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Appendix L  
Recreational Opportunities

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## Coastal Conditions and Recreational Opportunities by Beach March 4, 2024

### Introduction

The discussion below is adapted from the *Orange County Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan* (USACE 2013) and highlights the recreational opportunities at each major beach in the study area starting from the north and moving south to the County of Orange (County) jurisdictional line with San Diego County.

### Dana Point Beaches

#### Doheny State Beach

Doheny State Beach is located at the intersection of Highway 1 and Dana Point Harbor Drive. Amenities include lifeguards, a snack bar, bathrooms and showers, volleyball nets, barbeques, picnic areas, fire pits, and camping areas. The beach is popular year-round with overnight tourists and local and County residents. There are a few reefs and a river-mouth sandbar that produce soft but well-shaped waves that are popular with longboard and novice surfers and make the waves safe for children. There is also a large grassy area that is used in the summertime for concerts and events and otherwise is often crowded with visitors playing a range of games. In the park, there are 120 camping sites, and there are also many hotels in the area.

#### Capistrano County Beach

Capistrano County Beach is located directly west of Highway 1 on Beach Road. The beach has been damaged by coastal storms and lack of sand supply, and the County is actively developing solutions to prevent further damage to this beach. There is currently limited public parking at this beach due to storm damage. Across the street among the hotels are a small cluster of bars and restaurants.

#### Poche Beach

Poche Beach is located at the intersection of Highway 1 and Camino Capistrano. Free parking is available on Camino Capistrano and in a lot of approximately 100 spots across Highway 1. The lot also caters to overflow parking from an adjoining plaza containing a Department of Motor Vehicles office and a few other shops. There is seasonal lifeguard service and volleyball net but no other public amenities. This beach is the southernmost beach in Dana Point.

### San Clemente City Beaches

#### Shorecliffs

This beach represents the northern City of San Clemente limit (Shorecliffs Beach Club fence line) to the north end of Capistrano Shores mobile home park community. This beach encompasses the

private Shorecliffs Beach Club property and undeveloped beach north of the Capistrano Shores fence line. The Capistrano Shores mobile home park community is located along this stretch of beach. The Shorecliffs reach is halved between two distinct subsections. The northern section is mostly made up of the coastal infrastructure and beachside amenities of the Shorecliffs Beach Club, while the southern half is primarily relic vegetated dune habitat.

### **San Clemente City Beach (North)**

The northern section of San Clemente's coast is, for the most part, a thin stretch of sand just west of the railroad tracks that caters largely to surfers. These beaches can be reached via pedestrian paths off of Mariposa and Buena Vista streets, and parking is limited to the residential streets. The exception is at the north end, where a metered parking lot of approximately 250 spots located just off Highway 1 caters to the patrons of the Ole Hanson Beach Club, a Metrolink station, and a beach that has seasonal lifeguards, a snack bar, a playground, and restrooms. This beach is popular with bodyboarders and local and County families in the summertime but in winter is primarily used for surfing. The north end is also where the San Clemente Pedestrian Beach Trail begins.

### **San Clemente City Beach (Main and South)**

At the foot of Avenida Del Mar at the center of San Clemente sits the San Clemente Pier; the city beach stretches to the north and south. The pier is enjoyed year-round by visitors and residents and a wide variety of beach users. There are hotels and other types of overnight accommodations located nearby, so overnight visitors represent a significant source of tourism, especially in the summer. The pier is also popular with local and County residents who surf, bodyboard, fish, or dine at the restaurants on the pier, the snack bar on the beach, or any of the establishments located across the street from the beach in the area known as the Pier Bowl. Parking is provided in a metered lot of approximately 170 parking spots, plus additional metered street parking. Additional amenities at the beach include bathroom and shower facilities, shaded picnic areas, and a playground. Just north of the pier is the San Clemente City Lifeguard Headquarters. Farther north of the pier is Linda Lane Beach Park, located at the base of Linda Lane. This beach has similar amenities to the pier and is just a short walk away. This beach, however, is slightly less crowded and caters more to local and County families.

Farther south from the San Clemente pier are Calafia and T-Street beaches. At Calafia Beach, the City of San Clemente provides a metered parking lot of 190 spots, a restroom and shower facility, seasonal food, and lifeguard service. The beach here is narrower than the beaches to the north or south, nevertheless, due to the amenities available, it is heavily populated by local, County, and tourist beachgoers when the weather is favorable. In the winter, surfers remain. The San Clemente Inn is just a few blocks from this beach, and a few other hotels are located east of the freeway. Continuing north is T-Street Beach, a popular surfing destination located at the intersection of Esplanade and West Paso de Cristobal. Near the beach there are 30 metered parking spots and

additional street parking further up the two streets and within the residential area. A pedestrian bridge leads from the bluff down to the beach where there are lifeguards, a seasonal snack bar, and restroom and shower facilities. T-Street is very popular with locals and County residents year-round. In the summer, surfing is prohibited from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and swimmers, bodyboarders, and sunbathers dominate the wide sandy beach. During summer mornings and evenings, and in the winter, surfing is popular at the centrally located reef break.

### **San Clemente State Beach**

San Clemente State Beach can be reached off Avenida Calafia, which intersects the I-5 freeway. The park provides approximately 150 campsites, year-round lifeguard service, and restroom and shower facilities. Trails from the bluff top park lead to the beach. In the summer months the beach and campground are filled with overnight visitors. In the winter, mostly local surfers remain.

### **Cyprus Shores**

Cyprus Shores and Cotton's Point are the southernmost beaches in the County and the northernmost beach in the Trestles area. Cyprus Shores is accessible via a bike path off Christianitos Road that runs through San Onofre State Beach and the San Mateo Wetlands. Parking is available on the east side of the I-5 in a paid lot of just over 100 spots or on the adjacent street. There are no amenities here apart from a pit toilet at the base of the bike path. Cotton Point is a well-regarded surfing destination, and the beach is primarily used by surfers. In the winter the demographic is mostly local and Southern California residents; however, in the summer, the beach is crowded with traveling surfers. Cotton Point is also the location of President Nixon's Western White House, La Casa Pacifica, which sits atop the point overlooking the ocean in southern San Clemente.

### **Reference**

USACE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), 2013. *Orange County Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plan*. Prepared for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, County of Orange, and California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup. Prepared by Everest International Consultants, Inc., in association with Science Applications International Corporation and Dr. Philip King. June 2013.