

October 3, 2025

Distribution of Funds – City of Encinitas’ Public Recreational Beach Impact Mitigation Fund

Overview

In May 2007, the California Coastal Commission (Commission) and SANDAG entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) establishing a process for the administration of the Public Recreational Beach Impact Mitigation (PRBIM) Fund. The PRBIM Fund consists of fees collected by the Commission to mitigate the adverse impacts on public recreational use of the beaches within the region, resulting from construction of shoreline protective structures, or other forms of development that have adverse effects on the beach or shoreline. Mitigation fees are deposited into individual, interest-bearing accounts held by SANDAG on behalf of each coastal city until that jurisdiction requests funding for an eligible project.

The funds held in the PRBIM account can only be used for eligible projects that provide public recreational improvement, such as public beach accessways, blufftop access, viewing areas, public restrooms, public beach parking, and public trail amenities. Prior to disbursement of any funds, the request must be approved by the SANDAG Regional Planning Committee (RPC) and submitted to the Executive Director of the Commission for authorization. The City of Encinitas (City) is requesting funding from their PRBIM account for the Swami’s Beach Access Staircase Project (Project).

Key Considerations

- The City is requesting to utilize the entirety of their PRBIM Fund available (\$104,140) to fund the design and construction costs of the Project. The proposed Project will replace the structural timber elements in accordance with current Building Code and Coastal Commission Standards, replace portions of concrete, upgrade the galvanized steel hardware with duplex stainless steel, and identify accessibility improvements. In addition, this project meets the eligibility criteria included in the MOA with the Commission.
- The total estimated cost for the project is \$904,140. The City has committed \$800,000 from its Fiscal Year 2026 budget toward the rehabilitation. The release of the \$104,140 from the PRBIM Fund would complete the full funding of the project.
- At its meeting on September 4, 2025, the Shoreline Preservation Working Group recommended that the SANDAG RPC approve the allocation from the City’ PRBIM Fund for the Project.

Action: **Approve**

Shoreline Preservation Working Group recommends that the Regional Planning Committee approve the release of the City of Encinitas’ Public Recreational Beach Impact Mitigation Fund.

Fiscal Impact:

If approved by the California Coastal Commission Executive Director, SANDAG will release \$104,140 from the City of Encinitas’ Public Recreational Beach Impact Mitigation Fund account.

Schedule/Scope Impact:

None.

Next Steps

If approved by the RPC, SANDAG staff will submit the proposal to the Executive Director of the Commission for review and approval. If approved, SANDAG will release the funds to the City.

Antoinette Meier, Senior Regional Planning Director

Attachment: 1. City of Encinitas Resolution No. 2025-78