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Long Beach Hears Breakwater Study Findings

By: [Ambrosia Sarabia](#) | Friday, August 21, 2009 12:00:00 AM

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LONG BEACH — A study that analyzed plans for reconfiguring the Long Beach breakwater was met with strong approval and support from Long Beach City Council members and the community during a special meeting, July 27.



Breakwater Reconfiguration – The Long Beach breakwater may be redesigned to improve water quality, beach cleanliness and wave action. City officials must secure funding for the project before a reconfiguration project can begin.

Alternatives range in cost from \$10 million to \$310 million.

“This will literally transform the city,” said Councilman Robert Garcia, who added he was averse to building additional breakwaters.

The final results of the Long Beach Breakwater Reconnaissance Study is the culmination of three public

Proponents of an altered Long Beach breakwater believe it would provide cleaner city beaches and swimming areas thanks to greater circulation of harbor water, along with improved surf for recreation.

Alternative designs included reconfiguring the breakwater to staggered sections and to create gaps allowing for wave action on the shoreline; lowering 1,800 linear feet of the western end of the structure to mean lower low water to provide increased wave transmission; removing the entire western third of the structure (down at least -30 feet) and leaving the eastern structure intact; or realigning the ends of the breakwater by removing an end section new section will be constructed perpendicular to the existing breakwater at that end.

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meetings involving more than 100 community members, dozens of stakeholder group interviews and input from consultants Moffatt & Nichols.

Councilmembers must consider Phase 2 of the plan, which includes a possible \$7 million feasibility study. The city would be required to cover half of the project price tag, providing \$3.5 million of non-federal funds. The federal government would then match the \$3.5 million.

"I really look at this as an investment, rather than a cost," Councilman Garcia explained.

The plan will be brought before the Army Corps of Engineers for approval, if it is okayed by the city council.

"This is a good start," said Mayor Bob Foster. "It is going to take a long time before we come to a conclusion."

Congresswoman Laura Richardson was able to secure \$100,000 in the House Appropriations Subcommittee Energy and Water Report for review of the city's Reconnaissance Study. While the study is funded by the city and the California Coastal Conservancy, federal funds will be used for the Corps of Engineers to review the study and determine if there is enough federal benefit to move forward on an in-depth feasibility study.

Numerous steps would be required before project funding could be secured, including a vote by the House Appropriations Committee and a similar process in the U.S. Senate.

*This article first appeared in the **August 2009** issue of **The Log Newspaper**. All or parts of the information contained in this article might be outdated.*

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