

Ocean Beach

Sand Management Project

Project Purpose

The Ocean Beach Sand Management Project will gather excess sand built up along the O’Shaughnessy Seawall and place this sand in the erosion hotspot south of Sloat Boulevard. The project is necessary because excess sand built up along the O’Shaughnessy seawall is overflowing into the stairwells, promenade, parking lots, Great Highway, and adjacent neighborhoods. The sand levels at the north end of Ocean Beach are at an historic high. Without removal of this excess sand, National Park Service (NPS) and City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) maintenance crews will need to expend an extraordinary amount of resources to manage the overflow of sand.

The excess sand will be placed south of Sloat Boulevard within the same littoral system (San Francisco Littoral Cell). The beach area south of Sloat Boulevard has experienced a loss of beach and significant bluff erosion. The bluff erosion has required CCSF to place rock and sandbags in order to protect City wastewater infrastructure (Lake Merced Transport Tunnel) from being damaged. Strategic placement of the sand will provide temporary protection of the bluffs and City infrastructure and is a preferred method to placing rock revetment.

Project Details

The proposed project involves excavation of approximately 100-150 thousand cubic yards of sand from in front of the O’Shaughnessy Seawall from Stairwell 1 to 21, and transporting sand with dump trucks along the Great Highway to the erosion hotspot south of Sloat Boulevard. The sand placed south of Sloat Boulevard will be monitored to understand how long the sand will remain in place, how well it functions as bluff protection, and where it moves in the nearshore environment. Based on monitoring, excess sand from in front of the O’Shaughnessy Seawall may be placed south of Sloat Boulevard in successive years.

The public will be safely directed around areas where active project activities are occurring. Project staging will require short-term closures of some parking areas. Staging for excavation operations will occur in a portion of the parking area at Stairwell 28, and staging for the sand placement operations will occur at the parking lot located at Sloat Boulevard. Operations and staging in the area south of Sloat Boulevard will be done in a manner that maintains as much parking as possible.

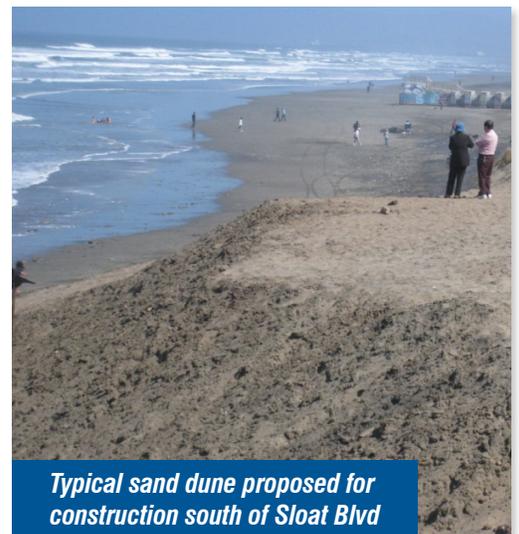
To ensure safe transport of sand, the south bound lanes of the Great Highway will be closed during construction hours - Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM. No night or weekend work will occur. The dump trucks will move north and south on the closed lanes and access the beach at both ends. There will be an MTA approved traffic routing program in place. The project is estimated to be completed within five weeks from the start of the project.



Ocean Beach Seawall with overflowing sand

Project Objectives

- Remove sand from in front of the O’Shaughnessy Seawall in order to reduce future sand maintenance efforts;
- Maintain public access on promenade and stairwells that have been blocked by sand build-up;
- Enhance beach access in the erosion hotspot area south of Sloat Boulevard;
- Provide for bluff protection in high risk areas that threaten CCSF infrastructure;
- Reduce the need to implement more engineered bluff protection measures in the short-term.



Typical sand dune proposed for construction south of Sloat Blvd



Services of the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission



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Dynamic Environment

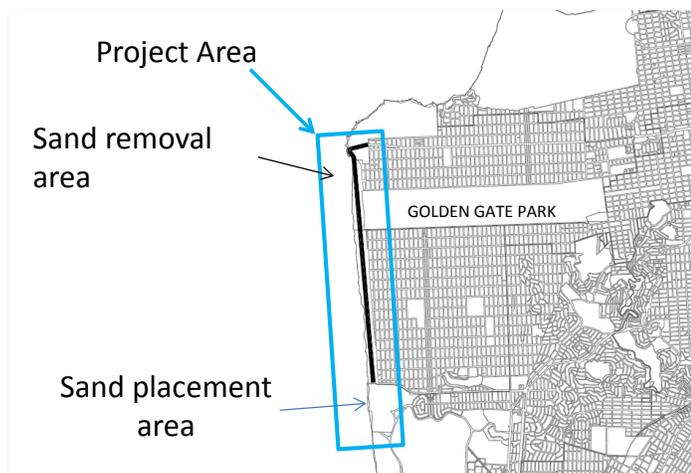
Shoreline changes along Ocean Beach are dramatic and are a result of natural and human-caused factors. In general, the beach at the northern end of Ocean Beach has been widening and accumulating sand while the beach south of Sloat Boulevard has experienced a loss of beach and is eroding. The effects are especially notable during the spring, when shifting winds, wave height, and currents cause most of the shoreline changes, most notably the deposition of a significant amount of sand in the north while the beach drops by many feet in the south.

Excessive sand at the northern end of Ocean Beach this season has resulted in sand covering the O'Shaughnessy Seawall and accumulating in the parking lot and the Great Highway. This has buried stairways and impeded access along the esplanade. Currently, the sand is in excess of 13 feet deep at the face of the seawall, and is at historic levels of accumulation.

Long-Term Plans

National Park Service and CCSF are actively participating in the comprehensive planning efforts at Ocean Beach led by the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR). The long-term plan being developed will address the complicated land-use, resource protection, public recreation, and shoreline protection issues at Ocean Beach. The proposed sand maintenance program will serve as an interim solution for the sand imbalance and the bluff protection issues at the north and south ends of Ocean Beach.

NPS owns and manages Ocean Beach as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) operates the city's wastewater infrastructure, notably the Lake Merced Transport Tunnel located under the Great Highway. This tunnel is threatened by the bluff erosion south of Sloat Boulevard. Finally, Department of Works (DPW) maintains the Great Highway, which is affected by excess windblown sand and is endangered by bluff erosion.



Schedule

Public Outreach: July 2012

Project Start: Late July/
Early August

Project Completion:
Early September 2012

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For More Information

[www.parkplanning.nps.gov/
OB_sand_mgmt](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/OB_sand_mgmt)

www.spur.org/oceanbeach