

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE
COASTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Thursday, August 14, 2003

@ 7:00 p.m.

**Community Center, Ole Hanson Fireside Room
100 N. Seville
San Clemente, CA 92672**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Member Ortega led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Ken Nielsen, Nesa Ortega, Dennis Hannan, Michael Barnes,
Garrett Waters, James Burror

Absent: William Hart

Staff present: Bruce Wegner, Director, Beaches, Parks and Recreation
Brandi Outwin, Environmental Engineer
Bill Cameron, City Engineer
Bill Humphreys, Marine Safety Chief
Mary Colletti, Recording Secretary

3. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIR AND CHAIR PRO TEM

Committee Member Ortega read a statement from William Hart, in his absence, which stated that while he was honored to be CAC Chairman, if anyone is interested in being a candidate for CAC Chairman, they should feel free to do so. Committee Member Ortega said that she was also honored to have been Chairman Pro Tem for the last 3 years, but she also felt that anyone interested in being a candidate for Chairman Pro Tem should feel free to do so.

MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER NIELSEN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER HANNAN, to nominate Michael Barnes for Chairman. There were no other nominations for Chairman. MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0) to elect Michael Barnes as Chairman of the Coastal Advisory Committee for one year.

MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER HANNAN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER BURROR, to nominate Ken Nielsen for Chairman Pro Tem. There were no other nominations for Chairman Pro Tem. MOTION CARRIED (6-0-0) to elect Ken Nielsen as Chairman Pro Tem of the Coastal Advisory Committee for one year.

Committee Member Ortega turned the meeting over to new Chairman, Michael Barnes, who thanked Committee Members Hart and Ortega for their hard work as Chairman and Chairman Pro Tem.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. CAC Minutes of June 12, 2003

MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER NIELSEN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER ORTEGA, CARRIED (4-0-2), abstained: Waters, Burror, to approve the minutes of June 12, 2003 as amended.

B. Joint Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2003

Chairman Barnes stated he'd like to add that Marine Safety Chief Bill Humphreys was present at the meeting.

MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER ORTEGA, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER NIELSEN, CARRIED (4-0-2), abstained: Waters, Burror, to approve the minutes of June 16, 2003, as amended.

C. CAC Minutes of July 10, 2003

MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER GARRETT, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER HANNAN, CARRIED (5-0-1), abstained: Ortega, to approve the minutes of July 10, 2003, as amended.

5. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

At this point in the meeting, Chairman Barnes introduced City staff member, Brandi Outwin, Environmental Engineer. Ms. Outwin introduced herself, summarized her professional experience for the Committee and stated she was available if they needed assistance.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Draft Beach Sand Opportunistic Nourishment Policy

Committee Member Ortega asked for a brief synopsis of this draft policy so far. Chairman Barnes said, that at the previous meeting, Chris Webb of Moffatt & Nichols stated that a form had to be completed and sent to the State each time we plan to place sand. Chairman Barnes said this added one more level of expense to the process. Committee Member Ortega read from prior meeting minutes that this form would be "sent electronically and they would have 30 days to object or concur". Chairman Barnes stated that there was a "very close vote" to go with 5% / 10% fines in the draft policy, and gave a very general summary of the changes this Committee had made to the draft policy. Committee Member Ortega asked if the fine percentage would rule out "borrow sites". Chairman Barnes said that Laurence Honma had cited an example of Sunset Beach to Newport Beach, where there was an average of 5% fines from borrow sites. She said she remembered Mr. Honma

saying that he didn't think it was realistic to find opportunistic sand with 10% or less fines. Committee Member Burror said that Committee Member Nielsen had found a potential sand donor from a company who contracts with the sanitation district in Orange County to do backhauls from Arizona. Committee Member Burror said that with fill options, one can send extra dirt to a landfill for \$27 per ton, but if they can find someone who wants the dirt, it's free. He said the soil in San Clemente is pretty poor and would need to be blended to be of use. He looked at different blending ratios; if we got sand from Arizona, and used a 3:1 blending ratio, it would cost more than sending sand to a landfill. With 2:1 blending it would be more economical. He described blending as: How many piles of good sand would you need to blend with San Clemente dirt before you can place it on the beach. He said San Clemente's dirt could be placed in a parking lot and backhaul sand could be brought from Arizona and mixed with San Clemente dirt. Committee Member Ortega thought that just using the Arizona sand might be cheaper. Committee Member Burror pointed out that someone who donates dirt from a construction site wouldn't want to buy a lot of sand from Arizona to blend with their dirt. Committee Member Burror said the dirt in our area is 30-50% sand, according to the California Soil Survey and is classified as clay/loam.

