

8. Beaches and Coastal Sand Dunes

Overview

This section provides guidelines for evaluating a project's potential impacts on beaches and coastal sand dunes, which serve as natural buffers, critical habitats, and recreational resources. The impact analysis includes assessing potential disturbances to sand flow, erosion, and sensitive coastal habitats, as well as evaluating compliance with local and state coastal policies to mitigate adverse effects. The guidelines also include requirements for preparing a wave runup and/or coastal engineering report.

This topic section is updated from [Section 9, Coastal Beaches and Sand Dunes](#) in the existing ISAGs.

Thresholds of Significance

Impact analysis guidelines (formerly referred to as “Methodology”) are provided accordingly for the following updated threshold.

A project may have a significant impact if it would:

BEA-1 Cause a substantial adverse change to a beach or coastal sand dune.

Legend:

 Derived from standards specific to the County

Related Technical Terms

The following technical terms related to this topic section have been updated or incorporated:

- Coastal sand dunes
- Littoral cell
- Shoreline protective device