



Heritage Complex
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Director

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RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

MAYO BEACH SHORELINE IMPROVEMENTS – Project# P468712

The Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Recreation and Parks thank you for your interest in and attention to the planned Mayo Beach Shoreline Improvements project.

There were a total of 33 participants on the April 6, 2021 Zoom platform meeting, of which 22 were residents, and the remaining 11 included the County Councilwoman, DRP and DPW staff, and members of the design team. The Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) received questions and comments from 9 citizens regarding the Project's 30% Schematic Design during the public meeting. Comments were received from 10 citizens during the period following the Public Meeting.

The public comment period ended on April 20, 2021. This serves as a summary of those comments. The comments are also posted on the Planning and Zoning website at: <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/planning-and-zoning/development/community-meetings/past-meetings/>. A recorded copy of the April 6, 2021 Zoom Public Meeting is also available to view through the link above.

In an effort to address the overarching themes of the questions, we offer the following summary of questions posed and synopses of the answers:

1. Why has no one coordinated with the neighboring communities of West Shoreham Beach and Shoreham Beach?

Response: Our process is for us to share projects with the public once conceptual or 30% complete plans have been prepared. Information is not shared before that point because the

project is still in the development stage and the Department needs to have enough information to present to the public for feedback. After the initial public meeting, questions and comments that are received will be reviewed. The comments are also reviewed to determine if there are changes that can be made to the plans to enhance the project.

2. How much sand and how will it be transported? How many truckloads is this? Will the sand be delivered via barge? If not, why, not?

Response: The Department does not want to limit the contractor's construction means and methods to complete this project and, therefore, will allow access to be either by water, land, or both. There are concerns that shallow shore area makes transport of material via barge inefficient and challenging. By leaving some flexibility in the process, it opens the bid to more contractors and allows for more competitive bids. It should also be noted that the bridge leading into the park has been reviewed and found sufficient for truck traffic. If the sand is trucked in, we anticipate it to be approximately 350 trucks that will only travel along Shoreham Beach Rd. and Honeysuckle Dr. over the course of a few months of construction, similar to the previous project.

3. When will construction bid and construction start?

Response: A bid date and construction date have not been determined yet because the project is in the early design stages. The community will be notified prior to the start of construction and there will be another community meeting at that time to discuss what to expect during construction.

4. Have you done any modeling on what happens to the shoreline north and south of this nourishment? There is a mile of shoreline north that seems to have lost sand after the 2011 work.

Response: No modeling of the sand movement north or south of the Park was conducted as the design features proposed as part of this project will not change the sand movement patterns outside of the immediate project area. See response to question 7 for additional information.

5. Can you expand the background on the parameters of the "hook" extension at breakwaters?

Response: The breakwater extensions are angled to reduce the wave energy traveling from the predominant wave direction, which is the Southeast. Angling the breakwater extensions will decrease the wave energy reaching the shoreline but still allow for swimmers to access deeper water between the breakwaters. It will also allow some wave energy behind the breakwaters from the North and Northeast, to prevent the beach from becoming so calm that marsh plantings emerge.

6. Nice to see Flagg Pond being protected. Pennington Pond that also borders the park is experiencing significant sand accumulation that increased after the 2010 project. What are the plans to study the potential impact on Pennington Pond? Can we consider dredging the accumulated sand from the pond to the beach? Additionally about the 2011 project- that work changed the sediment flow into the inlet and consequently, the mouth of Pennington Pond is being choked off. In terms of creating natural habitat areas, what consideration was given to the inlet leading to western side of the park to include Pennington Pond?

Response: The pond to the west of the park (Pennington Pond) has not been evaluated to determine the existing conditions and the physical processes occurring there. Because this project

is a shoreline protection project, assessment of the pond is outside of the scope of the project. Impacts to the pond are not likely to occur as they design features will not impact the pond inlet as they will not change the sand movement patterns outside of the project footprint.

