

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT  
AGENDA REPORT  
September 28, 2009

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*Manager's Reports*

ITEM I.3

Beach Fires Burning Permit Program

Staff continues to find evidence of illegal wood burning out on the beach. Typically a hole is scraped out in the sand and wood is burned, the left over ashes and charcoal are left to blow around, sometimes the fire is simply covered up with sand.

The effort to get owners and guests to comply with the beach fire ordinance (No. 06-203) is not working. Staff recommends a more aggressive program to monitor the illegal wood burning problem.

Option 1

Have an additional task assigned to a Securitas officer once a week where they get dropped off at the south end of the community and walk the beach on foot to the north end. Armed with a digital camera and a property address roster to ID the location, this officer could record all the messes left over from the weekend and submit the information to staff for appropriate handling. With the locations narrowed down to just a few, the manager can then visit the site for confirmation and intervene with the property owner, the property manager or the guest occupant. If a citation is warranted for gross violation of the Ordinance then the District has a police officer on staff to write the cite.

Option 2

Create a *Burning Permit Program* that would require every property address to maintain a permit on file (along with a \$\$ deposit) with the District, renewed annually. Forcing all owners to come to the District for a permit would provide the opportunity for the District to educate the community on the fire rules.

Staff recommends consideration of Option 1. With both options there would be associated costs to manage the activity but paying a security employee for a few hours once a week that would save the manager considerable time in walking the beach himself is by far a more effective use of the manpower resources available. The District already has an Ordinance on record and simply needs to expand the oversight and management of this problem to make enforcement more functional and effective.