



CITY OF

NEWPORT BEACH

City Council Staff Report

October 12, 2021
Agenda Item No. 10

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: David A. Webb, Public Works Director - 949-644-3311,
dawebb@newportbeachca.gov

PREPARED BY: Michael J. Sinacori, P.E, Assistant City Engineer
msinacori@newportbeachca.gov

PHONE: (949) 644-3342

TITLE: Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Coastal Frontiers
for Oceanfront Sand Monitoring Program (22H04)

ABSTRACT:

The City of Newport Beach's (City's) ocean beaches appear to have experienced significant erosion, movement, and/or loss of sand in the past several years mostly due to the larger and more consistent than normal south swells and the lack of winter storms (La Nina condition). In years past, Coastal Frontiers has been contracted by the City to perform beach surveys that are consistent with past Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) surveys. Staff is requesting approval of a five-year professional services agreement with Coastal Frontiers to collect annual beach profile survey information as well as to provide necessary data to the Army Corps and other regulatory agencies to support actions that may be necessary to replenish the sand lost within Newport Beach coastlines. Coastal Frontiers is uniquely qualified to perform these surveys, is recognized by the Army Corps, and is well respected in the coastal agency community.

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
- b) Approve a Professional Services Agreement with Coastal Frontiers for Annual Oceanfront Sand Monitoring at a total not-to-exceed price of \$147,589, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Agreement.

DISCUSSION:

City ocean beaches appear to have experienced significant erosion, movement and/or loss of sand in the past several years due mostly to the larger and more consistent than normal south swells and the lack of winter storms (La Nina condition).

Since 2006, Coastal Frontiers has been assisting the City and other regulatory agencies in collecting data and evaluating the conditions of the ocean coastline to document and understand the changing beach sand profile to assist with sand replenishment efforts. Their survey efforts led to modifications to the Army Corps-led Surfside/Sunset Stage 12 project in 2009. During that project, sand was moved from the upper jetties back to the lower jetties where the beaches had narrowed. This effort is referred to as back passing in industry terms. The Army Corp has its planned Stage 13 project designed and ready for implementation, which will include back passing efforts in Newport Beach. However, funding has not yet been fully secured nor have the final agreements between partner agencies been completed. In addition, the County of Orange (County) is starting its annual Santa Ana River mouth sand management efforts later this month. For both projects, a review of the coast by a recognized expert is important to direct the County and the Army Corps on where to place the sand during its back pass operations.

The last annual survey completed by Coastal Frontiers was in Fall 2018. Staff had planned to complete the next survey in the fall of 2020; however, due to budget concerns during the COVID pandemic, the effort was postponed. Staff is requesting approval of a five-year professional services agreement with Coastal Frontiers to provide data to the Army Corps, County, and other regulatory agencies that demonstrates action may be necessary to replenish the sand lost along the ocean coastline in Newport Beach. If approved, this year's effort would start immediately and prior to the County sand management efforts to the lower peninsula jetties. Coastal Frontiers is uniquely qualified to perform these surveys and is well respected in the Coastal agency community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The current Capital Improvement Project (CIP) adopted budget includes sufficient funding for this year's survey efforts, \$27,522. Services will be expensed to the Beach and Bay Sand Management CIP Account No. 10001-980000-22H04. Future year's funding will be requested during the annual budget process.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

NOTICING:

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A – Professional Services Agreement with Coastal Frontiers