



# AGENDA REPORT

BEACHES, PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Meeting Date: May 14, 2013

Agenda Item 5C

Approvals:

Dept. Head [Signature]

Manager \_\_\_\_\_

Admin. Assistant \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** Beaches, Parks & Recreation  
**Prepared By:** Sharon Heider, Beaches Parks & Rec Director

**Subject:** *INFORMATION REGARDING THE AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT'S POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO RULE 444.*

**Fiscal Impact:** None.

**Summary:** The City of San Clemente has taken an opposing position to the Air Quality Management District (AQMD)'s potential amendments to Rule 444, which would ban of the use of fire rings and beach burning. The City has provided comment to the AQMD's Clerk of the Boards for their meeting on June 7 where this item will be discussed.

**Background:** Recently, the City of Newport Beach submitted a request to the California Coastal Commission to remove 60 fire rings near the Balboa Pier and at Corona Del Mar State Beach because of possible negative health effects for residents. Newport Beach used the Air Quality Management District (AQMD)'s Rule 444 to support their request, prompting the AQMD to discuss the potential ban of fire rings on all local beaches.

**Discussion:** The City of San Clemente has provided comment to the AQMD, noting that the City has a long history and culture of beach-side recreation that improves the quality of life for our residents and draws visitors to our community. A large part of this history is the night time use of our beaches by families gathered around a fire for warmth. The City maintains an inventory of 11 concrete fire rings and has policies developed for the safe use, enjoyment, and placement of them which takes into account our areas of higher fire potential and public safety.

It is the City of San Clemente's position that a ban on beach burnings would be detrimental to the culture and economy of our City, and the quality of life of our residents.

Several other municipalities have taken a position opposing the ban, including the Orange County Board of Supervisors and the City of Huntington Beach. Both have supported an option that would allow for the local governing body to determine whether or not to allow the use of fire rings on their own beaches.

The AQMD is expected to discuss the possible amendments to Rule 444 to ban the use of fire rings and beach burning at its upcoming meeting on June 7, 2013.

**Recommended**

**Action:** None.

**Attachments:** None.

**Notification:** None.