Committee Member Hannan said that the dirt in the Capistrano area is mostly silt and no sand. He said the Department of Agriculture Soil Survey only goes to a depth of 4.5 feet, and does not take the bedrock formation into consideration. He said the only sand in San Clemente is approximately south of Del Mar, and is in the cliffs and terraces. He said all our creek bottoms are clay. When Committee Member Ortega asked why we don't just take Arizona sand directly instead of blending with opportunistic soil, she was told that this would require the City to purchase the sand directly. One option suggested by the committee, was that if a local construction site has sand or dirt to dispose of that did not meet San Clemente's requirements for beach quality sand, it could be blended with Arizona sand, at a rate of blending that would create a final product that is of beach quality. The cost to purchase enough Arizona sand to blend with local material would be borne by the donor. However, dependent upon the quality of the original dirt or sand that had to be blended with pure sand, it may cost more for a donor than it would to just pay \$30 to dump their dirt at a landfill. Since contractors typically want to go with the lowest costing method, they will most likely just dump the sand at a landfill. Committee Member Burror said the ratio would probably have to be at a rate of 4:1 or 5:1 (Arizona sand to original material), and therefore, blending would not be feasible, cost-wise, to a donor.

Committee Member Ortega said this committee has the responsibility to use their expertise to present the best policy to the City Council for them to make decisions on. She wonders what will happen to the current permit. She said Laurence Honma said it was unrealistic to think you'll find material with 10% or less fines.

At this point, Committee Member Nielsen presented a sample of sand with 2% fines, from Arizona. He said they want to get rid of all their sand to make room for more sludge.

Committee Member Nielsen said he attended the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) meeting in Encinitas (they are also doing a sand replenishment project). He said there were many angry residents there whose houses were threatened by "managed retreat". He said their project goals were to reduce coastal storm damages, restore lagoon functions and habitats, preserve/increase recreational value, protect highway 101, improve public safety, quality of life, education, recreation and aesthetics. The options they ruled out were visible breakwaters, rock revetments, groin fields, monolithic sea walls, and man-made cobbled berms. They supported non-structural measures such as beach replenishment, de-watering (which they feel could help delay retreat of cliffs, although Committee Member Hannan disagreed with this idea), management retreat (which Committee Member Nielsen said should not be an option in San Clemente). The structural options were sand retention, small groins, jetties, submerged breakwaters and bluff protection seawalls with shotcrete.

Committee Member Nielsen said he gathered, from the information presented at the Encinitas meeting, that beach replenishment is the way to go; even sand retention structures require replenishment. Managed retreat costs the most. Only beach replenishment provides shore protection and recreation. He said in the public input session of the meeting, a woman named Kelly Sarber talked about a "trash for sand" method they'd tried to implement in exchange of sand for trash from Arizona. It failed because Orange County went bankrupt, along with pressure from the trash company. Ms. Sarber paid for a technical report (which Committee Member Nielsen distributed to the CAC members) to be done on the Arizona sand, and she told Committee Member Nielsen that she'd still like to do this program. Committee Member Nielsen distributed newspaper articles, including one from the Wall Street Journal, about her program. She has an MBA and works for a trash company, whose services she is selling, and would be willing to do a presentation for the CAC members.

Committee Member Nielsen passed around a sand sample from Arizona. He said the sand is 2% clay, and they recommend placing it on the face of the beach, so the waves will quickly wash off the little bit of clay. He also passed around San Clemente sand from Linda Lane; he said the Arizona sand is a little finer. He said while Ms. Sarber is hauling sludge for Orange County, she has not done the sand exchange program since SANDAG. He said her company is hauling sludge from Orange County Sanitation and SOCWA continuously, and the trucks are coming back empty. He said they'd clean the trucks and use plastic liners in them to transport the sand. Ms. Sarber also said that any bacteria that may be in the sand would be killed by the heat during transport. The cost is \$6 per yard, and we don't have to exchange trash. Committee Member Burror said that CINEGRO has a contract with the sanitation district which provides for reduced cost for backhaul. Committee Member Nielsen said that Ms. Sarber said the trucks would be here anyway; the problem he foresees is getting the sand on the beach, as the trucks are huge. He said we could buy any quantity of sand, but we have to be concerned with placing it and moving it. He said the cost would be less than dredging for fill material. Committee Member Hannan said local dirt is \$15 per yard; if you want to

haul sand from the riverbed it is \$25 per yard. City Engineer Cameron asked why they didn't sell the sand to contractors and concrete companies, as it's such a good deal. Committee Member Nielsen responded that he felt few people knew about this opportunity.

