

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE
COASTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, November 14, 2002
@ 7:00 p.m.
Senior Center, Multi-Purpose Room
242 Avenida Del Mar
San Clemente, CA 92672**

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Committee Member Nesa Ortega led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Ken Nielsen, Bill Thomas, Dennis Hannan, Greg Hulsizer, Nesa Ortega

Absent: Bill Hart, Michael Barnes

Staff present: Bill Humphreys, Marine Safety Captain
Bruce Wegner, Beaches, Parks and Recreation Director
Tom Bonigut, Senior Civil Engineer
A.J. Howard, Utility Superintendent
Mary Colletti, Recording Secretary

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER HULSIZER, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER HANNAN to continue approval of minutes to the regular meeting to be held on December 12, 2002. Motion carried 3-0-2 (abstained: Thomas and Nielsen).

Request by Committee Member Ortega to move New Business before Old Business to accommodate large number of people present to speak on New Business item.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

5. NEW BUSINESS

Junipero Canyon Discharges

Senior Civil Engineer, Tom Bonigut presented a staff report which is summarized as follows: In late July the City received a complaint of a white substance in Junipero canyon, a result of which was an investigation into the cause. The cause of this discharge was found to be vehicle wash water from Dick Watson's Automotive repair shop on S. El Camino Real. The vehicle wash system was hooked to a pump, so when the pump filled, the system's automatic timer caused the fluid to be discharged. They used degreasing soap, which decomposed and caused an odor. Mr. Bonigut stated that the City's Engineering Department worked with Dick Watson's to set up a sanitary sewer connection and unhook the system from the storm drain, at the expense of Dick Watson's Automotive. Mr. Bonigut received several reports of large water discharges, one on October 1st when the weather was dry which caused foam in the canyon, and, more recently, on November 8th, during a rainy period when a lot of foam was generated and carried to the beach. The City is continuing its efforts to find the cause of this periodic discharge. Mr. Bonigut stated that on October 15th, there was a sanitary sewer overflow which may have contributed to the discharges in the canyon, and referred all questions regarding this event to Utilities Superintendent, A.J. Howard. This event, he said, occurred at about 10:00 p.m. and was cleared at about 10:30 p.m. Mr. Bonigut stated that whatever went downstream from the overflow was diverted there and sent to the sewer treatment plant.

A group of residents from the Junipero Canyon area of San Clemente gave a photo presentation of incidents of discharges flowing through Junipero Canyon.

Resident Mary Leal stated that on July 15, 2002, a white creamy, sour cream-like substance appeared in the canyon. When she called the City of San Clemente about it they responded that there was nothing they could do.

According to Ms. Leal, Jay Elston, Utility Operations Supervisor responded that it would cost \$8,000 to test the substance in the canyon. While Supervisor Elston agreed that it smelled, he believed it was vegetation rotting and that the winter rain would take care of it.

Resident Becky Farrow called the EPA and Chris Mean, from the California Water Quality Control Board.

Resident Bruce Beattie requested a careful sample of the sediments, water, and a 24-hour catch and release system to take water samples from several places periodically to provide a statistical understanding of how much water is coming down the canyon. He also requested a complete analysis report of any pesticides or fertilizers present in the discharge.

Ms. Farrow stated that when the canyon occasionally had had problems with mosquitoes over the years, Orange County Vector would come out and put baitfish in the water, which no longer survive.

Resident Ed Schlegel, a member of the San Clemente chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, stated that he had volunteers walk the drainage system in the area in question using the storm drain map. The volunteers also went down El Camino Real to identify the businesses. He said the Surfrider Foundation will be watching and ready to assist the citizens to find the source of the spills, and is available to assist the City in possibly an educational campaign to educate the businesses or residents.

Resident Pat DeMond stated that many years ago, her husband went through the channels on his own to find the source and was told by staff that the runoff may be from the golf course, and that occasionally they used pesticides on the lawn. She asked for some cooperation and changes to be made to address their serious concerns.

Resident Scott Kelly, a real estate developer, mentioned that his community is very diligent in making sure the storm drain system stays clean, free of silty runoff, and making sure, for example, that painters don't dump paint buckets, etc.. Mr. Kelly said he was appalled that the City of San Clemente is "allowed to skate" regarding the golf course or whatever is the cause of the discharge. He stated that the City needs to pay more attention. He stated that if he was building, the City would be paying a lot of attention to him, and he believes the standards should be equal.

