

Staff Report 55

GRANTEE:

City of Long Beach

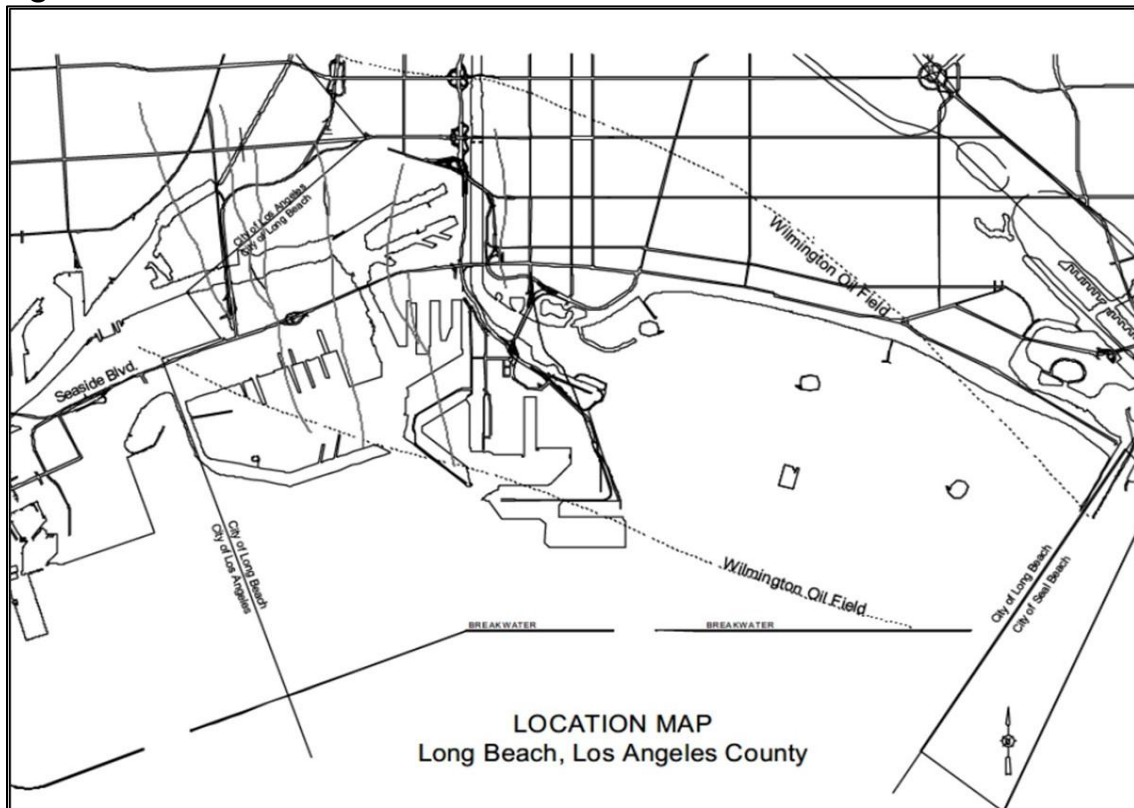
PROPOSED ACTION:

Approval of Subsidence Monitoring Costs for Vertical Measurements and Studies, 2026-2027 Fiscal Year.

AREA, LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:

Long Beach Harbor District, Wilmington Oil Field, granted tidelands administered by the City of Long Beach, Los Angeles County (as shown in Figure 1).

Figure 1. Location



BACKGROUND:

The City of Long Beach (City) conducts ground elevation measurement surveys and studies twice each year (fall and spring) throughout the Harbor District for the purpose of monitoring changes attributable to subsidence caused by oil and gas extraction operations. Changes in ground level caused by subsidence can indicate that an out of balance condition may exist below the surface between the hydrocarbon fluids extracted and the water injected for pressure maintenance, causing the ground to sink or rise. Costs for conducting these surveys and studies in Long Beach are deducted from the Tidelands Oil Revenues, with the prior approval of the Commission in accordance with Chapter 138, Statutes of 1964, Extraordinary Session, section 1, subd. (e). The surveys will consist of ground vertical measurements and studies in the City between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

Table 1. City's Estimated Costs of Proposed Work

Proposed Work	Recommended Approval
Global Positioning System (GPS) Real-Time Network (RTN) Hardware/Software	\$ 28,050
Management, GPS Evaluation Surveys, and Reports (Staff)	\$ 805,867
Total	\$ 833,917

GPS AND RTN HARDWARE/SOFTWARE

The fixed Long Beach Deformation GPS Network incorporates 14 GPS base stations that continuously acquire data for periodic elevation surveys. For Fiscal Year 2026-2027, the overall estimated costs show a decrease of \$37,675 from the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget. The decrease is driven by discontinuation of the California Spatial Reference Center membership, the 3d Tracker software licenses, and the GPS Base Station/Rover Receiver replacement line item. A contingency of 10 percent is added to account for any unforeseen GPS equipment costs or repairs.

MANAGEMENT, GPS ELEVATION SURVEYS, AND REPORTS

These costs account for the City's professional staff and contractor surveyors' time to perform the GPS elevation surveys, in-house studies, evaluations, report generation and review, and conduct daily surveillance of oil-field activities to monitor subsidence. For Fiscal Year 2026-2027, the overall estimated costs indicate a decrease of \$116,673 from the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget of \$922,540, primarily due to decreased labor cost for City professional staff. Contractor will be used to

provide monthly satellite ground elevation data and reports, which replace the biweekly base station survey the contractor previously conducted. It is important to note that this is an approval for estimated costs, and historically, actual annual expenditures have been well below the approved budget. A contingency of 10 percent has been added to cover the costs of any additional staff time or future increases in employee benefits or contractor costs.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION:

Staff have reviewed the City's proposed budget for conducting ground elevation measurement surveys and studies for the purpose of monitoring changes attributable to subsidence. Staff believe the City's proposal is reasonable and consistent with Chapter 138, Statutes of 1964, First Extraordinary Session. Therefore, staff recommend the Commission approve the proposed subsidence monitoring costs.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. On June 27, 1979, the Commission approved proposed expenditures for subsidence maintenance and repairs and subsidence studies ([Item 27](#)). Exhibit B of that Item included the procedures for performing subsidence studies and reimbursement for associated costs. Work performed under this Fiscal Year 2026-2027 proposal will conform to the standards identified in that document. Proposed Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 were presented at the June 3, 2025, Commission meeting ([Item 56](#)).
2. This action is consistent with paragraph 2b of the "Meeting Evolving Public Trust Needs" Strategic Focus Area to ensure informed decision-making for Commission actions by augmenting decision criteria to evaluate and address the essential role of the Public Trust in enriching the lives of the public and protecting the environment for future generations of the Commission's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan.
3. Staff recommend that the Commission find that this activity is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a categorically exempt project. The project is exempt under Class 6, Information Collection; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306.

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21084 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Commission:

CEQA FINDING:

Find that the activity is exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061 as a categorically exempt project, Class 6, Information Collection; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306.

AUTHORIZATION:

Approve subsidence costs, as defined in Chapter 138, Statutes of 1964, First Extraordinary Session, section 1(e), as shown on Table 1 on page 2 and by this reference made a part hereof, proposed to be expended by the City of Long Beach, for subsidence vertical measurements and studies to be conducted in the Long Beach Harbor District between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027, subject to the condition that the work conforms in essential details to the definitions and procedures for such work established by the Commission at its June 27, 1979 meeting, Item 27.