

April 14th, 2016

BEACON
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009 - 1540

Subject: BEACON Membership Dues for Fiscal Year 2016/17

Dear BEACON Member Agencies:

BEACON was established in 1986 as a Joint Powers Agency (JPA) to address coastal concerns and beach preservation issues for the Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties and the coastal cities therein. Since BEACON's inception, it has operated on a shoestring budget funded through the annual membership dues and project specific grant funding when available. This strategy has subsequently maintained BEACON and allowed the successfully delivered of a number of beach nourishment capital projects and studies throughout its jurisdiction.

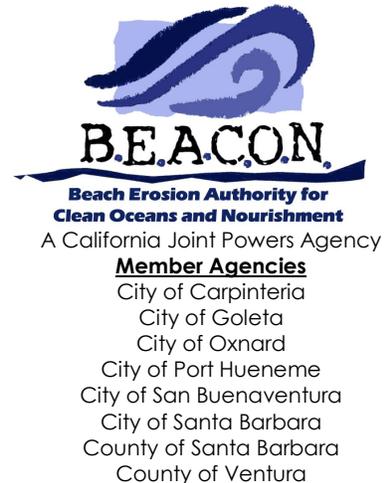
BEACON staff currently consists of:

- Executive Director – unfunded (currently pro-bono).
- Operations Manager/Program Manager – funded: local Consultant.
- Technical Advisor – funded: local Consultant.
- Legal Counsel – funded: Santa Barbara County Counsel's office.
- Financial/Accounting – funded: Ventura County Auditor Controllers Office.
- Administration – funded through reduction in annual dues: City of Ventura.
- Coastal Resilience Planning – funded: Consultant.

The effects of climate change and sea level rise on our coastline are becoming tangible issues for member agencies so BEACON, as a technical and regional planning resource needs to evolve to better serve its membership.

BEACON staff has already begun to increase its focus in this regard, however it requires additional time and technical expertise. The result has been a gradual increase in expenditures while annual revenues have remained the same. This imbalance will result in a 30% deficit in revenues projected for FY 16/17, which has to be made-up through a rapidly diminishing contingency balance. BEACON member agencies should therefore consider a strategy to increase annual membership dues for FY16/17. To this end, the table below reflects the current BEACON annual dues by member agency as well as a 10%, 20% and 30% increase in dues.

As a reminder, the BEACON dues are set in three categories, a County rate, a large city rate for Oxnard, Ventura and Santa Barbara and a small city rate for Carpinteria, Goleta and Port Hueneme. The dues have not been increased since FY 08/09. In addition, in consideration of the economic downturn, the dues were actually decreased for three concurrent years starting FY 09/10 in an amount of up to 15%. The **current** dues were resumed in FY 12/13.



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BEACON Annual Membership Dues				
Agency	Current Annual Dues	10% Increase	20% Increase	30% Increase
County of Ventura	\$18,000	\$19,800	\$21,600	\$23,400
County of Santa Barbara	\$18,000	\$19,800	\$21,600	\$23,400
City of Santa Barbara	\$15,000	\$16,500	\$18,000	\$19,500
City of Oxnard	\$15,000	\$16,500	\$18,000	\$19,500
City of San Buenaventura	\$10,000*	\$11,000*	\$12,000*	\$13,000*
City of Carpinteria	\$9,000	\$9,900	\$10,800	\$11,700
City of Port Hueneme	\$9,000	\$9,900	\$10,800	\$11,700
City of Goleta	\$9,000	\$9,900	\$10,800	\$11,700
Total	\$103,000	\$113,300	\$123,600	\$133,900

*** Rate approved by BEACON Board in recognition of administrative resources provided by the City of San Buenaventura.**

As mentioned previously, the Draft BEACON Budget for FY 16/17 depicts a revenue versus expenditures deficit of 30%. This deficit can be attributed to:

- The lack of any dues increase for nine years.
- A deficit in grant funding available for BEACON general overhead.
- Incremental increases in the cost of services over the last nine years.
- The greater relevancy of BEACON in this time of climate change/sea level rise and the resulting need for expanded services to provide coastal resilience planning and additional technical expertise.

Therefore, I strongly urge during annual budget planning that member agencies recommend a 30% increase in the annual dues for BEACON to their councils and boards for FY 16/17. Please free to contact me at (805) 654-2703 or my Program Manager, Gerald Comati at (805) 962-0488 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian Brennan
 Executive Director
 805-654-2703
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cc: Janet Wolf, Chair BEACON