

2012 REGIONAL BEACH SAND PROJECT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AUGUST 2012



The 2012 Regional Beach Sand Project is scheduled to take place September – December 2012. Construction updates will be posted to sandag.org/beachsand as they become available. If you would like to receive periodic updates regarding this project, including construction notifications, please contact beachsand@sandag.org. Construction updates also will be available through our project hotline at (619) 699-0640.

What is the purpose of the 2012 Regional Beach Sand Project? Why are we placing sand on the region's beaches?

The San Diego region has an erosional coastline. Sand that once flowed down rivers to restore our beaches is no longer making that trip due to regional development, and water supply and flood control projects needed to support that development. There also have been modifications made to our coastline, such as harbors and jetties that stifle sand movement. To address these issues, the San Diego region has adopted a planning framework that emphasizes beach nourishment as a way to maintain and restore the coastline. The goals associated with sand placement are to restore and maintain coastal beaches, sustain recreation and tourism, enhance public safety, restore coastal sandy habitats, and reduce the proliferation of protective shoreline structures (e.g., harbors and jetties).

Which beaches will be receiving sand?

Beach nourishment will take place in the cities of Oceanside, Carlsbad, Encinitas, Solana Beach, and Imperial Beach.

South Oceanside: Work will take place at the beach by the Oceanside Boulevard access point. Sand will be spread to the north and south.

North Carlsbad: Work will take place near Buena Vista Lagoon. Sand will be spread south from the lagoon mouth to approximately Carlsbad Village Drive.

South Carlsbad: Work will take place south of Palomar Airport Road. Sand will be spread south and end before Coast Highway.

North Encinitas: Work will take place at Batiquitos Beach, just south of the Batiquitos Lagoon mouth, and extend south to a bluff-backed area of the beach. Work also will take place at Moonlight Beach, which can be accessed at the foot of Encinitas Boulevard; here, sand will be spread just to the north and south.

South Encinitas: Work will take place at Cardiff Beach. The beach fill will extend from the Chart House in Restaurant Row and move south down the beach.

Solana Beach: Work will take place at Fletcher Cove. Sand will be spread from the north end of Fletcher Cove toward the south, a portion of the way down through the Solana Beach boundary along the bluff.

Imperial Beach: Work will begin at the south end of the City of Imperial Beach placing sand from approximately Cortez Avenue to where the revetment or rock wall ends, then moving north from Cortez Avenue to end at approximately Elkwood Avenue.

What is the 2012 Regional Beach Sand Project's timeline?

This 24 hours a day, seven days a week operation will begin in September 2012 and continue through December 2012. The mobilization of equipment may occur up to two weeks prior to replenishment. Beach access will be preserved to the maximum extent possible and once a segment of beach is completed, larger beach widths will be available for all to enjoy. For up-to-the minute timeline information visit sandag.org/beachsand.

Will I still be able to use the area of the beach being replenished?

Yes! The beaches will be nourished in approximately 500-foot segments that shift along the fill site until each beach is completed. For the public's safety, the construction area will be clearly marked and will not be accessible. However, the public will be allowed to access all other areas of the beach.

How long will construction at each beach take?

Construction time varies from approximately one week to over a month depending on the amount of sand that is expected to be placed at each individual beach and whether or not a work stoppage occurs. The mobilization of equipment may occur up to two weeks prior to the scheduled replenishment date. A work stoppage can occur for several reasons including severe weather events and environmental considerations, such as extreme grunion runs.

What are the economic benefits of the 2012 Regional Beach Sand Project?

The economic benefits accrued from the project include increased tourism dollars spent and taxes collected by recreational users. Additional economic benefits can be realized through the reduction in damage to both property and infrastructure, and emergency costs associated with bluff failures.

Is this effort different from the 2001 Regional Beach Sand Project?

The 2012 nourishment effort is very similar to the first project completed in 2001. The main differences are that the Oceanside and Imperial Beach receiver sites have been shifted slightly to the north; grain size is planned to be larger for the cities of Solana Beach and Encinitas; and the receiver sites in the cities of Del Mar and San Diego will not receive sand.

Where did the sand from the 2001 Regional Beach Sand Project go? And, won't the new sand just wash away?

Beach sand naturally moves on and off the coastlines with the waves. In the winter, when there is a stronger wave climate, sand moves off the beach with the majority remaining just off the coast within the nearshore system. In the summer, this sand returns to create wider beaches for residents and tourists to enjoy. In some cases, like with larger storm events, the sand will move beyond the nearshore and out into the deeper water or into harbors and lagoons where it cannot be recovered naturally. The beach width gains from the 2001 beach nourishment project sustained for a minimum of four years on average and volumes sustained for about six years on average. As of 2010, there still appeared to be sand from the first project in the system and this material will serve as a foundation for the 2012 project.

What will the beach look like after the sand is added?

The beaches will be wider through the placement of clean beach quality material. The sand may look slightly different in color and texture, but it meets all conditions associated with compatibility.

Where does the sand come from?

The sand is dredged from designated offshore areas within two miles of the shoreline, located in 30 to 100 feet of water depth. The offshore borrow sites are thoroughly researched and evaluated to be clean beach quality sand that has a similar color, texture, and size as the sand that currently exists on the beach where it will be placed. The goal is to find material that is coarser because the coarse grained sand will remain on the beaches for a longer period of time. The borrow sites chosen for this nourishment project are optimum for placement on San Diego region's beaches.

For more information on this project visit sandag.org/beachsand.

A portion of the land required for the 2012 RBSP was contributed by the California State Lands Commission.