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## Surf City beaches next in line for repair project

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BEACH HAVEN-The next phase of Long Beach Island's beach-replenishment project will be in Surf City, Beach Haven officials said at their Monday night meeting.

Borough Administrator Rich Crane said he received the news at a private meeting held last week among state and federal representatives and municipal officials from towns participating in the project.

The project will then continue in Ship Bottom, Crane said.

The project began last month with the fortification of about 900 feet of beach in Harvey Cedars, between Salem and Cumberland avenues, with 16,000 cubic yards of sand.

Crane did not know when the project would start in Surf City.

Commissioner George Allen said Surf City was chosen because of the low number of beachfront easements required there.

"It's the easiest and quickest (place) to start," Allen said.

About \$5 million is budgeted for the project in 2006, Allen said.

State and federal officials are holding two meetings today to explain the project and why the easements are necessary. The first, at 2 p.m., is at St. Francis parish hall in Brant Beach. The second, at 6 p.m., is at St. Thomas of Villanova parish hall in Surf City.

The state Department of Environmental Protection and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are seeking approximately 800 easements from beachfront property owners from Loveladies south. Long Beach Township accounts for about 600 of those easements. At least two beachfront property owners from the township have indicated they will not sign the easement agreements.

Crane said only about 20 percent of 157 easement requests he mailed to Beach Haven beachfront property owners have been returned, but that all of them agreed to the easements.

"Nobody said they wouldn't sign, but many said they'd prefer to wait awhile," Crane said.

Plans for the ambitious replenishment project, which is expected to take decades to complete, call for a 17-mile berm, or mound, 125 feet wide and as high as 30 feet in some locations.

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