7. We lost 100 ft. of sand at the same time as the original project. No one coordinated that project and it caused the same severe problems you are addressing. Our community was losing its swimming area and water was encroaching upon our properties. Our project had Corps of Engineer, State and County permits to replace-in-kind 4 groins. It cost our private community \$100,000. The project worked and we have gained about 50 ft. of sand. We are preparing for our second project to restore 4 other groins. We need a holistic peninsula plan so you are not damaging the neighboring communities. This project has the potential of jeopardizing neighboring communities. We need to know the impact of increased wave energy northward towards Shoreham Beach. Is there a plan? What is the anticipated effect of the altered breakwaters on shoreline to the north where two shoreline erosion projects are under design?

Response: As stated in the presentation, Mayo Beach Park was eroding at 6-8 feet/year and the eroded sand was nourishing the eroding beach north of the Park. The erosion at the Park shoreline was significantly reduced by the 2011 project and, therefore, the sand off of Mayo Beach Park shoreline was no longer available to nourish northern beaches. The proposed project will not exasperate erosion north of the project as the design features will not impact sand movement patterns outside of the immediate vicinity of the Mayo Beach shoreline. The project features will not increase wave energy in other areas as breakwaters are used to dissipate, not redirect, wave energy.

8. Appears the north most groin rock structure placement was not at the optimal angle to dissipate the predominant wave energy. Thus, it is having an adverse effect on the north beach areas. It is causing a scouring effect where erosion is progressing at a much rapid rate. It appears you are now adding rock structures on each small cove at an angle that would properly dissipate the wave energy. Wondering if the same needs to happen with the northern most groin, rock structure to prevent the aggressive erosion of the north beaches and provide coastal resiliency goal you are talking about.

Response: Extending the stone jetty at the sand angle will likely not add significant protection to the northern beaches as it will be too far away. Breakwaters offer a 'shadow' of calm water behind them, but if they are placed too far from the shoreline they are meant to protect, then waves have area to 'redevelop' and accumulate the energy that will erode the shoreline. For a breakwater to reduce the erosion along the northern beaches, it will need to be placed significantly closer to that shoreline. Additionally, extending the groin farther could interrupt the littoral drift and could result in negative impacts to reaches north of the project.

9. Are you going to put a sign up so the horseshoe crabs know which area is protected for them?

Response: The Department is sensitive to all the resources in the Parks system. As done at Beverly Triton Nature Park, Mayo will enjoy the similar programming and efforts related to preserving and protecting horseshoe crab habitat, life cycle, migration, and benefits. Signs will be posted to notify and redirect Park visitors from the environmentally sensitive areas.

10. How about fixing the north most groin and not extending it.?

Response: The northern most groin is functioning as intended and will not be extended or altered in any way as part of this project.

11. When is next community meeting?

Response: At a minimum, there would be one more community meeting before the start of construction.

12. Timing of this and updates to park structures to MBP what considerations will be made in both projects and the affect this will have on when BTNP being open/closed during improvements there?

Response: The improvements at Beverly Triton Nature Park (BTNP) are currently out for bid and assuming a favorable bid, work at BTNP will begin late Summer/ Early Fall 2021. The design for Mayo's shoreline will continue during the construction of the improvements at BTNP. As previously indicated, the time frame for the construction at Mayo has not been determined. The Department will coordinate the construction activities of both parks to minimize disruption to communities and park operations at both facilities.

13. We request a delay in the MBP project until two steps occur - a thorough review of the condition/projects along the entire shoreline, to include Mayo Beach Park, Pennington Pond, Honeysuckle Drive and Shoreham Beach Community Beach, West Shoreham Beach and a subsequent presentation and discussion with local residents, in-person if possible in order to have full exchange.

Response: The County's goal is to protect the resources under its stewardship to the benefit of the public at large. The shoreline improvements that are planned for the Mayo Shoreline will not negatively impact the surrounding beaches. Mayo Beach Park's intended ability to retain sand is predictable and should provide the ability for other projects to plan their work and needs. For that reason, design efforts to complete this project will continue to move forward. The County is working in concert with Arundel Rivers to ensure that both projects complement each other, and review construction timeframes to reduce disruption to the community,

The County representatives continue to be available to the community so exchanges remain possible.