

# Ocean Beach

## Sand Management Project



Services of the San Francisco  
Public Utilities Commission

### 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 will be very similar to an earlier sand transport project completed in 2012, and is necessary because excess sand has built up again along the O'Shaughnessy seawall and is overflowing into the stairwells, promenade, parking lots, Great Highway, and adjacent neighborhoods. 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, and much of the sand placed in 2012 has completely eroded. 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. This year's placement of the sand is a preferred method to placing rock revetment and will provide temporary protection of the bluffs and City infrastructure while a more permanent solution is being studied.

### Project Details

The proposed project involves excavation of approximately 25 to 30 thousand cubic yards of sand from in front of the O'Shaughnessy Seawall from Stairwell 1 to 28 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 since the 2012 project, sand stabilization measures will be included to prevent windblown erosion of the relocated sand.

A combination of techniques will be used which may include inserting dune grass thatch from other dunes at Ocean Beach to trap sand within the berm; using coarse sediment such as pebbles and shell fragments to hold down the lighter weight sand; adding brush fencing; and/or planting native plants.

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 would 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. The northbound lanes will remain open to northbound traffic. 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 the 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 short-term bluff protection measures.**



*Typical sand dune proposed for construction south of Sloat Blvd*

# Ocean Beach

## Sand Management Project

### *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.

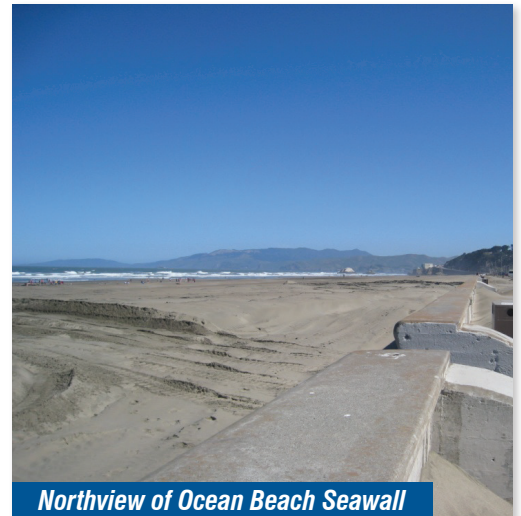
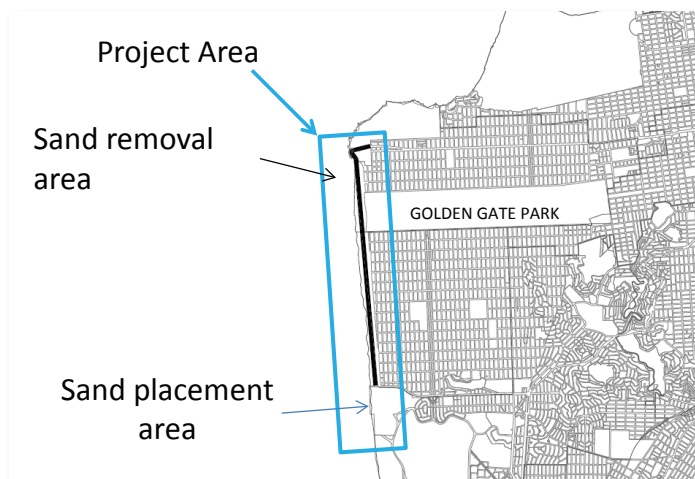
Excessive sand at the northern end of Ocean Beach this season has resulted in sand covering the O'Shaughnessy Seawall and accumulating in the parking lot and the Great Highway. This sand has once again buried stairways and impeded access along the esplanade.

### *Long-Term Plans*

The 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. For more info on the Ocean Beach Master Plan, please go to the following link:

[www.spur.org/featured-project/ocean-beach-master-plan](http://www.spur.org/featured-project/ocean-beach-master-plan)

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, a critical portion of San Francisco's wastewater system. This tunnel is threatened by the bluff erosion south of Sloat Boulevard.



*Northview of Ocean Beach Seawall*

### *Schedule*

**Project Start:** Early October 2014

**Project Completion:** November 2014

### *Contact*

#### **National Park Service**

Alexandra Picavet

415.786.8021

[Alexandra\\_Picavet@nps.gov](mailto:Alexandra_Picavet@nps.gov)

#### **S.F. Public Utilities Commission**

Jean Walsh

415.554.3203

[JWalsh@sfgwater.org](mailto:JWalsh@sfgwater.org)

### *For More Information*

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ocbesandmgmt>

[www.spur.org/oceanbeach](http://www.spur.org/oceanbeach)