



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH WATER QUALITY/COASTAL TIDELANDS COMMITTEE AGENDA

Crystal Cove Room (Bay 2D)

Thursday, March 5, 2026 - 3:00 PM

Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee Members:

Councilmember Michelle Barto, Chair
Councilmember Joe Stapleton, Vice Chair
Eros Bilyeu, Member
Curtis Black, Member
Tim Burnham, Member
Charles Fancher, Member
Craig Hudson, Member
Sharon Ray, Member
John Wadsworth, Member

Staff Members:

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

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.

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**

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**

Recommendation: Approve minutes as presented

[WQCT Draft Minutes 02052026](#)

- 5) **CURRENT BUSINESS (60 min)**

(a) Prado Dam and Sand Accumulation (Lisa Haney, Orange County Water District) Discussion on the Accumulated Sand Behind Prado Dam.

Recommendation: Committee Discussion

(b) Single Use Plastics - Public Information Outreach Status (Michelle Barto) Update on future education outreach program.

Recommendation: Committee Discussion

(c) Recycling in Newport Beach: A Presentation by CR&R (Julie Barreda, CR&R)

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

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

(c) Coastal Sediment Transport (Spring/Summer 2-26, Brett Sanders)

(d) Newport Bay Trash Interceptor - Operational Update (April 2026 - Ellis Peterson)

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

(f) Ocean Beach Sand Renourishment plans, efforts, status - (Spring/Summer 2026, Southern California Sand Collaborative, Chris Miller)

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

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

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

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

(k) Harbor and Beaches Master Plan (Fall 2026)

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

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**

Recommendation: April 2, 2026

9) **ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Recommendations Attachment

[Committee Recommendations](#)

Date: February 5, 2026
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 3:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members Present:

Councilmember/Chair Michelle Barto
Committee Member Eros Bilyeu
Committee Member Curtis Black
Committee Member Tim Burnham
Committee Member Sharon Ray
Committee Member Charles Fancher
Committee Member Craig Hudson
Committee Member John Wadsworth

Committee Members Absent:

Councilmember/Vice Chair Joe Stapleton

Staff Present: Karen Gallagher, Administrative Assistant
Chris Miller, Administrative Manager
Kayla Nyberg, Management Analyst
Dave Webb, Public Works Director

Guests Present: Paul Blank, Harbormaster
Jim Mosher, Resident
Nancy Gardner, Orange Coast River Park
Nancy Scarbrough, SPON
Nancy Skinner, SPON
Dennis Baker, SPON
Michael Arens, Vendor
Carlos Valenzuela, Vendor
Adam Gale, Anchor QEA
Chiron Stewart, Resident

Chair Barto welcomed new Committee Members Bilyeu and Burnham. All meeting attendees introduced themselves and briefly discussed their backgrounds.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Jim Mosher stated that, along with the Civil Service Board, the Committee is the only one in the City providing no links to background information in its Agenda. He requested that presentation information be provided to the public to study ahead of the meetings.

4. Review and approval of minutes
Recommendation: Approve minutes as presented

Motion: A motion was made by Committee Member Black to approve the January 8, 2026, minutes as presented, seconded by Committee Member Hudson. The motion passed unanimously. Committee Member Fancher abstained as he was not at the January 8th meeting.

5. Current Business

- a. Orange County Watershed Water Quality Report (Michelle Barto).

Recommendation: Committee Discussion

Chair Barto cautioned that many of the bigger sets of reporting data are a couple of years old. She reported that the majority of the City's beaches received either an A+ or A grade in the Heal the Bay & Beach Report Card. She agreed with Mr. Mosher's comments that it would be a good idea to have links available to her sources in case residents wish to dig deeper into the data, noting that 56th St. is an area that had higher bacterial runoff after storms. She reported requesting updated reports from the Orange County Health Care Agency, indicating that the next data cycle will be provided to her.

