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## **Experts speak out on sand practices**

### **Geologist notes sending it to sea may be harmful**

**By Adriana Garza Caller-Times**  
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PORT ARANSAS - The city of Port Aransas has been advised by the Corps of Engineers to stop its practice of placing sand at the water's edge or seaward of the mean high water, City Manager Michael Kovacs told the City Council at Monday night's meeting.

The practice may be doing more harm to the environment than good, according to a coastal geologist.

The involvement of the Corps of Engineers has resulted in a shift in priorities, Kovacs said. The city now must find an immediate answer to the short-term issues raised by critics of the city's coastal management process.

Richard Watson, a local geologist, has questioned the city's process of pushing sand that has blown onto the beach roadways back into the sea, rather than letting it shore up the natural dune structure.

The city is seeking a way to manage public access and what's best for the beach. The recent damage caused by Gulf Coast hurricanes, Watson said, emphasizes the importance of maintaining dune structures to protect residents from a storm.

Kovacs has formed an ad hoc advisory committee to help gather information necessary to assess the management plan, including scientists from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and the University of Texas Marine Science Institute.

"The beach is our No. 1 concern and continues to be our focus," Kovacs said.

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