



COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER

FIRST DISTRICT
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

November 14, 2013

Ms. Mary Shallenberger
Commission Chair
California Coastal Commission
P.O. Box 354
Clements, CA 95227-0354

Re: CD-0203-13 Consistency Determination by US Army Corps of Engineer (November 14, 2013: Item 11a)

Dear Ms. Shallenberger,

I represent the communities of Torrey Pines, Carmel Valley, and University City, all of which are adjacent to the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon. I have serious concerns regarding the 50-year Coastal Storm Drain Damage Reduction and Beach Nourishment project proposed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the City of Solana Beach and the City of Encinitas.

The Los Peñasquitos Lagoon and lagoon inlet are located directly south of the proposed project areas, and sand and sediment along this coastline tend to follow in a southerly migration route due to wave directions and a prevailing long-shore current.

Sand build-up that occurs at the mouth of the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon prevents tidal flow and allows for stagnant fresh water to be a breeding ground for mosquitoes. As the mosquitoes within the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon have been known to carry the West Nile Virus and Equine Encephalitis, this becomes a public health and safety concern. When the lagoon inlet was blocked from tidal flow for well over a month earlier this year, my office received an overwhelming amount of concern from affected constituents. As a result, there were two independent efforts to remove over 40,000 cubic yards of sand via bulldozers and excavators in May 2013 and June 2013, with an additional third effort anticipated for later this year. There is strong evidence linking the large amount of sand removed (a 40% increase to the past four years) to sand replenishment efforts that occurred in November 2012 along the same Solana Beach/Encinitas coastline.

While monitoring efforts at the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon inlet have been included in the description of the revised Project, mitigation financing and planning have not. It is essential that such financing and the appropriate mechanisms to allocate it in a timely manner be included in the proposed Project prior to approval.

I appreciate your attention to this matter. Please let me know if my office or I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Sherri S. Lightner
Councilmember, District One
City of San Diego

