picture.

Committee Member Wadsworth added that his discussions with ESA included data discussion, noting how valuable it will be in plan development.

Committee Member Belden reported that, due to his other commitments in 2026, this will be his last meeting. He added that he has enjoyed his five years on the Committee because their work is close to his heart, and he anticipates sitting on the public's side of the meeting room in the future.

Committee Member Belden reported that one challenge of Coastal Frontiers Corporation's data is that it is just a snapshot in time and does not track erosion, particularly after a storm. He stated that the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) and Surfline can work together on camera installation, with SCCOOS offering a free camera.

Committee Member Fancher reported that a previous discussion on this topic expressed concerns about wasted motion and the need for multiple cameras to collect the full amount of needed data.

Committee Member Belden clarified that the camera needs depend on what the City considers a priority, noting that the parking lot by the Balboa Pier is a regular victim of overtopping. He added that the middle groins are another area of significant concern.

Chair Barto noted that there are already cameras on Newport Pier run by the University of Southern California (USC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), adding that their data can be used to help monitor coastal erosion.

Committee Member Belden expressed concerns that the cameras on the pier are not sufficiently positioned to capture what they are looking for.

Chair Barto clarified that they can add an additional camera.

Committee Member Belden expressed his strong support for additional cameras because it is hard to recommend a solution without a better understanding of the currents. He pondered if additional data could also be gleaned from nearshore buoys.

Committee Member Fancher stated that they have been discussing methods of data collection for six months, and the time has come for action by creating proposals for City Council consideration, including potential funding needs.

Committee Member Belden agreed, adding that they could get the ball moving with SCCOOS' offer of a free camera and then continuing to push from there.



Mr. Baker reported that a lot of data is already being collected by the various organizations but lamented that it is not being mutually shared. He stated that the Committee could encourage collaboration and data sharing among the groups.

Chair Barto requested that Administrative Manager Miller schedule a meeting with her to compile a list of organizations collecting relevant data in Newport Beach.

Administrative Manager Miller agreed.

Committee Member Fancher stated that it will be a significant loss when Committee Member Belden leaves, as he has been a champion of data collection. He encouraged Administrative Manager Miller to help fill the void.

Assistant City Engineer Stein noted that the City has coastal engineering consultants who should be brought into the loop and asked what data would be beneficial for designing groin fields and beyond.

Moffatt & Nichol Vice President Shelly Anghera noted that there is ample publicly available data used by modelers, adding that her firm rarely needs to extend itself to collect data.

Chair Barto stated that the objective of keeping the sand remains, and there is ample public information available to help the City decide the best course of action. She clarified that the Committee would need to clarify the intention of any additional data gathered. She endorsed accepting a free camera from SCCOOS.

Senior Engineer Kappeler noted that SCCOOS already has cameras south of Newport Beach.

In response to Chair Barto's inquiries, Assistant City Engineer Stein clarified that each Committee Member will get nine votes after they have completed discussing the 13-item list to whittle down the focus. He confirmed that the final list will be presented to the City Council in a written report with staff recommendations.

Committee Member Wadsworth stated that he and Committee Member Fancher can recommend a consultant for the January meeting to discuss Item 4.

Assistant City Engineer Stein presented on monitoring trash sources in the Santa Ana River, taking advantage of an upcoming forecasted rain event.

Committee Member Wadsworth noted that two of the trash reduction items are Surfrider Foundation-led initiatives – monitoring trash sources and cleanup efforts – with only the third Santa Ana River trash reduction prong (an educational effort targeting single-use plastic) requiring voting.

In response to Ms. Anghera's inquiry, Committee Member Wadsworth reported that the non-profit organization Ocean Cleanup has agreed to fund some of the trash flow monitoring technology to be used on the San Gabriel River. He added that he is in the early stages of discussion with Ocean Cleanup for similar work on the Santa Ana River.

In response to Assistant City Engineer Stein's inquiry, Committee Member Wadsworth agreed that the City should still conduct its initial survey as planned.

Assistant City Engineer Stein responded to Ms. Anghera's earlier inquiry by highlighting some areas near Angel Stadium in the City of Anaheim where a large volume of trash is thought to be entering the Santa Ana River.

Ms. Anghera encouraged the Committee to consider who they would like to see pay for these projects, citing the County as an option since the trash is coming from their sources. She encouraged the City to be strategic about how it documents trash sources.



Committee Member Fancher clarified that the City is only intercepting the trash on top of the river and not what flows beneath the wheel. He cautioned that the City should be conscious of what is still escaping to the beach and needs to be collected there. He pondered how the City can help Surfrider in its efforts through public relations or other educational means and encouraged including a call for the City to contribute marketing efforts to Surfrider's work.

