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Surfside-Sunset Beach Named One of America's Top Restored Beaches

ASBPA Bestows Top Honor for Superior Beach Engineering Efforts

Fort Myers, FL – On the eve of the summer beach season, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) named Surfside-Sunset Beach of Orange County, Calif. one of America's Top Restored Beaches. Surfside-Sunset received the award following successful efforts by local, state and national authorities to reverse the effects of erosion on its 17 miles of shoreline.

“This was by and large a great team effort,” said Chuck Mesa of the Los Angeles District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “We would like to thank ASBPA for giving us this award and bringing more attention to the crucial need for beach restoration.”

The Surfside-Sunset Beach nourishment project is funded jointly by the Corps, State of California (Department of Boating and Waterways), County of Orange, City of Newport Beach, City of Huntington Beach and the Surfside – Storm water Special District. This is California's only federally authorized shore protection project that involves state and local participation. Periodic beach nourishment is performed at Surfside-Sunset Beach, which then functions as a “feeder beach” as waves and currents transport sand alongshore and nourish the down coast beaches.

“The Top Nourished Beach award was created in 2001 as a way of highlighting nourished beaches,” said Mayor Harry Simmons of Caswell Beach, N.C. and President of ASBPA. “As Americans begin to flock to our nation's coastline during the upcoming beach season, most beach-going Americans don't even realize they may be enjoying a nourished beach.”

Beach nourishment – the process of placing sufficient quantities of beach quality sand on eroding beaches to combat erosion – began occurring in the United States over 40 years ago in coastal communities on the East, West and Gulf Coasts. America now has over 370 nourished beaches, including Miami Beach; Coney Island, N.Y.; Waikiki and Venice Beach, Calif. Studies have shown that each dollar spent on beach nourishment generates an additional four to five in taxpayer benefits.

The Top Restored Beaches were chosen based upon three criteria: the economic and ecological benefits the beach brings to its community; the short and long-term success of the nourishment project; and the challenges each community overcame during the course of the project. In addition to Surfside-Sunset Beach, the 2007 winners included: Chaland Headland Restoration Project, La.; East Beach, Norfolk, Va.; Collier County Beaches, Fla.; Perdido Pass, Ala.; West Hampton Dunes, Long Island, N.Y.; and Folly Beach, S.C.

For more information about ASBPA, to schedule an interview with Harry Simmons or to obtain photos, please contact Larry Farnsworth of Crosby-Volmer International Communications at lfarnsworth@crosbyvolmer.com.

ABOUT ASBPA: Founded in 1926, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association represents the scientific, technical and political interests along the coast in an effort to shape national research and policy concerning shore and beach management and restoration. ASBPA strives to engage in a factual debate on coastal issues and economics that will foster sound, far-sighted and economical development and preservation of our beaches; thereby aiding in placing their beliefs within the reach of the largest possible number of people in accordance with the ideals of a democratic nation. For additional information about ASBPA, please visit www.aspba.org.

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