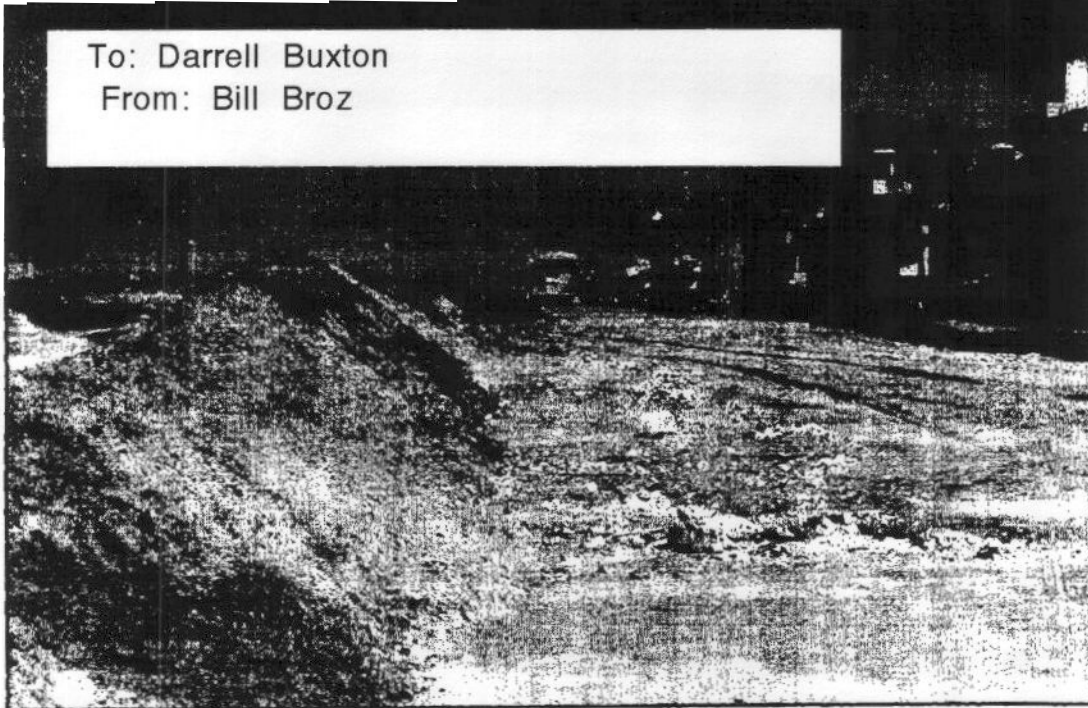


LONG BEACH'S FAVORITE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

To: Darrell Buxton
From: Bill Broz



SUMMER BEACH BERM. A pile of sand up to six feet high stretches along the Peninsula beach to protect from high tides this Tuesday morning. —Gazette photo by Harry Saltzgeber

High Tides, Winds Swamp Peninsula Beach

By Harry Saltzgeber
Executive Editor

A combination of high tides and high winds pushed waves over the seawall on the Peninsula this Monday night, and eroded a large share of the beach rebuilt this spring.

The full "blue" moon at the end of June generated high tides of 7 feet Sunday and 6.9 feet Monday. Phil Hester, Parks Bureau manager, said the high tide Monday combined with high winds — the remnants of Hurricane Alma — to push the waves over the seawall.

As is common procedure, city crews built sand

berms on both sides of the Peninsula in preparation for the high tides. Hester said there had been no reports of damage as of Tuesday morning. Another high tide — 6.6 feet — hit the beach Tuesday night.

"Once we get past that, then we'll take the berm down," Hester said. "We won't know how much of the beach was lost until we can take measurements, and we'll do that later this week."

Tuesday morning, the ocean-side beach was the narrowest around 61st Place, with the lifeguard stand there moved to within 30 feet of the sea-

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they say, is whether it can be done. The city council

High Tides

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wall. On the bay side of the beach, the berm had narrowed the sand to 15 feet in some places.

Beach erosion on the Peninsula has been a source of controversy for several years. In 1995, the city spent more than \$300,000 to rebuild the ocean-side beach with sand from the broad beach to the west. This year, a project costing more than

\$100,000 brought more sand to extend the beach about 150 feet out from the seawall.

Hester said Tuesday morning it was too soon after the tides to decide if any action should be taken. The city's permit with the state Coastal Commission to move sand prohibits any major work during grunion spawning season (March through August), but city officials have said in the past that sand would be moved if the situation was deemed to be an emergency.

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