



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Los Angeles District



Notice of Preparation

Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) & Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS)

City of Encinitas & City of Solana Beach Shoreline Protection Project

Date: April 18, 2012

To: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties and Organizations

From: City of Solana Beach, 635 S. Highway 101, Solana Beach, CA. 92075
City of Encinitas, 505 S. Vulcan Avenue, Encinitas, CA. 92024

Introduction

The City of Encinitas and the City of Solana Beach (Cities), California are Co-Lead Agencies under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 and as amended [Public Resources Code, §§21000-21178 and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3 §§15000-15387] and will prepare a joint Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR/EIS prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other discretionary approval for the project.

The USACE Los Angeles District is the federal Lead Agency for the Encinitas-Solana Beach Shoreline Protection Project in compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code 4321, as amended). A Notice of Intent (NOI) is anticipated to be published in the Federal Register on April 20, 2012.

The Cities and the USACE are preparing a joint EIR/EIS and Feasibility Study that will describe the project need, goals and objectives of the project, baseline environmental conditions in the project area and the potential environmental effects associated with

implementation of the Shoreline Protection Project (Proposed Project). Alternatives to the Proposed Project and the potential effects of those alternatives will also be described and analyzed in the Draft EIR/EIS.

In 2005, the USACE and the Cities issued a Draft EIR/EIS for the Encinitas-Solana Beach Shoreline Protection Project. However, the project description and range of alternatives has been modified since 2005 and the Draft EIR/EIS was never finalized. Changes to the Proposed Project and the lapse of time that has since occurred has prompted the Lead Agencies to prepare a new Draft EIR/EIS anticipated to be released for public review in late 2012.

Project Study Area

The Proposed Project is located along the Pacific Ocean in the Cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach, San Diego County, California. Encinitas is approximately 10 miles south of Oceanside Harbor, and 17 miles north of La Jolla. The Encinitas shoreline is about 6 miles long. It is bounded on the north by Batiquitos Lagoon and on the south by San Elijo Lagoon. Immediately south of Encinitas is the City of Solana Beach. Solana Beach is bounded by San Elijo Lagoon to the north and on the south by the San Dieguito Lagoon. Solana Beach is approximately 17 miles south of Oceanside Harbor, and 10 miles north of La Jolla. Solana Beach's shoreline is approximately 1.7 miles long. All of the shoreline in the study area consists of narrow sand and cobblestone beaches fronting coastal bluffs. A small stretch of beach west of the San Elijo Lagoon is backed by Highway 101 (Pacific Coast Highway) and is the only segment of the beach not backed by coastal bluffs.

The Proposed Project study area is divided into two segments. Segment 1 is located within the City of Encinitas and extends from the 700 Block of Neptune Avenue to Swami's Reef and is approximately 2.0 miles long. Segment 2 encompasses the entirety of the City of Solana Beach and stretches from Table Tops Reefs in Encinitas to the southern limit of Solana Beach and is approximately 1.7 miles in length. (See attached exhibits)

In the last several decades, the shorelines of both cities have experienced accelerated erosion of the beaches and coastal bluffs. Since the late 1970s and early 1980s, Southern California has experienced a series of unusual weather events, called El Ninos, when compared to the rest of this century. These El Nino storms create substantial erosion of the shoreline. Delivery of sand to the shoreline from rivers has also been significantly reduced regionally due to river damming for water storage projects as well as the construction of highways, railroads, and streets and the mining of sand. The cumulative effects of these natural and manmade events has resulted in severe erosion of the once sandy beaches. With the loss of the wide sandy beaches, storm waves directly attack the bluff creating failures of the coastal bluff and jeopardizing the public buildings and infrastructure and private structures located atop the coastal bluffs.

Proposed Project Description and Alternatives to the Project

The USACE and the cities of Encinitas and Solana Beach are preparing a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) to assess shoreline protection options and potential effects along the coastlines of these two cities. The purpose of the

EIR/EIS is to evaluate options for reducing beach and shoreline erosion over a 50-year period from 2015 through 2065. The Encinitas/Solana Beach Shoreline Feasibility Study as authorized by Resolution of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee (May 13, 1993).