Ms. Skinner reported that ordinary people pick up trash along the beach daily.

Chair Barto noted how littered the beaches were after a recent rainy day.

Committee Member Wadsworth stated that the Santa Ana River is the main contributor to the City's beach trash issues, and these goals are meant to help prevent the problem. He encouraged all in attendance to attend a Surfrider Adopt a Channel cleanup event on the Santa Ana River at Adams Ave., held 4-5 times a year during the dry season, including one this past weekend.

Assistant City Engineer Stein recommended combining Items 6 and 7.

Committee Member Wadsworth stated that the long-term plan is to do another project like the Newport Beach Trash Interceptor.

Committee Member Hudson encouraged further upstream prevention. He reported on single-use collection efforts in Germany going far beyond what is seen domestically as a potential model.

Chair Barto reported on taking a recent tour of the Vons and Pavilions Distribution Center and being impressed with how recycling is handled. She stated that it would be a good project for the Committee to collaborate with the City Council's Ad Hoc Refuse Committee to work with grocery stores, adding that the stores will be open to ideas because of their State-set waste reduction goals.

Committee Member Wadsworth called for the City to have its own trash-reducing program targeting single-use plastic as part of the next phase of the trash interceptor project. He noted that there are upcoming State mandates as an impetus for the potential program, such as the 2026 ban on grocery store bags and Assembly Bill 1276's restrictions on take-out food utensils. He encouraged the City to be proactive in reducing its trash footprint through an awareness campaign with buy-in from local businesses and a consultant's assistance. He reported that through Surfrider's Ocean Friendly Hotel program, the Lido House hotel saved \$50,000 by eliminating single-use plastic bottles.

In response to Ms. Gardner's inquiry, Committee Member Wadsworth confirmed that the consultants he has in mind for the awareness campaign are local and have area expertise. He added that Newport Beach should be promoted as an ocean-friendly city.

Chair Barto stated that a positive outcome of this endeavor could be awesome. She noted that it likely will not top every Council Member's list, but it can still benefit the City with community buy-in.

Ms. Gardner stated that the City must be a sterling example for others to join the movement.

Committee Member Wadsworth agreed, adding that Newport Beach must lead by example if the City expects buy-in from upstream municipalities.

Assistant City Engineer Stein reported that the grant application for the Santa Isabella Channel Restoration will be submitted in the fall by the Newport Bay Conservancy (NBC), requesting \$3 million. He added that the design concept has been completed, noting that the channel is a destination for both residents and visitors.

Assistant City Engineer Stein reported that the Vista Point Restoration is also on NBC's radar but will wait until after the Santa Isabella Channel grant process is completed. He agreed that, while important, this project can wait until work on the channel begins. He added that there are grant funding opportunities for Vista Point.



Committee Member Hudson reported that a better resident and visitor experience can be created with a restoration of the upper flatheads. He added that trails need to be modified to make the area more friendly to the public, noting that the work would not be expensive and there are volunteer organizations that could get involved. He expressed concerns about the area's current overgrowth being a fire hazard and an eyesore for visitors arriving in Newport Beach. He noted that it will require an irrigation system, but the area is small, making it feasible.

Assistant City Engineer Stein noted that the land is part of the preserve area so it would behoove the Committee to hear from a restoration biologist and request that the consultant apply for Prop 4 funding. He offered to provide Committee Member Hudson with names of options.

In response to Committee Member Belden's inquiry, Committee Member Hudson clarified the area in question on a map, noting that it extends to the Environmental Nature Center's parking lot.

Committee Member Ray reported that the preapplication for restoration work at North Star Beach has gone to the California Wildlife Conservation Board, requesting \$950,000. She added that it will take 3-4 months to hear back about the grant due to holiday breaks in December. She called to have a consultant discuss options for North Star Beach's valuable intertidal 6.5 acres. She added that Coastal Quest worked on the preapplication and requested that the organization present plans for North Star Beach to the Committee.

In response to Ms. Scarborough's inquiry, Assistant City Engineer Stein confirmed that they are applying for a State grant and not a federal grant.

In response to Mr. Baker's inquiry, Deputy Public Works Director Jim Houlihan clarified that the small parcel of land in question near North Star Beach is privately owned. He added that a new seawall will soon be constructed extending to the area.

Assistant City Engineer Stein reported that the City is trying to get sponsors for the Trash Interceptor Viewing Deck, noting that the City Council may have to assist in getting permission from The Irvine Company.

