

BEACH MAINTENANCE POLICY

Purpose

This policy sets forth guidelines for emergency and routine beach maintenance activities occurring within the coastal zone designated by the Coastal Act.

History

The Municipal Operations Department has traditionally maintained the oceanfront beaches in a manner in which the health, safety, and welfare of persons using the beaches, walks, and bike paths is protected. Due to the changing sand levels resulting from wind, storm, and tidal conditions, it is imperative to remove the built-up sand before it accumulates on the oceanfront paths, which could result in serious liability concerns for the City.

Shifting sands also result in damage to oceanfront properties due to increased pressure on retaining walls which can cause the walls to fall. As a service, the Municipal Operations Department has, on request, pulled back the built-up sand from the affected properties in order to reduce potential damages. A sand waiver or hold harmless agreement is provided by the resident before City crews begin work.

Policy

In times of potential oceanfront and bayfront emergencies which could result from above-average tides, surf, or erosion, the Municipal Operations Department in conjunction with the, Public Works, and Fire and Marine Departments will determine when, where, and how to best protect properties and residents in the most effective manner. An emergency is a sudden unexpected occurrence demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss or damage to life, health, property or essential public services. Action taken could include the cutting, placement, and construction of sand dikes or berms, the installation of sandbag barriers, or the pumping and diversion of water. Such development requires approval of a coastal development permit consistent with the City's certified Local Coastal Program. Temporary sand berms and/or permanent sand dunes shall be sited and designed to minimize significant impacts to coastal access and resources. Temporary sand berms shall avoid all areas of existing southern foredune and southern dune scrub habitat. When feasible, nonstructural methods (e.g. dune restoration, sand nourishment, etc.) shall be used instead of shoreline protective measures.

The Municipal Operations Department and its contractors currently performs many routine maintenance activities within the coastal zone. This includes activities such as

trash collection, sidewalk, beach and fire ring cleaning, and sand removal from areas adjacent to walkways, parking lots, and roads.

Maintenance programs, such as the pulling back of sand away from oceanfront properties, as needed to protect existing development and public thoroughfares, are established programs instituted prior to the adoption of the Coastal Zone Management Act, and as such, are exempted from the coastal development permit process.

History

Adopted G-8 - 6-24-1996

Amended G-8 - 8-8-2017