

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
April 28, 2009

Manager's Reports

ITEM I.2

RR Grade Crossing and Safety Enhancements

For those who may have missed the good news from the City Council meeting held on Monday, April 13th, the council was able to get through enough of the details regarding the potential increased risk and liability to feel comfortable with approving the first step in the *Quiet Zone Project*. Approved by a vote of 4-0-1 (Councilmember Lisa Bartlett had to conflict out of the vote) the council cleared the way to commence with construction of the proposed safety enhancements at the Beach Road RR grade crossing.

It was explained to all in attendance that once the construction is complete the city can then petition the Federal Railway Administration (FRA) for a *Quiet Zone Designation*. This then allows the various train operators to silence their horns when passing through the grade crossing.

A timeline or schedule was not announced nor were any assurances given by the council that the city would automatically seek *Quiet Zone* status once the safety enhancements are constructed. There is more homework to do on the part of the city ahead of this second step of silencing the train horns and the city is giving no guarantees at this time.