



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers.**

South Pacific Division  
333 Market Street  
Room 923  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2195

## Public Notice

**General Reevaluation Report  
For  
SILVER STRAND SHORELINE  
IMPERIAL BEACH  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

October 22, 2002

### **COMPLETION OF STUDIES:**

Notice is hereby given that the Los Angeles District and South Pacific Division Engineers have completed the General Reevaluation Report (GRR) for the Silver Strand Shoreline at Imperial Beach in San Diego County, California. The original project at Imperial Beach was authorized by Section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (Public Law 85-500). The GRR was conducted as a cost-shared study with the City of Imperial Beach as the non-Federal study sponsor.

### **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The original project at Imperial Beach, authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1958, provided for a system of five stone groins along the beach front to stabilize, restore and maintain the former recreational beach and to prevent over wash into the back shore area. The initial groin was completed in 1959 and the second groin in 1961; however, it became obvious that the groins were not working as intended and the project was deferred. As an alternative means to restore and stabilize the beach, an offshore breakwater was approved by the Chief of Engineers in 1979. However, after award of the contract in 1985, but prior to initiation of construction, the project was terminated as a result of a suit filed by a local organization.

Today, it is estimated that about 100,000 cubic yards per year are eroding from Imperial Beach, which corresponds to a shoreline retreat rate of over 6 feet per year. Many private property owners have constructed stone revetments or vertical seawalls to protect their property, but these non-continuous structures may fail as the beach recedes. Intermittent beach fills have also been placed, but not of a sufficient quantity to halt the ongoing erosion.

During the initial stages of the GRR investigation, a broad range of potential alternative solutions was studied. These included beach nourishment alone, beach nourishment with breakwaters, extended groins with beach nourishment, a new and continuous revetment in the

North Reach (with and without a raised revetment in the South Reach) and, a new seawall in the North Reach.

As the study progressed, it became more and more obvious that the only project alternative meeting all the planning objectives (particularly of economic efficiency and public and regulatory acceptability) was the beach nourishment alternative.

Several beach nourishment alternatives were developed consisting of different beach widths and periodic nourishment intervals. The plan that emerged as the recommended plan is the National Economic Development (NED) Plan (has a benefit to cost ratio greater than unity, and also produces the greatest net benefits) and consists of an initial beach width of 39 feet with a re-nourishment cycle of 10 years.

The recommended plan involves construction of a base beach fill consisting of 588,000 cubic yards of suitable beach sand, plus a sacrificial advance beach fill of 1,000,000 cubic yards for a total initial beach fill of 1,588,000 cubic yards. The placement will be 7,100 feet long extending from the northerly groin to the southern end of the development, providing a base nourishment beach width of 39 feet at an elevation of +13 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW). The additional sacrificial beach width will be 66 feet, so that initially the nourished beach will be 105 feet wider than the existing beach. The selected plan of improvement is shown on Plate 1 (Enclosure 1).

The nourished beach is expected to erode to the 39-foot width after 10 years. It will be re-nourished with a sacrificial advance beach fill of 1,000,000 cubic yards every 10 years within the 50-year project lifetime.

The benefits of the Recommended Plan include structural, recreational and environmental benefits. Along the South Reach, the project will provide a sandy beach fronting the revetment and will minimize any nuisance flooding to the southernmost end of Seacoast Drive. Along the North Reach, the project will provide protection for the existing coastal structures against undermining, destruction, or condemnation during coastal storms.

The first cost of the recommended plan is \$11,270,000 (based on October 2001 price levels). Of this total cost, \$7,212,800 would be the responsibility of the Federal Government and \$4,057,200 would be the non-Federal share. Total average annual benefits would be \$2,657,000, providing a benefit to cost ratio of 1.93 to 1.0. Net benefits total \$1,280,000.

The analysis presented in the GRR demonstrates that the recommended plan of improvement warrants Federal participation based on its ability to provide shore protection (reduced storm damage) and recreation benefits that serve the public interest. Therefore, it is recommended that the selected plan described herein for shore protection be authorized for implementation as a Federal project, with such modifications as in the discretion of the Chief of Engineers may be advisable, and subject to the cost-sharing and financing arrangements satisfactory to the President and Congress.

## **COORDINATION:**

The formulation of plans to explore shore protection involved extensive coordination with the City of Imperial Beach, the State of California, various local and regional agencies and organizations and the general public. The City has expressed its willingness to continue as the non-Federal sponsor for project implementation. They have indicated their support for the project and a willingness to assume cost-shared financial obligations for its implementation.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:**

Public participation was provided throughout the study by means of informal meetings and discussions, public information brochures and public workshops. The recommended plan of improvement was presented at a public meeting held in the City of Imperial Beach on July 24, 2002.

## **REVIEW AND AUTHORIZATION:**

Prior to adoption of the proposed project, the study evaluations and report findings will be reviewed by the Chief of Engineers and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. A coordinated review, including affected states and other Federal agencies, will also be accomplished at that time.

The Chief of Engineers will review the report and forward a recommendation to the Secretary of the Army. The Assistant Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, then establishes the administration position on whether the proposal should be recommended to Congress for authorization.

## **VIEWS OF INTERESTED PARTIES:**

Interested parties may present written views on the report to the Chief of Engineers and the Secretary of the Army. Such communications should be mailed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Deputy Commanding General for Civil Works, ATTN: CECW-PC, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20314-1000, within 30 days from the date of this notice. Copies of information received by mail will be regarded as public information unless the correspondent requests otherwise. Such a request will limit the usefulness of the information because of the need for full public disclosure of all factors relevant to the decision.

