

DRAFT NOTICE TO COMMUNITY

RE: OPEN WOOD BURNING FIRES PROHIBITED NEXT YEAR

October 1, 2013

Dear Beach Road Property Owner;

On July 12, 2013, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) adopted an open burning rule relating to recreational wood burning beach fires.

Under the new measure, beach bonfires will not be permitted within 700 feet of the nearest residence. This ruling becomes effective on March 1, 2014.

The City of Dana Point attempted to perfect jurisdiction over the issue, urging the SCAQMD to honor the rule of local control, thereby allowing the City to control the issue locally. The request was denied by SCAQMD and the ruling now applies to all cities in the region.

In response to the restriction by SCAQMD, the Capistrano Bay District Board, at their meeting on July 30, 2013, followed suit and approved an action to prohibit outdoor recreational wood burning fires within the Beach Road community, also effective this coming March 1, 2014.

District Ordinance No. 06-203, regulating outdoor recreational wood burning fires, will be amended to include this new restriction which heretofore required beach fires to be 30 feet from a residence and extinguished if any fire creates smoke that is offensive or a health risk to surrounding neighbors.

The amended ordinance will prohibit ALL outdoor wood burning fires on Capistrano Bay Beach permanently after March 1, 2014.

The following is an excerpt from the SCAQMD's numerous findings:

"Fine particles in wood smoke contain cancer-causing chemicals as well as common combustion pollutants such as nitrogen oxides. Numerous health studies during wild fires, and in communities where large amounts of wood or other biomass is burned, show that wood smoke causes respiratory irritation and an increase in hospital admissions for respiratory problems. Fine particles also can aggravate chronic heart and lung diseases and are linked to premature deaths in people with these conditions."

AND

"The key harmful ingredient in wood smoke decreases by 98% at a distance of 700 feet from a fire."

Thank you.

(District Mgr signature)

(Board Pres. signature)