Mr. Beattie said the City golf course was recently under a lot of repair and he feels that this may have contributed to the runoff, as well as fertilizers that have built up over the years.

Committee Member Ortega asked Mr. Howard or Mr. Bonigut to address the golf course concerns. Mr. Bonigut responded that he doesn't think the golf course is the problem. What is subject to the discharge policy, is to reduce runoff and what the runoff carries such as pesticides, fertilizers, etc., and he feels the golf course is a very low-impact in this regard. Mr. Bonigut stated that City council members have toured the golf course several times and because of its size, the golf course seems a likely suspect for runoff. He feels it is too low of an impact to be responsible for runoff in the canyon. Mr. Bonigut also stated that they are now conducting inspections to see if there is an underground cause.

Committee Member Ortega asked Beaches, Parks and Recreation Director Bruce Wegner for comments. Mr. Wegner stated that whenever there is a reported problem he will track it. For example, the golf course has a lot of sprinklers located on the roadways where kids can vandalize them. However, he said, broken sprinklers won't cause major flows. Director Wegner said that for the last fifteen years water conservation has always been a big issue. The City's irrigation system indicates when there are breaks, and what heads are on. In addition, they call the weather stations to download information on what amount of water the plants need for the week and adjust our system accordingly. The City waters using multiple repeat cycles to reduce runoff. Additionally, the City has cut that back to 80 percent because we have very high drought-tolerant grass on the golf course with the exception of the greens; although the greens can go a long time without water. Director Wegner continued to say that last summer during construction, most of the water was turned off in vast portions of the golf course.

Director Wegner stated that the City hired Senior Civil Engineer Bonigut as their Coastal Engineer, and the City plans to hire more staff in the future to assist Mr. Bonigut. Mr. Bonigut stated that the sole purpose of the additional staffing will be to perform inspections. This testing will start this summer in various locations around town. We have to contract a service to take the samples. If there are other things we can do along those lines regarding hydro-carbons, fertilizers, etc., we'll try to sample these as well. But we don't have the capabilities to do extensive sweet samples.

Resident Pat De Mond stated that we're talking about two separate things; the basin, that's happened over a long period of time, and the foamy discharge that has happened recently. She stated that, at one time, the county used to clean it up and do mosquito control, etc., but since the county budget cuts they've lost these services and the vegetation has become overgrown.

Mr. De Mond asked if there is a violation fine and could that money be used to make improvements to the canyon. Mr. Howard responded that the fines are extracted from the Regional Board and sent to the State, although some districts have successfully negotiated the use of those fees towards community projects, such as targeted clean-up.

Committee Member Nielsen asked which labs were we in contact with and Mr. Howard replied that Sierra Labs has been very responsive, also Truesdale and Del Mar. Committee Member Hulsizer asked if we would take Surfrider Foundation's offer of doing some more canvassing. Resident and Surfrider member Schlegel said they'd continue with their canvassing on El Camino Real and Riviera Canyon. Mr. Howard stated that Surfrider Foundation had been very valuable in regard to issues pertaining to the storm drains leading to the ocean. Committee Member Hulsizer asked if the Surfrider Foundation would be provided with information to educate citizens to discourage them from dumping, and Mr. Schlegel said yes. Mr. Bonigut said that some types of businesses such as, restaurants, auto shops, and gas stations already have such educational information, but that now we would educate everyone and let them know that we'll be looking after hours for violations. Committee Member Nielsen asked if we had a storm water runoff sampling requirement. Mr. Bonigut replied that there is wet weather monitoring but it is coastal, and we pay the county to do this.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Draft Sand Replenishment Policy or Ordinance

Committee Member Hannan cited that some changes were made to the first few pages. Some items were lined out and consolidated. Starting on page 3, item 6, "Policies", after reviewing the technical aspects, he researched to find the most current publications, mostly from the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) procedures and guidelines.

Discussion then centered around sand size, placement locations, monitoring of biological considerations, using standards established by the Corps and costs. These issues will be addressed in the policy.

Committee Member Nielsen said he has a scientist friend who now has the contract and who offered to come to the committee meeting to speak on sand replenishment in San Diego. Since he's actually doing the biological aspect his input would be valuable. Committee Member Ortega said this would help a great deal.

