

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
AND INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST  
FOR THE  
CITY OF DEL MAR  
SAND COMPATIBILITY AND OPPORTUNISTIC USE PROGRAM**

The City of Del Mar (City), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared and plans to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Sand Compatibility and Opportunistic Use Program (SCOUP; proposed project). The City is hereby notifying agencies and members of the public that may be interested in the project as to the availability of the MND and the procedures for public review and comment on the MND.

**Project Location:** The SCOUP would apply to the segment of Del Mar beach located north of 15<sup>th</sup> Street to the northern-most City boundary. The proposed SCOUP consists of placing opportunistic sand within a boundary referred to as the “placement envelope” which extends from just north of the ocean inlet to the San Dieguito River southward to Powerhouse Park, excluding the open water portion of the San Dieguito River mouth.

**Project Description:** Beaches in north San Diego County have been narrowing over the last 60 to 80 years due to reductions in natural sand supply from upcoast and upstream. The City is working to restore the sediment supply to its coast by direct sand placement through the implementation of a SCOUP. The SCOUP outlines a plan to capitalize on opportunities to obtain beach-quality sand from construction, development, maintenance, or dredging projects in the region for placement as beach nourishment within the City. The SCOUP presents a streamlined program of sand placement at specified locations in the City to allow quick and efficient placement of material as it becomes available. The program identifies a maximum envelope within which sand may be placed as it becomes available through the implementation of individual projects, usually of relatively small volume. The envelope would extend from the Del Mar bluffs in the north (north of the San Dieguito River inlet) to Powerhouse Park (north of 15<sup>th</sup> Street towards the center of Del Mar’s shoreline). The proposed envelope extends 5,750 feet; however, individual opportunistic placement projects would take place in smaller footprints within the proposed overall SCOUP envelope. Sand volumes available for nourishment at any given time may range from 500 cy to the maximum placement of 180,000 cy/5 years. The beach fill design for the SCOUP includes two different nourishment approaches: beach berm and surf zone placement.

Sand material is anticipated to be from local or nearby contributions, such as from upland construction, development, or dredging/excavation projects (e.g., wetland restoration, or river inlet/detention basin maintenance). The San Dieguito River is the most likely sand source for beach nourishment in Del Mar. The City would require sampling and analysis of the material under a Sampling and Analysis Plan & Report to be approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Regional Water Quality Control Board prior to placement on the beach. Sand could be delivered either by truck or pipeline, depending on the material source.

Nourishment sites would be monitored over time so that the program may be modified, with agency consent, for maximum environmental sensitivity while also maximizing nourishment of the beach and littoral zone. Monitoring metrics would include beach profiles, surf conditions, turbidity, grunion, and trash/debris removal.

**Environmental Effects:** This MND addresses impacts associated with placement of material within the beach nourishment envelope, as well as extraction of material from maintenance activities, such as detention/sedimentation basins, dams, or the San Dieguito River inlet channel.

The Initial Study prepared for the proposed project found that the SCOUN would not result in significant impacts in the following areas: aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

Impacts that were shown to have a less than significant impact with mitigation were biological resources, hydrology and water quality, public services, and recreation. Measures to avoid or mitigate the effects would be incorporated into the proposed project to reduce the impacts to below a level of significance.

**Availability of Document:** The Draft MND is being made available for a 30-day public review period commencing on April 16, 2020 and ending on May 16, 2020. An electronic version of the Draft MND is available for download and review from the City's website:

<http://www.delmar.ca.us/Archive.aspx?AMID=57>

Due to the City's emergency declaration to address COVID-19 and the statewide stay at home order, the City has temporarily closed all City facilities to the public, including City Hall and the libraries. Thus, hard copies of the MND are not available at this time. If you cannot digitally access the MND document via the City's website for review, please contact Amanda Lee, Principal Planner at [alee@delmar.ca.us](mailto:alee@delmar.ca.us) or call at 858-755-9313 ext. 1167 for options to obtain a hard copy.

**Comments:** The City will accept written comments on the Draft MND **until 5:00 p.m. May 16, 2020**. Comments should be emailed to Amanda Lee at [alee@delmar.ca.us](mailto:alee@delmar.ca.us). Written comments should be labeled "City of Del Mar SCOUN MND" and mailed to the City of Del Mar (Attn: Amanda Lee), 1050 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, CA 92014.