

## Stephanie Rojas

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**From:** Thomas Schmiderer  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026 11:05 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** FW: SOS recommendation to shift Oside harbor annual dredging cycle from spring to fall Agenda item #9  
**Attachments:** SOS recommendation on Oside harbor dredge shift from spring to fall #9 agenda item.pdf



**Thomas Schmiderer**  
**Assistant City Clerk**  
**City of Oceanside**

[tschmiderer@oceansideca.org](mailto:tschmiderer@oceansideca.org)  
[+1 \(760\) 435-3004](tel:+17604353004)  
[300 N. Coast Highway](#)  
Oceanside, CA 92054  
[www.oceansideca.org](http://www.oceansideca.org)

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**From:** Bob Ashton <bashton@sosoceanside.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026 11:04 AM  
**To:** City Council <Council@oceansideca.org>  
**Cc:** Jayme Timberlake <JTimberlake@oceansideca.org>; Mitch Silverstein <msilverstein@surfrider.org>; ernie@oceansideseacenter.com; rflick@ucsd.edu; Leslee Gaul <ljpgaul@aol.com>; Jeffery Mcdermott <jeff@mcdermottny.com>; Bob Walker <bwalker@sosoceanside.com>; Charles Bowen <cbowen@sosoceanside.com>; Matt Caulfield <mpcaulfield@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** SOS recommendation to shift Oside harbor annual dredging cycle from spring to fall Agenda item #9

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Dear Oceanside City Leaders,

On behalf of Save Oceanside Sand (SOS), I am writing to express our strongest recommendation that the City shift the annual Oceanside Harbor dredging cycle from spring to fall. This recommendation is grounded in decades of coastal science and engineering analysis and reflects best practices for sediment management along our shoreline, especially our devastated beaches of South Oceanside. The attached letter outlines our position and the supporting technical rationale in detail.

Proactive, science-based coastal management, especially when it adapts to evolving understanding of coastal processes is essential to restoring and sustaining Oceanside's beaches. Adjustments such as this demonstrate leadership, responsiveness, and a commitment to using every available opportunity to more effectively manage sediment, reduce recurring dredging inefficiencies, and maximize public beach benefit.

We respectfully ask that you give full consideration to this recommendation and support staff's proposed actions, which align with sound coastal science and long-standing engineering guidance. Taken together, these steps will help ensure Oceanside's beaches are better protected and restored for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued leadership and stewardship of Oceanside's coast.

Sincerely,

Bob Ashton  
Executive Director  
Save Oceanside Sand

All the best,  
Bob

Bob Ashton  
President/CEO  
Save Oceanside Sand  
[bashton@sosococeanside.com](mailto:bashton@sosococeanside.com)  
(808) 429-1770  
**"One City - One Beach"**



February 3, 2026

Dear Oceanside City Council,

Save Oceanside Sand (SOS) appreciates the actions the city has taken to ensure that annual dredging of the Oceanside Harbor is performed as efficiently and responsibly as possible. In that regard, we strongly support the proposal to shift the scheduled harbor dredging window from spring to fall, as well as the pending emergency request to immediately dredge the harbor mouth to maintain safe navigation.

As has been clearly established, the primary purpose of the harbor dredging project is to maintain the safe navigation channel. While sediment disposal on adjacent beaches is often described as a secondary benefit, when dredging occurs in the spring the actual shoreline benefit is minimal and short-lived. The proximity of historic receiver sites to the harbor entrance results in dredged sand rapidly migrating back toward the harbor mouth, contributing to repeated shoaling causing dangerous navigation for military and pleasure craft.

For more than 20 years, coastal science and engineering studies have consistently recommended shifting dredging to the fall. Fall placement better aligns with seasonal wave climate and longshore sediment transport, allowing sand to move naturally to the south where it can nourish chronically sand-starved beaches rather than cycling back into the harbor. This adjustment does not alter the navigation purpose of the project; rather, it maximizes the public benefit of the sediment that must be dredged regardless.

SOS also commends the city for recent actions that demonstrate meaningful progress toward science-based coastal management. The activation of the SCOUP permit, which placed approximately 2,500 cubic yards of sand south of the pier near Tyson Street, was an important and visible step in the right direction. We likewise strongly support the City's recommendation to relocate receiver sites south of Cassidy Street as part of SANDAG's planned Regional Beach Sand Project III (RBSP III).

