



SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY BEACH COALITION

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City of San Clemente

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Capistrano Bay District

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Juaneño Band of Mission
Indians Acjachemen
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Justin Gollhofer
Member
Orange County Flood
Control District

James Dinwiddie
Member
Orange County Parks

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Mike Levin
United States House of Representatives
2352 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: FY2027 Community Project Funding Request — San Diego Regional Beach Sand and Nearshore Habitat Studies

Dear Representative Levin:

As Chairwoman of the South Orange County Beach Coalition and Supervisor of the Fifth District, which encompasses the coastal cities of Dana Point and San Clemente within the Oceanside Littoral Cell, I write in support of the San Diego Association of Governments' (SANDAG) Fiscal Year 2027 funding request of \$1,000,000 for two technical studies needed to advance the Regional Beach Sand Project III. The County of Orange, Capistrano Bay District, the City of San Clemente, and the City of Dana Point contributed a total of \$234,087 for phase 1 of the project. These technical environmental studies are prerequisites for the design and environmental review phase of future regional sand replenishment efforts.

The requested funding supports an updated survey of offshore borrow sites to identify viable sand sources, and an updated nearshore habitat inventory to inform future environmental and design decisions. The existing borrow site data proved unreliable in recent federal sand placement efforts, and the last habitat inventory was completed in 2008. Without updated data, the region cannot proceed with the next phase of the project.

South Orange County and San Diego's coastline within the Oceanside Littoral Cell are some of the region's most significant economic and environmental assets, and beach erosion remains an ongoing challenge. This is a modest request for two discrete, well-scoped studies to unblock a major regional coastal project. As chairwoman of the South Orange County Beach Coalition, I respectfully urge you to include this project in your FY2027 Community Project Funding requests. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Katrina Foley
Chairwoman, South Orange County Beach Coalition
5th District Supervisor, County of Orange