Committee Member Hannan said this project should involve all the cities of Orange County. Committee Member Nielsen said Ms. Sarber offered to come to the CAC meeting to speak about the project. The committee felt the sand was of good quality, and that this opportunity seemed "too good to be true". They agreed that they would like Ms. Sarber to attend a CAC meeting and describe the project. Committee Member Nielsen felt the Arizona sand was somewhat comparable to San Clemente beach sand, though a little finer. He said the size was 240 microns. Mr. Cameron suggested that Ms. Sarber meet with Moffatt & Nichols on behalf of the City, for this project. Committee Member Nielsen said Ms. Sarber's company (per the technical report Committee Member Nielsen distributed to the CAC members) had placed this sand on the beach in Oceanside, and surveyed the public for their opinions on the sand; 70% of the public liked it. Committee Member Waters asked what the calculated cost was including the truck, fuel, etc. Committee Member Nielsen said he didn't have all the figures yet, but since the trucks are currently going back empty to Arizona, even getting \$1 a yard for bringing the sand would be better for them than just sending the trucks back empty; therefore, he thinks we can "wheel and deal with them". Committee Member Burror said LA County sends a lot of trucks out too. Committee Member Nielsen said there could be a constant flow of trucks back and forth. Committee Member Nielsen said they use a "lexsand" liner in the trucks, and they have the cost figured into the \$6 per yard price.

The committee and staff agreed that the problem would be where to "stage" the sand until there's enough to place on the beach, and how to get it onto the beach. They agreed that this would be a problem no matter where the sand came from. City Engineer Cameron said that it would be more economical to place large quantities in a short time and contract staff and equipment to place it, than it would be to place small quantities piecemeal over longer periods of time. He thinks if the CAC is serious about this; the City should hire someone to do an analysis of how to do this process, and the cost. Committee Member Hannan said that would be the first part, the second part would be to get other cities involved such as Oceanside, La Jolla, and everyone in the littoral cell, so we could fund this project through other cities, as they would be deeply affected by it too; he said the sand project impacts would be regional, state and federal, and that perhaps we should generate some newspaper publicity when Ms. Sarber comes, so as to get the public fired up about it. Mr. Cameron estimated \$1000-\$1500 per operator and piece of equipment per day, and he and the committee members agreed that we would need to process large quantities of sand in a short period of time to make the hiring of such staff and equipment economically feasible. The committee also felt that they need to get engineers like Committee Member Hannan involved in designing an effective process for placing sand.

The committee members also agreed that we should try to get cooperation and funding from the counties and the state so as to unite the cities in this project. Committee Member Hannan said that we also have to see doing this project as an economic necessity to our City; we may have to spend our money to buy sand, because if people don't like our beaches, attendance will drop, tourists will quit spending their money in town, and we take a huge economic hit. Committee Member Nielsen said our beaches were changing—he said North beach looked like Coney Island—there are more people there than ever before.

Marine Safety Chief Humphreys said the economic impact to San Clemente is dramatic, but on the federal level, their method of economic calculation (benefit vs. loss) is different than our economic analysis. Two years ago, Chief Humphreys said Dr. Phil King did a study to see if federal support of a sand replenishment project would be feasible, and he showed that there was economic value to the Federal Government that would support sand replenishment. However, this study is being used by the USACOE, and they use different calculation factors to determine economic value, versus the factors used by Dr. King. For example, they may feel if the money isn't being spent in San Clemente, it will be spent at other state parks or cities, and the Federal Government will still get their recreational dollars. Chief Humphreys said the USACOE is now looking at the value of protecting a national railroad, but the railroad initially told the government at a meeting that the cost of protecting it is very low; however, these figures may have changed since the last update received from the USACOE.

Committee Member Burror suggested getting a corporate sponsor to help push our project through. Committee Members Nielsen and Ortega suggested that we get donations from concerned parties (citizens, Surfrider, corporations) up front to buy the sand. Committee Member Ortega calculated the cost to be \$180,000 to buy 30,000 cy of sand. She said the maximum we'll do in a year is 300,000 yards, which would cost \$1.8 million. Committee Member Nielsen said if you want sand on the beach you have to get your wallet out. The committee agreed that we could probably get donations; many people and groups are passionate about the beach, and we could do fundraisers, etc. They felt many people would "pop" for \$150 for a truckload of sand. Committee Member Nielsen said he talked to Chris Evans and Chad Nelson, of the Surfrider Foundation, and was told that the Surfrider Foundation supports sensible sand replenishment (i.e. no visible groins, no damage to the beach). Committee Member Waters felt that corporate and other donations could also be used to rent tractors to move the sand onto the beach. Committee Member Ortega said that we should agendaize a meeting with Ms. Sarber for the next CAC meeting and from there, possibly request a meeting with Ms. Sarber and Moffatt & Nichols.

