

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P. O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # _____

Project Title: Surfers Beach Pilot Restoration Project

Lead Agency: San Mateo County Harbor District Contact Person: James Pruett, General Manager
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1449 Phone: (650) 583-4400
City: El Granada Zip: 94016 County: San Mateo

Project Location: County: San Mateo City/Nearest Community: El Granada and Princeton by the Sea
Cross Streets: and El Granada West Point Avenue Zip Code: 94019
Lat. / Long. (degrees, minutes, and seconds): 37° 29' 58.981" N / 122° 29' 45.095" W Total Acres: 143

Assessor's Parcel No.: 0047-390-020, 047-263-020 and 047-390-030 Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 1 Waterways: Pillar Point Harbor
Airports: Half Moon Bay Airport Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR NEPA: NOI Other: Joint Document
 Early Cons Supplement/Subsequent EIR EA Final Document
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) Draft EIS Other _____
 Mit Neg Dec Other _____ FONSI _____

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other _____

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ Transportation: Type _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Mining: Mineral _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Power: Type _____ MW _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Educational _____ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Recreational Surfers Beach Pilot Restoration Project Other: Shoreline restoration, Maintenance Dredging
 Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Aesthetic/Visual Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
 Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality
 Air Quality Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater
 Archeological/Historical Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
 Biological Resources Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Growth Inducement
 Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Land Use
 Drainage/Absorption Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Cumulative Effects
 Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Open Space, Recreation, Public Recreation/Resource Management - Coastal Zone District (RM-CZ)/Design Review District (DR)/Coastal Development District (CD)

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

Surfers Beach is a popular beach and recreation area located on the San Mateo County coast, just south of Pillar Point Harbor (PPH), immediately north of the City of Half Moon Bay, and west of the unincorporated community of El Granada (Figure 1). The proposed Project would involve dredging of up to 100,000 cubic yards (CY) of clean sand accumulated along the inside of Pillar Point Harbor's East Breakwater and a one-time placement of that sand to form an elevated berm along an approximately 1,000-foot-long section of shoreline at Surfers Beach in Half Moon Bay. Permitting level (30%) engineering design plans have been provided along with this permit application, which include the precise details of the dredging and sand placement activities.

Note: The state Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Since construction of the PPH breakwater in 1961 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Surfer's Beach has experienced a significant amount of beach and bluff erosion, leading to a recent permanent loss of sandy intertidal beach area and bluff-top coastal scrub and grassland, as well as an increased exposure of Highway 1 to erosion and flood hazards during coastal storms. While the shore at Surfer's Beach eroded, significant accretion and deposition of sediment inside PPH has resulted in impacts on navigation and use of the boat launch ramp. The erosion at Surfers Beach and the impacts of sand shoaling inside the harbor generated significant interest and concern of local community members. In addition to general beach recreation, Surfers Beach is a very popular surf spot for surfers of all levels of experience, and in particular beginners because of its sheltered location.

The rapid erosion of the beach and bluffs extending south of the harbor has been a source of concern over the past several decades. A recent Army Corps of Engineers study concluded that the bluffs along Surfer's Beach eroded at an average rate of 1.64 feet per year between 1993 and 2012. This erosion rate was determined to be approximately seven times higher than the rate of erosion at a geologically similar stretch of shoreline farther down the coast. Powerful storms during the past two winter seasons have resulted in even more severe erosion, causing major threats to Highway 1, Mirada Road and other coastal infrastructure and leading to emergency repairs by Caltrans and the County of San Mateo. Upon request of the District in 2009, the USACE conducted a series of studies and evaluations to assess the cause of the erosion and whether there was a federal interest in mitigating for damages that occurred after construction of the harbor. Specifically, the USACE conducted coastal engineering and economic studies for a range of project alternatives where sand was dredged from the harbor and placed as a berm along the shore of Surfers Beach. The USACE efforts culminated in a Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Section 111 Detailed Project Report and Draft Environmental Assessment, which concluded that while the project alternatives considered would be feasible and have less than significant environmental impacts, there was no economic justification for a federal interest in the project. The Surfers Beach Pilot Restoration Project (project) was proposed by San Mateo County Harbor District as an opportunity to demonstrate that the beneficial reuse of dredged harbor sediments as beach nourishment at Surfers Beach can be implemented with no significant impacts to marine resources in the MBNMS.

The purpose of the project is to address erosion at Surfers Beach by restoring sandy beach area using dredged material from navigable areas of Pillar Point Harbor, including the boat launch ramp. The project seeks to demonstrate the feasibility of successfully implementing a beach nourishment project at Surfers Beach in the MBNMS without having significant impacts to the coastal resources. This demonstration consists of a pilot restoration project that dredges approximately 75,000-100,000 cubic yards of sand from the harbor and places it at Surfers Beach. One of the major anticipated outcomes of the proposed project is that it will address impaired public access (including positive recreational impacts) and address damages from coastal storms. The project will also mitigate shoaling and impacts to navigation within the Harbor by dredging the sand that has accumulated there since the construction of the outer breakwaters in the early 1960s. The project will employ extensive physical and ecological monitoring to assess the project's effects on the environment, which would help to establish metrics that could be used to evaluate the performance of the project and to calibrate expectations for a larger or repeated future effort.

The goal of the project is to study the potential benefits and impacts of implementing a pilot project that beneficially reuses up to 100,000 cubic yards of sand dredged from Pillar Point Harbor and placed at Surfers Beach. Objectives include:

- Prevent or mitigate beach erosion and sea cliff retreat
- Improve protection of Highway 1 and other structures
- Increase quality and quantity of public access and recreation
- Reduce the need for coastal armoring
- Improve biological habitat
- Design project to minimize biological impacts and disturbances
- Maintain safe navigation for boats in Pillar Point Harbor

The proposed Surfers Beach project is a Pilot Project, meaning that a major objective is to closely study and monitor the project to determine whether or not it is effective and also to identify any environmental impacts. If post construction monitoring and review indicate that the Project is effective in mitigating erosion and does not cause unacceptable impacts, then a larger beach restoration project at Surfers Beach would be pursued in the future. The project is necessary to reduce the threat of structural damage and recreation loss along Surfers Beach.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

<input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction
<input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>2</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy	<input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers and Mtns Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board	<input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
<input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Wildlife Region # <u>3</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 10/19/2022 Ending Date 11/18/2022

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>Brad Damitz, Consultant to Harbor District</u>	Applicant: <u>San Mateo County Harbor District</u>
Address: <u>869 Estancia Way</u>	Address: <u>P.O. Box 1449</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>San Rafael, CA 94903</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>El Granada, CA 94018</u>
Contact: <u>Brad Damitz</u>	Phone: <u>650-583-4400</u>
Phone: <u>415-259-8-5766</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 10/20/2022

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.