



East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Restoration Study

United States Army Corps of Engineers
and
City of Long Beach

May 25, 2011



The Army Corps Project Process



1. Long Beach City Council Requests Authorization
2. Long Beach Reconnaissance Study
3. Army Corps Reconnaissance Study
4. Feasibility Study
5. Design Phase
6. Construction

UPDATE:

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Initial Interest in the Long Beach Breakwater

- On July 5, 2005, Long Beach Councilmembers brought forth a motion to request federal appropriations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) to conduct a reconnaissance study of the Long Beach Breakwater.

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City Council Approves Long Beach Reconnaissance Study

- July 24, 2007: City Council voted to approve up to \$100,000 of Tidelands funds for the Reconnaissance study
- Moffat and Nichol selected to complete the Reconnaissance Study.
- Long Beach's efforts are unprecedented



Long Beach Study: Major Findings



- Identifies various alternatives to improve the ecosystem and create recreational value.
- Identifies the possibility to create up to 500 acres of kelp bed and up to 300 acres of rocky reef habitat.

Long Beach Study: Major Findings (continued)

- Identifies various breakwater reconfigurations and changes to the Los Angeles River.
 - Must protect Port infrastructure, THUMS oil islands, Navy anchorage, City beaches and homes.
 - May be possible to reconfigure the breakwater to generate some wave activity without damage to existing infrastructure.
 - Warrants additional study and recommended “federal interest”.
 - Neither local nor D.C. Army Corps staff are aware of another instance where a city has conducted its own Reconnaissance study.

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Army Corps Review of the Long Beach Reconnaissance Study

➤ FY 2010

- Congress appropriated \$90,000 to the Army Corps for the review of the Long Beach Reconnaissance study.
- Funding came from a request from Congresswoman Laura Richardson and Senator Feinstein.

➤ Purpose:

- To determine if a federal interest exists in pursuing an in-depth feasibility study.



Results from the Army Corps Review



Changes to the scope of study:

- Broader Alternatives
- Enhanced Los Angeles River Focus
- Simplified Document
- Enhanced Ecosystem Restoration Focus

- Study name changes -

Long Beach Breakwater Reconfiguration Study

Becomes...

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What is a feasibility study?

- Based on reconnaissance study results and local sponsor financial commitment
- Investigates and identifies solutions, which could differ from initial assessment
- Develops conceptual designs, assesses available data, and collect necessary new data
- Full Environmental Assessment
- Consultations with DOD, DOT, and Coast Guard
- Creates a cost estimate for construction



Goals



- To promote ecosystem restoration
- To improve water quality
- To increase recreational activity opportunities.
- To protect existing infrastructure



Costs

- Projected to be approximately \$8 million over four-years assuming full funding.
- 50/50 cost-share between the City and the Army Corps of Engineers
- Both the City and the Army Corps will spend equally and concurrently.
- The City's is share of \$4 million over four-years.



Local Commitment

- The City of Long Beach has identified \$825,000 in in-kind services, as well as \$2.5 million in the City's Tidelands Fund.
- Long Beach is also committed to searching for grant funds to supplement to costs of the study.

Next Steps

- Federal funding for this project must be secured before moving forward with the Feasibility Study.
- Congressional Appropriation requests are not permitted in FY 11 and 12. Congresswoman Richardson requested \$600,000 in FY 11, but those funds were not approved.
- Long Beach advocated for funding for this project through the President's FY 12 Budget and the FY 11 Workplan but was unsuccessful in obtaining the funds.
- The East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Restoration feasibility study cannot start without a federal commitment this year.
- Staff will continue to work with the Army Corps to identify a federal funding source to begin the study.



Questions and Comments

- Email Breakwater@longbeach.gov
- Visit www.longbeach.gov/citymanager
- Contact Tom Modica, Director of Government Affairs and Strategic Initiatives, at (562) 570-5091