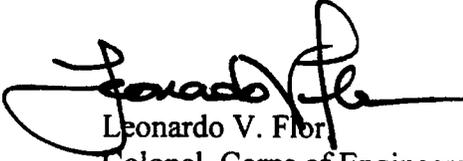
## **FINAL ACTION BY THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS:**

The Chief of Engineers will not submit a recommendation to the Secretary on the report until after the expiration of this notice or any extension thereof that may be granted, and full consideration of all information submitted in response thereto.

**REPORT INFORMATION:**

Further information may be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, 911 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90053-2325; telephone (213) 452-3836. Interested parties may obtain copies of the one volume feasibility report, including the main report and the EIS/EIR, from the District Commander free of charge, as long as copies are available.

Additional copies of the report volumes will also be on file and available for public review at the libraries shown on the enclosed list (Enclosure 2). Please pass along a copy of this public notice to anyone who may be interested in the report and who has not received a copy.

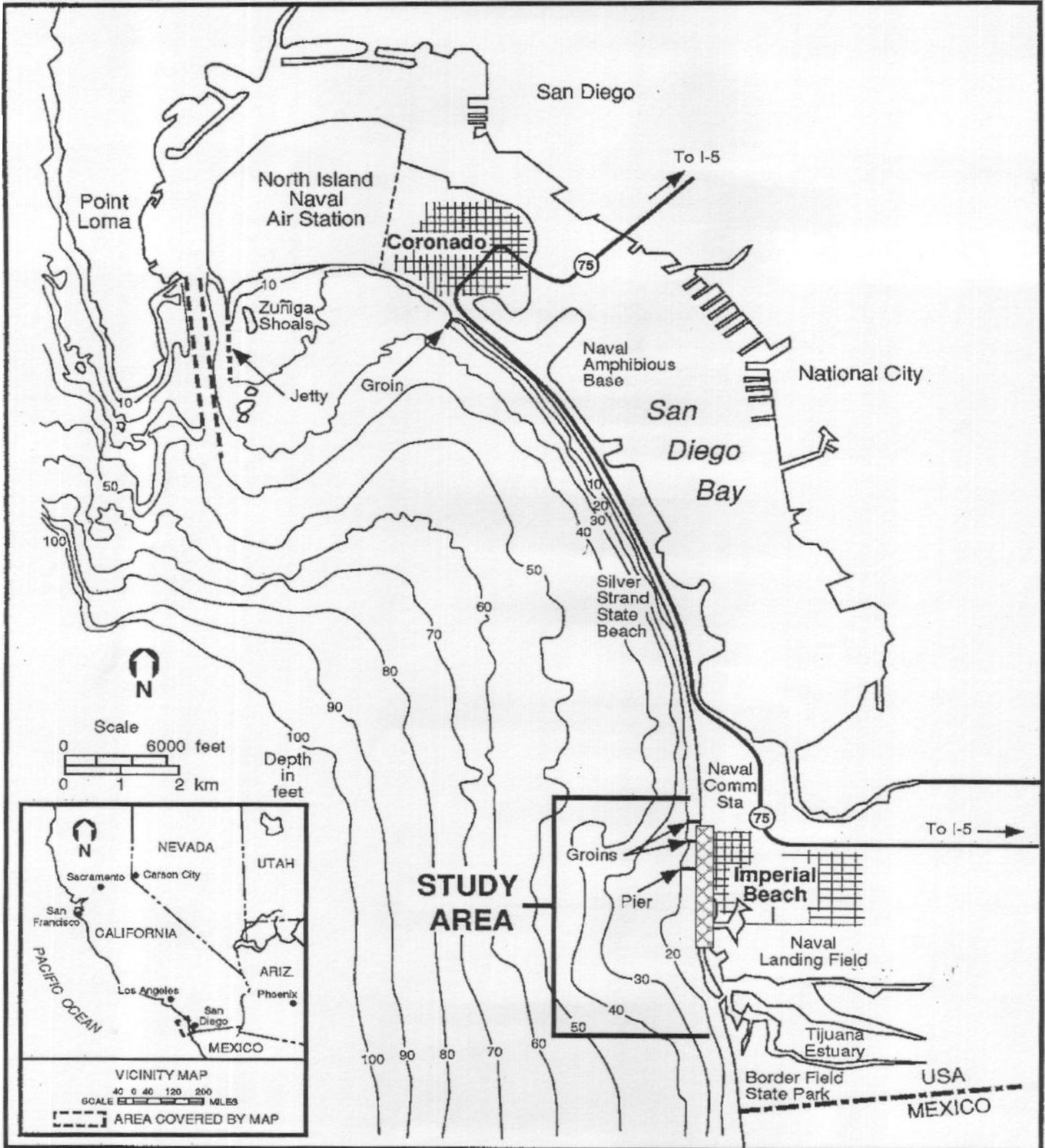


Leonardo V. Flor  
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Acting Division Engineer

2 Enclosures  
Plate 1  
Library List

Enclosure 1

Silver Strand/Imperial Beach Location Map



 Beachfill

**Library List**

University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)  
Library  
Government Publications Department  
Los Angeles, California 90024

San Diego County Public Library  
810 Imperial Beach Blvd.  
Imperial Beach, California 91932

Coronado Public Library  
640 Orange Avenue  
Coronado, California 92118