



House approves \$90,000 for Long Beach Breakwater study

By Joe Segura, Staff Writer

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LONG BEACH - The House of Representatives on Thursday approved \$90,000 for the breakwater study by a 308-111 vote.

The appropriation, which had been approved Wednesday by the House's Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee, still needs approval by the U.S. Senate and the signature of the president, according to Jeff Billington, spokesman for Rep. Laura Richardson, who authored the measure.

If the expenditure is approved by Congress and signed by the president, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would have the funding and authority to review the City Council-commissioned study of the Long Beach Breakwater and East San Pedro Bay ecosystem, said Tom Modica, Long Beach's manager of government affairs.

Mayor Bob Foster said the vote is a key step in determining if the breakwater should be modified to bring about changes to coastal water currents.

"For years our community has pondered potential changes to the breakwater," he said. "While the city has conducted its own study, only the Army Corps can determine if there is federal interest in pursuing changes to the breakwater or the East San Pedro Bay. These funds will allow the Army Corps to review the city's study and make that determination of federal interest."

"The city's study showed that there are some potential changes that can be made to improve water quality, while protecting homes, navigation, and all the other complex operations in the East San Pedro Bay," said Councilman Gary DeLong, chairman of the city's Federal Legislation Committee, which is responsible for pursuing federal funding.

The Long Beach Breakwater Reconnaissance Study - formally titled the "East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Restoration Study" - was commissioned by the Long Beach City Council and conducted by Moffatt & Nichol, a local engineering firm. That study was reviewed in July in a study session. The reconnaissance study is just one of the initial stages in a multi-year, multi-million dollar process that could potentially lead to reconfiguring the breakwater or making other changes in the East San Pedro Bay.

For more information on the study, please visit: www.longbeach.gov/citymanager/ga/breakwater .

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