Still Protecting Our Newport's (SPON) Nancy Skinner reported speaking with retired Orange County Health Care Agency Senior Environmental Health Specialist Monica Mazur, who indicated a willingness to restart her monthly water quality reports for the Committee.

Chair Barto agreed and requested Ms. Mazur's contact information.

- b. Single Use Plastics – Public Information Outreach Status (Michelle Barto) Update on future education outreach program.

Recommendation: Committee Discussion

Chair Barto reported that Assistant City Manager Tara Finnigan is supportive of a public outreach campaign about the State's new single-use plastic laws. She added that the City has hired a new Public Information Officer, and there should be more information to report at the March meeting.

Orange Coast River Park's Nancy Gardner stated that City Hall needs to set a good example, noting the single-use plastic bottles being used at the meeting.

Chair Barto agreed that good optics would be beneficial if single-use plastic bottles were not being used at City meetings.

SPON's Nancy Scarborough commended the City for having boxed water as opposed to bottled water at the ribbon-cutting for the Newport Beach Trash Interceptor.

Committee Member Hudson expressed doubts that single-use plastic bottles can ever be eliminated. He reported on how grocery stores in Germany have in-store machines that provide a recycling refund slip for single-use bottles. He pondered why this could not be replicated in the United States.

Committee Member Fancher noted that it is done locally on a voluntary basis, with some grocery stores participating.

Committee Member Wadsworth stated that they have previously discussed creating a larger plan to reduce single-use plastics in Newport Beach. He inquired if there is interest in hiring consultants to help develop the program.

Chair Barto stated that it would be helpful to have a presentation to the Committee about programs the City is already implementing. She requested that Public Works Director Dave Webb present at the March meeting, adding that a waste reduction program is no longer merely something nice to have, but rather something they now must have under State law.

Committee Member Wadsworth stated that this timing would be perfect around the State mandates. He echoed Ms. Gardner's comments about City Hall setting a good example.

Chair Barto lamented that the water bottle refill stations at City Hall are not well-marked.

Committee Member Wadsworth recommended compiling statistics about the cost and use of single-use bottles at City Hall, citing how much money the Lido House Hotel saved by eliminating them.

Public Works Director Webb stated that he would also ask if CR&R Environmental Services would like to speak to the Committee to discuss how the recycling process works behind the scenes. He noted that Ms. Gardner first led the charge years ago to add water bottle refilling stations in City buildings and parks, commending her leadership.

- c. Lower Bay Main Channel and Balboa Yacht Basin Dredging (Chris Miller) Presentation on two dredging projects currently in construction in the harbor.

Recommendation: Committee Discussion

Administrative Manager Chris Miller reported that Phase 1 of the Lower Bay Main Channels Dredging Project began in 2012, with the Port of Long Beach agreeing to be the disposal site for Newport Beach's unclean sediment that could not be hauled offshore to the LA-3 Dredged Material Disposal Site.

In response to Ms. Gardner's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller stated that being able to use the Port of Long Beach for sediment disposal saved the City tens of millions of dollars.

Administrative Manager Miller reported that Lower Newport Bay and the harbor are mostly maintained by the federal government, so the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) becomes heavily involved in dredging work, with the City being a more active partner than most of its peers.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller stated that the Port of Long Beach accepted the unclean sediment to have it forever encapsulated into a fill.

Administrative Manager Miller reported that the entire dredging project was not completed in 2012 due to limited funding and capacity for material at the Port of Long Beach.

In response to Ms. Gardner's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller clarified that the harbor's dredging yields fine, fluffy material, differing from sandy native material. He added that this silt and muddy material would not be suitable to replenish the City's beaches.

Administrative Manager Miller reported that Phase 2 dredging started in 2021, focused on the entrance channel and the area leading up to the Balboa Island Ferry landings. He added that what was dredged from the entrance channel was able to be disposed in the ocean beach "nearshore zone" because this good-quality sand naturally drifted along the ocean beaches and into the entrance channel. He noted that Phase 2 involved 110,000 cubic yards of dredging along with some repair work on the east jetty.