Committee Member Ortega asked that the CAC look harder at the 10% fines figure; Chairman Barnes stated that the USACOE says that the sand needs to match your existing conditions (plus 10%) and must be protective of your environment; therefore, for us it would be 10-11%. Committee Member Ortega doesn't think it was 10% for SANDAG.

Committee Member Burror said the USACOE samples from all borrow sites and uses the best from each site; whether or not it's 10%. Committee Member Ortega said that Laurence Honma's report said 10-20% on the surface of borrow sites, but the report did not state the percentage of the sand underneath, and she'd like more input on this. Committee Member Ortega did not want to assume that 15% fines is "junk" sand. Committee Member Hannan said it was not; it was very sandy. Committee Member Ortega said she wanted to make a decision based on fact, and that we don't know what the fines were on SANDAG. Chairman Barnes said we do know that Sunset Beach used 5% fines. Committee Member Ortega wanted to know if it was realistic to expect to receive opportunistic sand that was 10% fines or less, and she wanted to know what sand other cities had placed on their beaches. Committee Member Hannan said that now all the sand being used for nourishment is from riverbeds. Committee Member Nielsen said the Arizona sand is 2% fines. Committee Member Burror pointed out that buying sand is "sand replenishment", but we're working on an opportunistic replenishment program, which means you take fill material from someone who's willing to pay to give it to us.

The committee agreed they do not want to get the sand from San Clemente, unless someone pays to blend it with other more suitable sand. Chairman Barnes stated he'd prefer a small beach with high quality sand over a large beach of "junk". Committee Member Ortega said that 15% fines may not be junk, and if we insist on 10% or less fines we may not get any sand. Committee Member Hannan pointed out that the committee had not yet narrowed down the percentage; that we have left that open on purpose so we can negotiate that figure depending on what becomes available to us. He said the percentage we pick will be lower than the percentage the permit requires and Committee Ortega stated we would go by what percentage we pick; not by what the permit states. Committee Member Burror said if we go less than 20%, people won't pay to donate sand and blend it with better sand because they can get rid of it cheaper at a landfill. Chairman Barnes said people won't get rid of good sand; they'd only want to donate dirt they can't use.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of Projects

Committee Member Nielsen said he'd like to see more educational efforts for the URMP. City Engineer Cameron said the City had a booth at the Ocean Festival handing out educational brochures and that they hired consultants to work on the educational program. He said they've mailed fliers and published an article in the Parks and Recreation booklet. He said education is a high priority in the URMP program, and that we have two staff members, Brandi Outwin, Sr. Engineer and Kim Aldrich, Water Quality Code Compliance Officer dedicated to the URMP program. He said another full-time person is budgeted for this project. Mr. Cameron stated that the residents' fee for the URMP is paying for the salaries, the vehicles and emergency equipment for the program. He said the City is gearing up to do more public education for the program. He said any delays are because they are currently getting new staff members up to speed on the program. Staff has been given new requirements from the Regional Board to meet in a short time so they are

working on implementing those requirements. They are also starting design work on four CDS units. He said the whole process is very time-consuming, and is "more than a full-time job". He also said they are submitting an annual report to the Regional Board, in November, and that a progress report could be available to the CAC in December. The committee asked for regular short updates on the URMP project and Mr. Cameron said he could provide these to the CAC.

The committee discussed current and future projects that the committee would like to review during the upcoming year. Chairman Barnes outlined the following items for the CAC to agendaize and there was some discussion of some of the items, as follows:

Year 2003

September: Kelly Sarber to meet with CAC re: sand from Arizona
Opportunistic Sand Policy

October: Coastal Frontiers to report to the CAC:

Chief Humphreys said Coastal Frontiers should have a report available by the October CAC meeting and Committee Members Hannan and Nielsen offered to review the report and summarize it for the committee.

