

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
January 27, 2009

Committee Reports

ITEM H.1

Installation of Video Camera to Record Sand Movement

The District has arranged to have a remote video camera installed on the roof of the first home on the road to monitor the movement of the beach sand that has been replenished on the beach by the county as a result of the recently completed marina dredging project. The camera system was placed at the expense of Coastal Watch, a company that is in the business of providing online real-time surf video in Australia, Hawaii and now in California. Staff's idea was to use the Coastal Watch system to monitor the sand movement after it has been placed on the beach. It is well known that a replenished beach does not remain replenished over time as the natural tide processes move the sand up and down the beach and out into the near-shore zone. The real-time video is accessible on a secured and protected website for staff to monitor. Additionally, at the end of each month, the computer system will store the data collected as the camera automatically sweeps the beach from north to south three times each day from sunrise to a bit past sundown. This stored data can then be retrieved in a variety of forms to show MHTL, beach cross-section profiles, relation to mean sea level, beach width, people counts during differing tidal conditions or weather events or time of season and can also be used as a security tool. Coastal Watch had not considered these other uses for their camera system beyond daily surf checks for the local surfing establishment and this has opened up a whole new scope of service for their operation. The District is fortunate to be receiving this service at no charge. The trade off is the exposure Coastal Watch has received and will continue to receive by having this first camera in place for an entirely different purpose as they will be promoting its use to other likely clients such as the State Park, the County, the City of San Clemente, Army Corps of Engineers and the Dept. of Fish and Game.

The future of this technology for the District will be in video recording the entire beach in real-time to document natural beach processes, immediately locate MHTL at any given time when the need arises AND as a security tool. This of course will mean that more cameras would have to be installed and that homeowners would have to agree to some minor invasion of privacy but there is a great potential here that is available to the community if it chooses to take it on – not now but sometime down the line. The website is access-restricted, it is not for public viewing nor is it ever intended to be for the public. The Board will have exclusive access for now as we try this technology on for size and eventually make some decisions about whether or not this is right for the community.