Administrative Manager Miller reported that Phase 3 is currently under construction. He stated that the City proactively tested the sediment in 2016 at a cost of about \$500,000 rather than wait for the USACE to assess it following a very tedious process. He reported that dredging is difficult to get on the USACE master list of active projects so City staff and other officials must lobby in Washington, DC. He reported striking an agreement with the USACE over three years ago, with the City paying its portion of the dredging costs at that time.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller clarified that, once the City is paying for a project, then it is on the USACE's master list, so there is certainty that the work will occur. He added that the standard Agreement is very one-sided and generic.

In response to Committee Member Ray's inquiries, Administrative Manager Miller clarified that Phase 3 will be Lower Bay Main Channel dredging, so it will not be happening underneath docks. He added that some moorings need to be moved during Phase 3 but clarified that the federal government is only responsible for the core of the channel and not underneath docks. He reported that only a small amount of silt from under docks will fall back into the areas being dredged, adding that the City's watershed partners do a good job of reducing sediment flow into the harbor. He added that this is the last major dredging project the City has planned.

Administrative Manager Miller reported on the City's outreach program, with dredging progress updates available on the City's website. He added that the Port of Long Beach has a narrow window to accept the City's sediment, and the dredging work is being timed to meet the date.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiries, Administrative Manager Miller reported that about 750,000 cubic yards of clean sediment will be dropped offshore at the LA-3 disposal site, and about 200,000 cubic yards will go to the Port of Long Beach. He added that the City has already brought 150,000 cubic yards to the Port of Long Beach since December 10, 2025. He clarified that the material being brought to LA-3 is considered good and clean quality from the perspective of sediment characterization but is not clean beach sand. He added that LA-3 is six miles offshore and under 1,500 feet of water.

In response to Committee Member Hudson's inquiries, Administrative Manager Miller confirmed that the area by Marina Park is one of the largest public beaches on Newport Harbor. He clarified that the samples of the sediment are taken hundreds of yards apart at strategically selected locations, so there are many areas of unknown sediment cleanliness between the sampling locations. He stated that Newport Harbor is very slightly above allowable levels of mercury but is not high enough to be considered toxic. Public Works Director Webb clarified the nuance that "unsuitable" sediment has contaminants, but it does not mean the sediment is toxic in other contexts. He added that the harbor has different toxicity standards than the Pacific Ocean, which is why the unsuitable sediment is going to the Port of Long Beach instead of LA-3.

Chair Barto noted that the beach at Marina Park has an A+ water quality rating.

Public Works Director Webb clarified that the City pre-dredged in front of Marina Park when it was built with clean sand added, so the swimming area has been taken care of. He clarified that the current dredging discussion is farther out into the channel.

Administrative Manager Miller added that one of the City's options was to leave the sediment in place and not dredge the area because the material is not considered toxic in a general sense. He clarified that the dredging's primary goal is improved navigation.

In response to Committee Member Hudson's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller clarified that Newport Harbor is the jewel of Newport Beach, and navigation is important.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller confirmed that the City is dredging to make the harbor as deep as the federal government will allow. He added that, because the watershed is doing such good work of keeping material from entering the harbor, this will likely be the last major comprehensive dredge project for a long time.

In response to Committee Member Black's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller reported that the dredging limit ranges from 10 to 20 feet, depending on where you are in the harbor.

Administrative Manager Miller reported on the Port of Long Beach slip being filled by Newport Beach's sediment, adding that a wharf will be built. He added that the dredging work in Lower Newport Bay is expected to be completed in the summer, with a second dredge to be added in the coming weeks to help speed up the project.