The Draft EIR/EIS will analyze the potential impacts of the Proposed Project and a range of reasonable alternatives to the Project. The Proposed Project and Alternatives will include both structural and non-structural approaches to shoreline protection. Approximate initial placement volumes currently being considered range from 600,000 cubic yards (cy) to 800,000 cy for Encinitas and 700,000 cy to 1,700,000 cy for Solana Beach. The life of the Proposed Project would be 50 years during which time periodic re-nourishment with lower incremental volumes of material would occur to maintain protection of the shoreline. The Proposed Project and possible Alternatives that will be addressed in the EIR/EIS include:

Proposed Project / Alternative 1: Use of offshore sand deposits (borrow sites) for placement on the beach in Encinitas (Segment 1) and Solana Beach (Segment 2). The beach-fill design parameters have been determined by considering various combinations of beach-fill widths, beach nourishment locations and fill footprints and different replenishment cycles. Each option has one combination of an initial beach width and a respective duration for the subsequent renourishment cycles.

Beach Nourishment with Engineered Notch Infills / Alternative 2: This Alternative includes a “hybrid” mix of both structural and non-structural measures to provide shoreline protection. Existing notches and sea caves at the base of the bluffs would be filled with concrete to stabilize the lower bluff prior to placement of sand on the beach. The sand would come from offshore borrow sites as in the Proposed Project and seasonally bury a portion of the notch infills at the base of the bluff. However, in this Alternative the optimized beach width is narrower and the volume of material to be deposited reduced.

Optimized Combined Joint Beach Nourishment / Alternative 3: This is a reduced volume Alternative for Solana Beach compared to the Proposed Project and attempts to synchronize the renourishment cycles of both Cities to maximize project efficiency and cost effectiveness. The volume and renourishment cycle for Encinitas is identical to the Proposed Project.

No Project / Alternative 4: Under this Alternative, no structural or non-structural shoreline protection measures would be built or implemented by the USACE during the project life occurring between 2015 and 2065. Seawalls are assumed to be built on an as needed basis by individual property owners in both cities. The Draft EIR/EIS would evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with no USACE shoreline protection program in place.

Potential Environmental Effects to be evaluated in the Draft EIR/EIS

The full range of resource topics will be analyzed within the Draft EIR/EIS include:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality/Greenhouse Gasses
- Biological Resources
- Climate Change
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use
- Mineral Resources

- Noise
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Cumulative Effects

Public Scoping Meetings

Coordination with federal, State, Regional and local agencies has been ongoing for several years. Issuance and publication of this Notice of Preparation and related federal NOI formally initiates the public scoping and public involvement process regarding this Project. Public scoping meetings are scheduled in both Encinitas and Solana Beach.

Encinitas City Hall, Poinsettia Room

May 2, 2012
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Solana Beach City Council Chambers

May 2, 2012
6:00PM to 8:00 PM

Comments on the Notice of Preparation

The public will have an opportunity to provide input on the scope and content of the Draft EIS/EIR. The public as well as Federal, State, and local agencies are encouraged to participate. Additional information regarding the scoping meetings will be published in the North County Times, posted on the City websites www.cosb.org and www.ci.encinitas.ca.us and notices will be mailed to all parties on the project mailing list.

