

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
February 24, 2015

Manager's Reports/Old Business

ITEM J.4

Fiber Optic Service – Cox Communications

In a meeting on Friday February 20th with Erickson Rodriguez, supervisor of construction services for Cox Communications, it was pointed out that presently there is no technology available to make a direct connection from a fiber optic line into a TV, TV box, computer or Modem.

These devices are manufactured with ports/receptacles that are compatible with the fittings on coaxial cable. If a fiber optic cable was brought into the community along the existing power poles and then split and distributed to each home the fiber would still, at some point, have to be converted to coaxial cable in order to directly connect with the media equipment in the home.

Cox Communications is not at the point yet in the evolution of fiber optic service to deliver this into existing residential neighborhoods. Granted some newer residential developments do have fiber delivered to the exterior of the home, however the wiring in the walls is still coaxial cable.

The issue with coaxial cable, even the more precision RG6 cable, is that the copper line is subject to corrosion which interferes with the quality of the signal. There are measures that can be done by Cox field technicians to reduce the corrosion at the points of connection by using rubber moisture protection shields that seal out condensation and rain water.

Cox recommends that for the time being homeowners evaluate their existing cable wiring and upgrade to the precision RG6 cable if it is not already wired in the home. The older RG59 cable is more susceptible to interference and does not carry the bandwidth of the RG6. This by itself should make a dramatic improvement to the home reception quality. Additionally, in this marine environment the cable connections need to be regularly checked for corrosion and serviced to receive the maximum quality of reception.

Cox also recommends that the community save their money trying to get fiber service now and wait until the utility provider creates the program for delivering fiber to existing residential neighborhoods. It could be a few years but the option today is to upgrade your existing coaxial cable and take advantage of the greater bandwidth that comes with the precision RG6 cable.

The cable specified is *Belden 1694A (RG6) 4.5GHz*

*By the way, Cox will not come out on service calls to re-wire your home with new coaxial cable – for this service you need to contact your electrician or other home improvement technician experienced in communications wiring.