Administrative Manager Miller reported on the Balboa Yacht Basin work where channel dredging concluded on February 2nd. He added that the boats did not have to leave their slips due to the large number and difficulty of finding temporary space for them. He added that 30-40% of the tenants voluntarily vacated their slips so the City could dredge inside of them. He stated that the City knew that the material in the Balboa Yacht Basin was unsuitable for open ocean disposal, lauding how, in 13 months, a program was designed, permitted, bid, and constructed. He gave credit to Anchor QEA, Inc. Principal Planner Adam Gale for pushing the project along, as they had to delicately remove the material from the densely packed basin and transport it to the Port of Long Beach.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiries, Administrative Manager Miller clarified that 30-40% of the boats voluntarily left their slips to make way for the dredging with assistance from Harbormaster Paul Blank. He stated that they could only work under the vacated slips. Public Works Director Webb stated that the work only took two months and reported that Linda Isle has hired the same group to dredge its inner lagoon.

In response to Ms. Gardner's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller confirmed that the City has discussed having either its own dredge or its own scow but stated that the upkeep on a dredge would be too much work for the City. He stated that the City of Santa Cruz has its own dredge but uses it much more often than Newport Beach would be using one. He stated that the City does not have enough of a need or resources to own its own dredger.

Dennis Baker of SPON reported that a resident owns a small dredge.

Administrative Manager Miller clarified that the City is not involved in residential dredging but does help facilitate it.

In response to Vendor Carlos Valenzuela's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller stated that agencies have a set of criteria for dredging. Mr. Gale added that there is a full suite of tests, including chemical tests, toxicity tests, and others. Administrative Manager Miller reported on the logistics of the testing process.

In response to Resident Jim Mosher's inquiries, Public Works Director Webb confirmed that a deeper harbor improves navigation. Administrative Manager Miller added that the less sediment there is in the harbor equates to more water in the harbor. Public Works Director Webb used a hose as an example to correlate the lack of sediment to increasing water flow. He added that dredging also improves water quality.

In response to Committee Member Burnham's inquiries, Administrative Manager Miller stated that it is difficult to assess the precise success of near-shore sand replenishment. He could not specify how much of the sand dredged from the entrance channel to the harbor ended up on beaches and how quickly, but added that, over time, the sand ends up there. He clarified that the submarine canyon is closer to Balboa Pier. Mr. Gale added that depths must be less than 30 feet to know that the waves are pushing specific sand onshore.

- d. Eelgrass in Newport Harbor (Chris Miller) Presentation on the City's Eelgrass Protection and Mitigation Plan for Shallow Waters in the harbor.

Recommendation: Committee Discussion

Administrative Manager Miller reported that since the late 1990s, eelgrass has been viewed unfavorably, but regulatory agencies took a hard stance on preserving eelgrass because it is good for the environment as a proven sequestrator of carbon and forager for fish. He noted that regulatory agencies require 1.35 square feet of mitigated eelgrass for every square foot lost, leading to a period in the early 2000s where residents did not want to dredge eelgrass out from under their docks. He reported that in 2003, the City came up with a plan to allow residents to dredge their slips while allowing eelgrass to continue its growth in the harbor. He stated that the City compiled a database of mapped eelgrass over 8-9 cycles that allowed the City to compile the country's only approved

Eelgrass Protection and Mitigation Plan, noting that it is highly complex but has allowed residents to consistently dredge for the past 10 years.

Administrative Manager Miller reported on the logistics of breaking the harbor into zones which continue to be surveyed by the City to assess the amount of eelgrass in the harbor and ensure that enough eelgrass is present to satisfy regulatory agencies while also allowing the residents to continue dredging. He noted that the shallow water eelgrass in the harbor has more than tripled from 30.41 acres in 2003-04 to 125.53 acres in 2024. He credited many groups, including the Committee, for helping the City grow so much healthy eelgrass.