Committee Member Fancher expressed opposition to building a structure on a piece of land that should be left as natural as possible. He endorsed a viewing gallery with safety rails on the nearby pier and spending the money elsewhere.

Committee Member Ray expressed concerns about voting for the Santa Isabella Channel and Vista Point restorations because all the Committee must do is write a letter of support, so she would rather use two of her nine votes elsewhere on the list.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiry, Assistant City Engineer Stein noted that, among the five restoration items, the upper flathead restoration is not on the City's Public Works' radar currently, but staff would be interested if the funding materialized.

- b. Committee Goals/Objectives Final Committee Recommendations (Councilmember Barto)  
Committee members to vote on final projects for City Council consideration.

**Recommendation: Committee Approval**

Assistant City Engineer Stein noted that goals 6 and 7 have been combined. He instructed the Committee Members to submit their nine picks to Senior Engineer Kappeler for tabulation. He confirmed that staff will produce a report with photos for Chair Barto to bring to the City Council.

In response to Committee Member Wadsworth's inquiry, Chair Barto confirmed that the report would be presented at a City Council meeting.

Senior Engineer Kappeler reported that goals 13, 12, and 10 were the weakest vote getters.



The Committee agreed to include goal 10 as funding work is underway, and eliminate only goals 12 and 13, leaving a total of 10 because goals 6 and 7 had been combined into one.

Chair Barto stated that this is a doable list and all 10 can be taken to the City Council with an expectation of action.

In response to Chair Barto's inquiry, Assistant City Engineer Stein confirmed that both he and Senior Engineer Kappeler's last day in their positions is at the end of the calendar year but added that they can have the report prepared before then.

**6. COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS OR MATTERS WHICH MEMBERS WOULD LIKE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION, OR REPORT (NON-DISCUSSION ITEM)**

- (a) Santa Ana River Trash Mitigation Project Field Trip (Winter 2026 – TBD)
- (b) Draft Copper Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) (Winter 2026 – TBD)
- (c) Newport Bay Trash Interceptor – Trash Characterization (Winter 2026 – Ellis Peterson)
- (d) Newport Beach Trash Interceptor Public Outreach Campaign (Winter 2026 – TBD)

In response to Chair Barto's inquiry, Committee Member Ray stated that she can speak with Coastal Quest and see if they would be available to discuss sand-related matters at the next meeting on January 8, 2026.

In response to Chair Barto's inquiry, Senior Engineer John Kappeler stated that he can send the Committee Members an email to ensure they will have a quorum on January 8, 2026, acknowledging the absences at this meeting and upcoming vacancies.

Assistant City Engineer Stein reported that there are three potential presenters at the next meeting – Coastal Quest, a restoration biologist, and a Citywide trash reduction promotion consultant.

In response to Committee Member Ray's inquiry, Assistant City Engineer Stein clarified that consultants will be coming to separate meetings to discuss North Star Beach and other restorations.

Committee Member Ray noted that ESA does not do grants, but they have worked with Coastal Quest on grant-writing in the past. She added that ESA and Coastal Quest should come to different meetings.

ESA was added to the February 2026 Agenda.

Assistant City Engineer Stein noted that there will be a standing reporting item about the Prado Dam for the January meeting.

Senior Engineer Kappeler recommended having Ms. Haney present.

Chair Barto agreed and recommended having a light schedule for whatever upcoming meeting Ms. Haney can attend.

Assistant City Engineer Stein noted that Ms. Haney's standard presentation is an hour long, adding that he has heard it before.

Committee Member Fancher stated that Ms. Haney should be the principal speaker at a sand-focused meeting, possibly in February or March.

Deputy Director Houlihan stated that the Committee is taking on a lot of work with its goals list.

Chair Barto noted that many of the goals are focused on outside consultants writing proposals.



Deputy Director Houlihan clarified that, even with the consultants, it will require a lot of work to get it all to the finish line.

Assistant City Engineer Stein stated that they need to get the consultants in place and let them do the heavy lifting.

Chair Barto lauded the formation of partnerships with non-profits and groups like NBC, both for appearances and for the ability to lean on the respective staffs of those groups. She theorized that the Committee would find success in its goals because they are not trying to make the City's staff do too much work internally.

Chair Barto thanked Senior Engineer Kappeler, Assistant City Engineer Stein, and Committee Member Belden for their respective work with and service on the Committee.

**7. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**8. SET NEXT MEETING DATE**

Recommendation: January 8, 2026

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

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**Chair / Michelle Barto**