Taken together, these actions suggest that now is an opportune time to further rethink and modernize harbor dredging sediment receiver locations. The latest science clearly supports placing sand as far south as feasible. Historic receiver sites north of the pier and near the harbor mouth are simply too close to be effective, resulting in inefficient sediment recycling back into the channel. Meanwhile, decades of under-nourishment have had a catastrophic effect on South Oceanside beaches, once a premier destination for families, where beach width has vanished, public access points have been closed, and conditions have become unsafe for public use.

Maintaining momentum toward a resilient and equitable shoreline also requires public trust. The long-term success of RE and related coastal initiatives is contingent on the support and good will of South Oceanside residents. That support is strengthened when residents see tangible evidence that the city embraces the principle that there is "One Beach" in Oceanside—and that South Oceanside is fully part of it.

Oceanside City Council Meeting February 4<sup>th</sup> Agenda Item #9 – potential shift in annual Oceanside harbor dredging program from spring to fall



To that end, SOS encourages the City to work with the USACE to establish future harbor dredging receiver sites at alternate locations south of the existing Tyson Street SCoup site, including:

- \* Wisconsin Street
- \* Oceanside Boulevard
- \* Buccaneer Beach / Cassidy Street

Our general concept is to identify one or more primary pipeline landing sites and distribute sand southward in phases, with each alternate location receiving a designated volume—similar in approach to the City’s opportunistic sand placement at Tyson Street. This could function as a southerly continuation of that effort. The existing dredging configuration could be largely maintained, while redesigning the shore pipeline and employing hybrid delivery systems to address the unique physical constraints of each site. Critically, terminal outlets should be located as close to the southern receiver sites as feasible, rather than north of the pier.

Shifting dredging to the fall and strategically relocating receiver sites reflects sound coastal science, long-standing engineering recommendations, and adaptive management best practices. It demonstrates that Oceanside’s Coastal Management Division is actively using every available opportunity to improve sediment efficiency, protect public infrastructure, restore beach access, and steward our shoreline for generations to come.

SOS looks forward to discussing these concepts in greater detail at your convenience and continuing to work collaboratively with the city to advance practical, science-driven solutions for Oceanside’s entire coast. We are One City - One Beach!

Respectfully,

***Bob Ashton***

Bob Ashton

Executive Director

Save Oceanside Sand

[bashton@sosoceanside.com](mailto:bashton@sosoceanside.com)

808-4291-1770

## Stephanie Rojas

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**From:** Thomas Schmiderer  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026 10:41 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** FW: Fall vs. Spring dredging in Oceanside  
**Attachments:** Dredging Proposal.Spring.Fall.February 3.pdf



**Thomas Schmiderer**  
**Assistant City Clerk**  
**City of Oceanside**

[tschmiderer@oceansideca.org](mailto:tschmiderer@oceansideca.org)  
+1 (760) 435-3004  
300 N. Coast Highway  
Oceanside, CA 92054  
[www.oceansideca.org](http://www.oceansideca.org)

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**From:** donnaayotte@aol.com <donnaayotte@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 2, 2026 7:53 PM  
**To:** City Council <council@ci.oceanside.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Fall vs. Spring dredging in Oceanside

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Please present our letter to City Council and staff regarding the proposed 2026 Dredging schedule.

Kindest Regards,

Hon. John G. Evans, Ret.  
Donna Ayotte Evans  
910 N. Pacific St. Units 16 & 30  
Oceanside, CA 92054

February 3, 2026

Sent via Email

Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers:

As Oceanside residents, my husband and I strongly support the proposed 2026 trial to shift the Harbor dredging and sand placement program from spring to fall, given the potential benefits for coastal resilience, more effective sand use near the Pier, and improved nourishment of our southern beaches described in the staff report. At the same time, we respectfully ask the Council to clarify how the effectiveness of a “fall-only” schedule will be evaluated in 2026, since this trial year is described as including two dredging episodes—April and September—rather than the usual single annual dredge, which may make it harder to determine whether one fall dredge alone is sufficient to maintain navigation safety and summer beach width. We encourage the City and USACE to clearly distinguish between data collected from the April maintenance dredge and from the new fall placement, so the community can meaningfully assess whether a permanent shift to fall dredging is warranted in future years.

Respectfully,

John & Donna Evans

910 N. Pacific, Units 16 & 30

Oceanside, CA 92054

[donnaayotte@aol.com](mailto:donnaayotte@aol.com), [jgelaw@aol.com](mailto:jgelaw@aol.com)