In response to Ms. Gardner's inquiries, Administrative Manager Miller stated that the City must maintain a certain amount of eelgrass. Mr. Gale added that the City can impact up to an acre of eelgrass. He added that the City has yet to exceed this limit since 2015 when the Protection and Mitigation Plan was implemented. He confirmed that there are also relevant factors of overall distribution within the harbor. Administrative Manager Miller noted that, if they had a particularly bad survey at some point due to storms or other factors, the City has created a recorded history to come up with averages and help mitigate the impact of one survey showing too much decrease. He noted that deepwater eelgrass decreased from 2016-20 but was more than counterbalanced by a spike in shallow water eelgrass. He added that the City benefits from having a proven track record as confirmed by the extensive surveys.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller clarified that as the eelgrass acreage increases, the allowable amount inches up proportionately for more cushion.

In response to Committee Member Wadsworth's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller stated that the eelgrass is growing naturally due to good water quality. He stated that Newport Beach residents have been more conscientious of water quality over the past couple of decades.

Ms. Gardner stated that the City put in a lot of effort to improve water quality after realizing how closely its economy is tied to the harbor.

In response to Vendor Michael Arens' inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller stated that, while Newport Harbor specifically has not been studied, there are many publicly available studies showing tangible improvements for every acre of eelgrass.

Public Works Director Webb stated that habitat creation is just as important as carbon sequestration.

Administrative Manager Miller stated that the importance ratio between habitat creation and carbon sequestration depends on which interest group you are speaking to.

In response to Ms. Gardner's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller reported that the staff members from regulatory agencies who helped with the 2015 plan have since retired so he sometimes must reeducate new agency staff members about Newport Beach's unique situation. Mr. Gale added that the agencies trust Newport Beach which helps get other projects approved.

Ms. Gardner stated that regulatory agencies should be presenting Newport Beach's plan to other harbor-centric jurisdictions.

Administrative Manager Miller clarified that the municipalities must go to the agencies for advice and not vice versa. He echoed Mr. Gale's comments about agencies trusting the City because Newport Beach is following the rules.

In response to Chair Barto's inquiry, Committee Member Ray confirmed that there are State funding options that the City's carbon sequestration success could open. She added that "habitat restoration" and "habitat improvement" are the categorical terminologies under which these fall.

Chair Barto stated that Newport Beach is a great success story, and it can be used to boost funding.

Committee Member Wadsworth agreed that the carbon sequestration work is strong.

In response to Committee Member Bilyeu's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller confirmed that fish hide in the eelgrass and eat the algae growing on the eelgrass blades.

Administrative Manager Miller reported on how divers biennially survey the entire harbor meticulously and consistently to document the increased eelgrass. He noted that the divers can provide a more accurate representation than boat-based surveys. He stated that a discussion of the harbor's Caulerpa can be held at a future meeting.

Chair Barto noted that the 2025 agendas were full of new topics, and they may have lost sight of things the City has already done to improve water quality, like this eelgrass work, adding that it is good to be reminded of lessons learned from past successes to help spark ideas for new projects.

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

- (a) Prado Dam sand mining (February 2026 – Lisa Haney or Southern California San Collective)
- (b) Vector problem areas in Newport Beach (Spring 2026 – Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District)
- (c) Status of trash source identification in Santa Ana River (Spring 2026 – John Wadsworth)
- (d) Newport Bay Trash Interceptor – Trash Characterization (Spring 2026 – Ellis Petersen)
- (e) Big Canyon Phase 3 Restoration Site Tour (June 2026 – Andy Tran)
- (f) Ocean Beach Sand Renourishment plans, efforts, status (May 2026 – Chris Miller)
- (g) Santa Isabella Restoration Grant Application (Summer 2026 – Heather Cieslak)
- (h) Pumpout maintenance update (Summer 2026 – Chris Miller)
- (i) Santa Ana River trash mitigation (Winter 2026 - TBD)
- (j) Draft copper Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) (Winter 2026 - TBD)

Administrative Manager Miller reported that a presentation by Planning Manager Ben Zdeba discussing the General Plan updating process will be added to the March meeting.

Committee Member Hudson requested a listing of available State and federal funding sources. He also requested additional information on the City's grant writing process.