Committee Member Hulsizer asked if the goal of the policy was to be more prescriptive of process or establish hard requirements such as sampling leeway. He felt the policy should address intent and process and make references to existing procedures. Committee Member Hulsizer further said we need to be careful and define what kind of sand can be placed, etc. Committee Member Hannan wants the policy/ordinance to be a guideline document outlining that if a sand replenishment project is to be done, it needs to fit what our community and biology will bear.

Committee Member Ortega asked if it would be possible if the scientist that Committee Member Nielsen has spoken of speak at a committee meeting. Nielsen said that this scientist is well versed in biological aspects and could give considerable information on SANDAG. Committee Member Nielsen also said that this scientist had written the initial report on the findings so far in the first year of the study, and that the sand replenishment project is not causing a problem.

Captain Humphreys advised the Committee that the draft policy they have is current with the exception of Section 7. He suggested putting everything back into one document and distribute it to the Committee. He asked Committee Member Hannan to email Section 7 to him along with the new changes he makes, then he will merge the documents and email them to the Committee Members for review.

Committee Member Nielsen asked Captain Humphreys if he should invite Mr. Lawrence to come for the next meeting and Captain Humphreys said it was up to the Committee. Captain Humphreys said the Committee may be busy with continued work on the policy and the need to start the planning session in December/January, as the budget process is moved up this year.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes – September 10, 2002

Received and filed.

B. Bacteriological Monitoring Reports

Received and filed.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

San Juan Watershed F4 Milestone Report

Captain Humphreys said Tom Bonigut requested the committee members' comments on this report by December. Committee Member Hannan said that there was a lack of emphasis on the sediment coming down from the river and going to the beaches. His concern with an agency document was that there hasn't been much emphasis on sand replenishment activities in the river and he feels this is a major economic issue. It looks like the environmentalists are worried about pools of water, cleaning the reeds out of the bottom of the river, etc., and not about the physical contribution of sand from the river to the beaches. Committee Member Hannan feels the document does not address this issue sufficiently. Captain Humphreys asked Committee Member Hannan to send his written comments to Mr. Bonigut before the December meeting. Committee Member Hannan said he needs the committee's understanding to request how we're going to get sand out of the river. He stated that some engineers want to change the river, revitalize it, and plant more. He also stated that he feels this is a waste of time if the river floods. Committee Member Ortega asked Committee Member Hannan to type up his comments and give them to Mr. Bonigut and he agreed to do so.

Aloha Beach Surf Camp

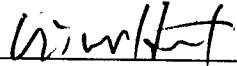
Captain Humphreys said there is a city run recreation program, with a contracted employee who has run a beach surfing camp for the last three years. The program is called the Aloha Beach Camp, and operates south of T-Street beach. For the past 3 summers they have stored surfboards for the class in the area between the two restrooms south of T-Street. However, the City Beach Maintenance staff has stated that this causing problems for them and that they can no longer accommodate surfboard storage there. Therefore, the Aloha Beach Camp is requesting permission to place a temporary storage container on the south side of the restroom for the summer. They'll paint it the same color as the restroom. It would be there six weeks of the summer and will require a Coastal Commission permit. Captain Humphreys asked if this should be agendized by the Coastal Advisory Committee since it may fall under the policy on the Management of Beach Facilities. Committee Member Thomas asked if this was a temporary structure according to policy. Captain Humphreys stated that it was. Committee Member Hulsizer asked if it should go through the Parks and Recreation Committee. Captain Humphreys state that it would be more pertinent to this committee since the issue pertains to a beach facility and not a change to a recreation program. Committee Member Hulsizer said that staff should look at this and Committee Member Thomas thought there should be no problem allowing it. Captain Humphreys suggested that staff review it against City policy and if City policy does not pertain to it, it will not be placed on the agenda for the next Coastal Advisory Committee. However, if there is a gray area regarding temporary structures, he suggested that it should be agendized. Committee Member Ortega concurred and asked that that staff review it and requested that Chairman Hart be notified as well.

9. ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMITTEE MEMBER THOMAS, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER HULSIZER CARRIED (5-0-0) to adjourn at 10:19 p.m. to the regular meeting to be held on Thursday, December 12, 2002, at 7:00 p.m., in the Multi-Purpose room of the Senior Center, 242 Avenida Del Mar, San Clemente, CA.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Hart, Chair

Attest:



Bill Humphreys, Marine Safety Captain

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