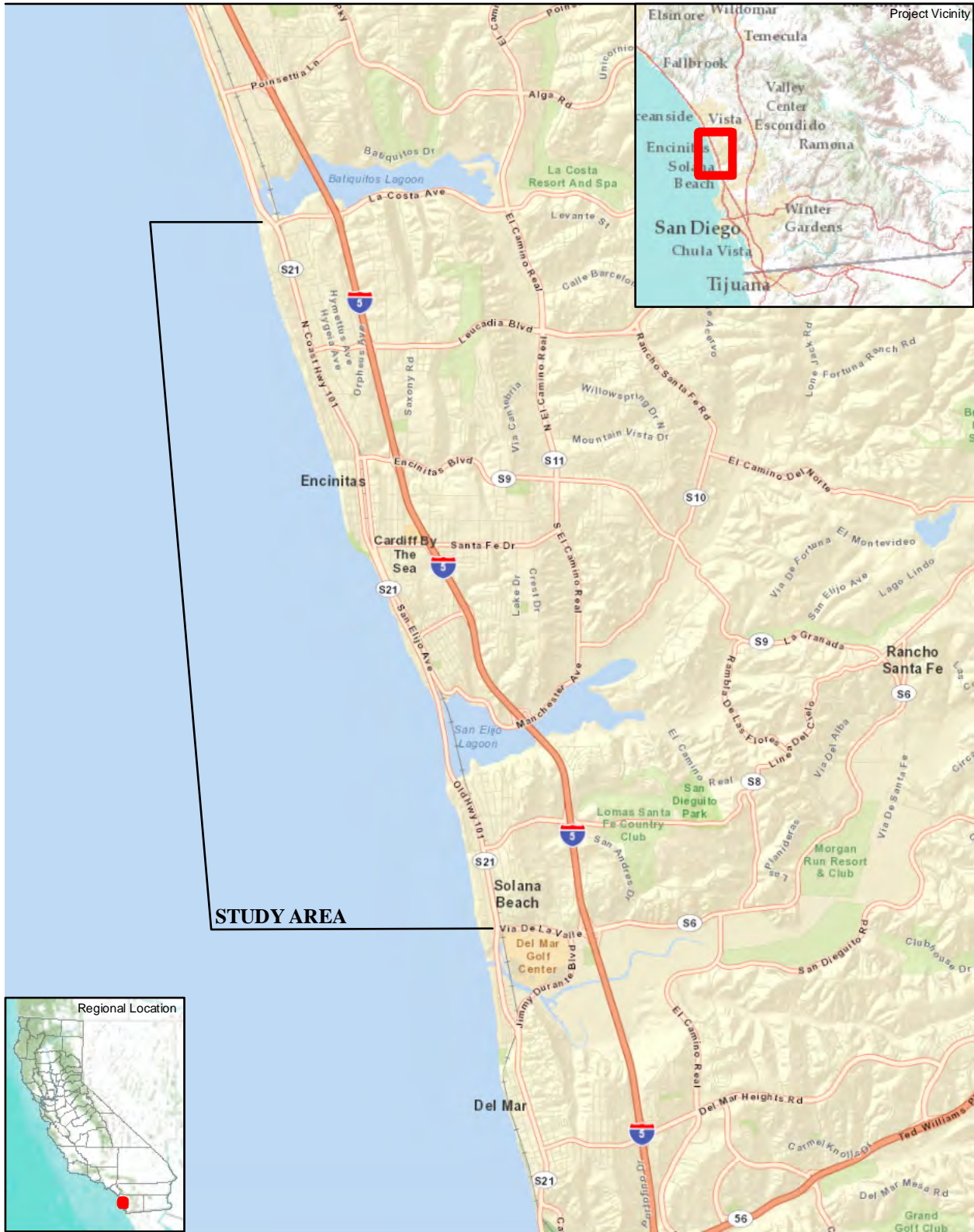
Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. Please send your comments on the NOP to:

Ms. Leslea Meyerhoff, AICP
Project Manager - City of Solana Beach
635 S. Highway 101
Solana Beach, California 92075
Phone: (858) 720-2446 or by email to LMeyerhoff@cosb.org

OR

Ms. Kathy Weldon
Project Manager - City of Encinitas
505 S. Vulcan Ave.
Encinitas, California 92024
Phone: (760) 633-2770 or by email to KWeldon@ci.encinitas.ca.us

Requests to be placed on the Project mailing list should also be sent to the above address.



Source: ESRI 2012

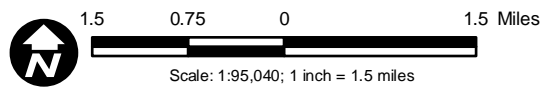


Figure 1
Project Study Area

Shoreline Protection Plan

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Segment 1

Segment 2

Source: ESRI 2012

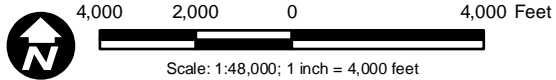


Figure 2
Project Segments

Shoreline Protection Plan

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