In response to Ms. Gardner's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller confirmed that the City has a grant-writing consultant. He noted that the presentation at the January meeting was for an environmentally focused consultant, whereas the City also has more broad-spectrum consultants.

Committee Member Ray reported that Coastal Quest has a list of all available funding sources on its website, including a status update on how the funds may have already been distributed through a cycle. She added that it is an art to match your project with someone looking to fund it.

Chair Barto stated that it may be worth replicating their November 2025 meeting discussion about the upcoming Agenda items.

Mr. Arens reported that there was a recent \$5 million grant issued for eelgrass restoration in Richardson Bay through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He pondered if it was a local collaboration with the EPA, a private effort, or the EPA acting on its own. He encouraged the City to apply for EPA grants.

Committee Member Ray inquired what subjects the City wants to write grant requests for based on staff time and interest. She cited North Star Beach as an example of a smaller project that the City might not dedicate staff time to, but the Committee can assist with the grant request. She suggested having an educational discussion with City staff about how it sets priority levels for grant proposals.

Chair Barto stated that the Committee should revisit its project list and assign timelines while identifying possible funding sources.

Committee Member Ray stated that they can add eelgrass to their list.

Committee Member Black stated that it would be good to check in on the list regularly to keep progress going and narrow down the number of themes.

Committee Member Ray stated that it would be helpful to pick a focus, including funding sources, so their list does not seem so big.

Committee Member Bilyeu noted that grant applications are not an easy activity to complete.

Committee Member Ray stated that Coastal Quest is a new group for them, adding that retired City staffer Bob Stein recommended picking a smaller project and trying it out with North Star being the ultimate selection. She added that the City expects to hear back soon on its grant preapplication. She reported on how Coastal Quest assisted with the grant application, saving Mr. Stein a lot of time.

Committee Member Hudson recommended incorporating a lobbying effort from the Committee.

Committee Member Ray agreed.

Chair Barto stated that at the next meeting, they can assign members to tasks. She noted that the administration of the EPA at the federal level has stalled many projects at the State level. She reported that she and Committee Member Fancher met with Assemblymember Diane Dixon who is interested in a multi-city sand collaboration.

Committee Member Fancher reported that Assemblymember Dixon stated that she would have her staff speak with the City's staff about grant sourcing for sand projects.

Chair Barto stated that many grants are stalled due to the EPA uncertainty.

Committee Member Ray stated that there can be more than one solution to funding problems.

Chair Barto reported that the March meeting will feature an update on the Newport Beach Trash Interceptor.

Administrative Manager Miller stated that it would be better to discuss the trash interceptor after the conclusion of storm season, so there is a final tally for the season.

In response to Chair Barto's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller confirmed that April may be better for the trash interceptor update.

Committee Member Ray reported that single-city sand replenishment funding is highly unlikely as opposed to an application from a larger geographic area. She recommended working with the City of Huntington Beach, the City of Laguna Beach, and perhaps others farther down the coast. She noted that this is difficult work.

Chair Barto reported speaking with Assemblymember Dixon about this concept adding that Laguna Beach is much more interested than Huntington Beach which has less of a need for sand. She reported that Assemblymember Dixon felt confident that she could facilitate a Laguna Beach-Newport Beach partnership, along with continuing to encourage Huntington Beach's participation.

Committee Member Ray agreed that this partnership increases the chances of a positive response.

Ms. Scarborough reported meeting with USACE last year about getting sand from behind Prado Dam. She stated that Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley is very interested in where the sand ends up, with a current focus on southern Orange County.

Chair Barto noted that Supervisor Foley and Assemblymember Dixon are both expected to run for the supervisorial seat in 2026. She observed that Assemblymember Dixon has recently shown increased engagement with the City's efforts. She emphasized that, regardless of the outcome of the election or the political lead, it is important for the City to remain involved in the Prado sand distribution project.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiry, Ms. Scarborough reported that she speaks with both Assemblymember Dixon and Supervisor Foley, recommending that the Committee continue to build its relationship with both.