November: USACOE Feasibility Study

December: URMP Update

Year 2004

January: Coastal Canyons and Bluffs Guidelines/Update:

Director Bruce Wegner stated that there are two things in process at the City: 1) City Council asked staff to review the Coastal Canyons and Bluffs guidelines and have hired three consultants including a biologist and a geologist to study 19 specified areas of the bluffs and canyons; 2) City Council will review what they want to do in terms of enforcement in regard to new structures, as well as existing structures on the bluffs and canyons; and 3) an educational brochure, which has been funded and has yet to be mass-produced and distributed. Director Wegner said the City Council will probably ask the CAC for their approval in regard to ordinances, education, and appropriate plantings for the bluffs/canyons, etc. City Engineer Cameron said plantings don't currently require permits, so that could be a sensitive subject. Director Wegner said this is a sensitive subject with the California Coastal Commission as well. Mr. Cameron thought the City could update the CAC in January on this subject. Director Wegner said the program

depends greatly on what the City Council decides in regard to ordinances and is contingent upon the City Attorney's review. Mr. Cameron said it is also dependent upon the City's Community Development Department and how they implement the plan.

February: USACOE/San Juan Creek Erosion:

Chief Humphreys said he would speak with his USACOE contacts and ask if they can speak to the CAC on this subject.

March: Street Sweeping Program Update:

The Committee members would like to hear if the residents are happy with the new street sweeping program and whether a new street sweeper has been added to the program.

April: Riviera Erosion Control

May: Final Design of Runoff Treatment (Capital Project)/Update:

City Engineer Cameron said the City will be hiring someone to do the final design of the runoff system.

Chairman Barnes said he'd like to see a public workshop or brochure done to give the public positive alternatives to dumping runoff, such as using permeable pavements and diverting runoff into tanks for irrigation rather than just telling them what not to do, as we are currently doing.

As a side note, Committee Member Hannan asked when the Marine Safety Building bulkhead was scheduled to be rebuilt. Director Wegner said the City submitted their request to the California Coastal Commission (CCC), and the Commission asked for further studies. The City Council approved the budget for the studies. Once the studies are done, they will be submitted to the CCC for approval.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes, June 10, 2003

Received and filed.

B. Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes June 25, 2003

Received and filed.

C. Bacteriological Monitoring Report

Committee Member Hannan remarked on the "enterococcus coliform", saying that a Federal agency recently published an article saying they recently started testing for this bacterium, and this bacterium shows up everywhere. The study was to try to determine if there is any negative impact from this bacterium; there may not be. Received and filed.

9. **ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Chief Humphreys remarked that he heard from a third party, that the initial study done by the USACOE shows that there is very little erosion in San Clemente. He also heard, from Coastal Frontiers, that the current study may not include 100 year storm conditions, etc., and may not take into consideration all of the conditions of San Clemente beaches. He said that the studies done at Doheny and south of the river mouth, show erosion which could affect our erosion in the future, but that the USACOE may not be taking this into consideration. Chief Humphreys said he forwarded this information to Chuck Mesa at USACOE, and asked them to consider these points in their study, as well as the historical photos we can provide, from Whittier College, along with historic width measurements. He said we also have eyewitness accounts of the appearance of the beach since the '70's. Chief Humphreys asked for help from the committee members with getting this information conveyed to the USACOE, possibly in a letter signed by the CAC chairman. Committee Member Hannan said he would help Chief Humphreys with this. Committee Member Waters said an aerial photo from the '60's, of our whole coastline, was found and may be helpful.

10. **ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Committee Member Hannan said he would like to check on the sand being dumped by LA County. He said they're trucking 2.5 million cy a year to the dump and maybe we could use it. He said we've studied the sand, and it's the right size, free of chemicals, etc., and if they don't want it, perhaps we could use it.


Committee Member Nielsen said that North Beach has improved greatly since he brought it up at the last CAC meeting. He said he is organizing a pre-winter cleanup in the Neighborhood Pride Program area of San Clemente, and it is supported by the Surf rider Foundation. He'd like the Committee to try to get the whole city involved. He'd like the committee to be involved in the Fiesta, and other City events, to hand out educational information and help people air their concerns.

Chairman Barnes wanted to make sure the Draft Policy was not attached to the permit application without prior CAC approval; Chief Humphreys said this had not been done. Chief Humphreys said the City Council should vote on certifying the Negative Declaration at their first meeting in October.

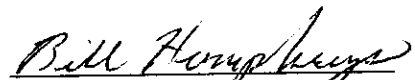
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER WATERS CARRIED (6-0-0) to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. to a regular meeting to be held on Thursday, September 11, 2003, at 7:00 p.m., in the Fireside Room, at the Community Center, 100 N. Seville, San Clemente, California.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael Barnes

Attest:


Bill Humphreys, Marine Safety Chief