Chair Barto noted that she also speaks with both elected officials.

Committee Member Ray emphasized that this uncertainty enhances the need for cities to work together on sand management projects to make a stronger case.

Ms. Scarborough stated that Newport Beach must get its name out there, or other competing cities will get the sand instead.

Chair Barto confirmed that the City is getting its name out there but added that the public perception is that Newport Beach is already in a relatively good spot, so it must work harder to make its case, including partnering with another municipality. She stressed that the City will also benefit from having a plan for how to keep the sand once it receives the sand.

Public Works Director Webb reported that he speaks with his Huntington Beach peers regularly about sand and options for Council District (CD) 14 funding. He noted that the City encouraged southern Orange County cities to get sand from San Diego Creek years ago, so that they were not pursuing Santa Ana River sand instead.

In response to Committee Member Ray's inquiry, Public Works Director Webb stated that sand at the mouth of the Santa Ana River is taken to the City's beaches and groin field.

In response to Ms. Skinner's inquiries, Harbormaster Blank reported that the pump out stations the City has responsibility for are working with 99.1% reliability. He added that the two private pump out stations and the one managed by the County are unreliable. He noted that the City's pumps have more than weekly inspections with reliable service. He confirmed that the County's pump is near the Balboa Yacht Club and is not operating well, while the City's pumps have received A grades from the Bay Foundation (formerly known as Heal the Bay) the past two years. He reported that the Bay Foundation inspects pumps quarterly.

Committee Member Black stated that he would like to have a discussion on beach sand and the Committee's role with it. He noted that, in the past, the Committee has reached out to similar groups in the City of Oceanside and the City of San Clemente and could reach out to partners in Laguna Beach or elsewhere.

Chair Barto stated that she can work on this. She added that Laguna Beach is keen on working with Newport Beach after a joint project they worked on in the City of Fountain Valley.

Committee Member Ray agreed with spending some time at a future meeting reviewing the project list with an eye on assignments, focus, and where lobbying efforts could help.

Committee Member Black recommended an open discussion about process and action steps.

Chair Barto agreed that the Committee's current makeup is action-oriented, making this a good time to work on projects.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiry, Chair Barto agreed that the Committee needs to get an update on how their October 2025 thoughts on the General Plan update were or were not incorporated into the current drafts.

Committee Member Black reported that most of the Committee's recommendations made it into the most recent drafts of the General Plan.

Administrative Manager Miller confirmed that Planning Manager Zdeba intends to bring an updated draft to the Committee at the next meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Mosher expressed his relief that there will be a General Plan update review at the next meeting, as he had not seen it on a future Agenda. He reported that the City used to have a Tidelands Management Committee that created plans for tidelands infrastructure projects, ultimately becoming the Harbor and Beaches Master Plan. He reported that, when it disbanded, the City Council's Tidelands Management Committee asked both the Harbor Commission and this Committee to advise the Council on certain components of the Master Plan. He reported that the Harbor Commission looks at the Master Plan annually, but this Committee does not look at it, although it should be a core function. He recommended having a future Agenda item to look at the Master Plan.

Multiple people agreed with Mr. Mosher.

Administrative Manager Miller clarified that he brings the Master Plan to the Harbor Commission twice a year, and then it usually goes to the Finance Committee annually, with it scheduled for the latter's March Agenda.

In response to Committee Member Ray's inquiry, Administrative Manager Miller stated that most of the Master Plan contains large capital projects like docks and piers, but some of the items would be applicable to the Committee, citing pump out stations as an example. He confirmed that he can bring the Master Plan to the Committee at a date that aligns with the Harbor Commission's regular review timeline, noting that the future of the Finance Committee is uncertain.

8. SET NEXT MEETING DATE

Recommendation: March 5, 2026

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Chair / Michelle Barto

	Program Type	Action or Project	Committee Recommendation	Potential Speakers	Committee or Staff Leads
1	A- Beach Projection Projects	Sand Transport from Prado Dam (Standing Item on Committee's agenda)	Referred this idea to the Southern California Sand Collaborative (SCSC) - - No Prado Dam mining concept plan in development.	Giles Matthews, OCSD; Makana Nova, OC Parks; Katrina Foley, OC Supervisor; Lisa Haney (OCWD)	Chris Miller, Nancy Scarborough
2	B- Beach Projection Projects	Santa Mining at Santa Ana River Using Hydraulic Dredging	Referred this idea to the Southern California Sand Collaborative (SCSC) - - Request feasibility study by OCPW? Consider beaches as economic engine requiring active management.	Giles Matthews, OCSD; Makana Nova, OC Parks; Katrina Foley, OC Supervisor	
3	C- Beach Protection Projects	Peninsula Point Foredunes Habitat Enhancement and Creation Project	The pre-application submitted to State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) requesting \$150,000. SCC has requested a full application now be prepared. As approved, hire a biologist consultant to assist with implementation by City staff.	Restoration biologists (Chambers Group, Tidal Influence, Glen Lukos Assc.)	Public Works
4	D - Beach Protection Projects	Beach enhancement with Nature Based Restoration at Balboa Pier	Request Public Works prepare a feasibility analysis with design and permitting recommendations.	Coastal Engineer to evaluate vulnerable reaches along the Peninsula including defining data needs for modeling and analysis.	Chuck Fancher, John Wadsworth, Peter Belden
5	F - NEW: Beach Protection Projects	SCOOS (Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System) requests installation of a camera on Newport Pier or the lifeguard building to monitor coastal erosion.	Track sand profiles. Install a camera at Newport Pier or Groins (~ 40th Street) Installation by Surfline at no or small cost.		Peter Belden
6	A - Santa Ana River Trash Reductions	Surfrider Monitoring for Trash Sources and Volunteer Cleanup in Santa Ana River	Surfrider volunteers will take video of trash flows from key tributaries. City to issue a letter of support. Some financial or City staff assistance may be needed to write a report. City staff support in writing report.	Cleanup technology experts	John Wadsworth, lead
7	Not used				
8	C - Santa Ana River Trash Reductions	Citywide promotion to reduce trash footprint targeting single use plastic	Invite consultant(s) to provide overview of options. As the committee decides, request PW generate an RFP to hire a consultant to run an awareness campaign. Check for Supermarket trash reduction goals.	Awareness campaign consultants including Beyond Plastics	John Wadsworth
9	A - Restoration Projects	Santa Isabella Channel Restoration	City to issue a letter of support for grant application submitted by Newport Bay Conservancy. City may want to review and assist with the grant application. Grant award may require a City match.	Heather Cieslak, Newport Bay Conservancy	Curt Black
10	B - Restoration Projects	Vista Point Restoration	Committee will check back with Newport Bay Conservancy in 2027.		
11	C - Restoration Projects	Upper Flathead Restoration	Prepare a concept habitat and trail enhancement plan. City grant writers to prepare pre-application for Prop 4 funding. With go-ahead by Prop. 4 staff, City to hire consultant to prepare technical memo to be used in a complete grant application.	Restoration biologists (Chambers Group, Tidal Influence, Glen Lukos Assc.); Grant writer(s)	Craig Hudson to speak w/ restoration biologists
12	D - Restoration Projects	North Star Restoration	Coastal Quest is preparing a pre-application for Prop 4 funding with an initial request for \$1,050,000 to fund design, permitting and construction. The pre-application is under review by State Coastal Conservancy.	Restoration biologists (Chambers Group, Tidal Influence, Glen Lukos Assc.); Grant writer(s)	Sharon Ray
	E - Restoration Projects	Trash Interceptor Viewing Platform	Committee will wait for a report from Help Your Harbor		