

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT  
AGENDA REPORT  
May 30th, 2017

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*New Business*

## **ITEM 10b**

### North Gate Maintenance Yard Property

About two years ago, while I was in the maintenance yard, a woman from the local community group *CAPO CARES*, approached me inquiring about the ownership of the maintenance yard property, indicating she was interested in having the fence replaced and the grass growing along the fence cleaned up.

I explained that the property belongs to the Capistrano Bay District but the fence is the property of the County along with the grass and trees growing on the seaward side and that she would need to contact the County regarding her concerns with the fence and vegetation.

A few months after that encounter I received a phone call from the property department of OC Harbors, Beaches & Parks asking about the maintenance yard property and if we were interested in selling it to the County. I stated no, this property serves many purposes and the District is not interested in selling. Those purposes are as follows and listed in order of priority:

- maintenance use by the District for trash collection and property storage
- emergency access to our community and the public beach if the RR crossing is blocked
- emergency first-responder access into Doheny State Beach during busy holidays
- maintenance access by SCWD to their sewer lift station just inside the State Beach
- maintenance access by City of DP to their storm drain facility inside our maintenance yard
- traffic escape area when holiday congestion forces vehicles to stop on the tracks

The County acknowledged my comments, said thank you and left it at that. More recently, about three weeks ago, I received a heads up call from Wayne Schafer explaining that one of the City Council members contacted him indicating that he heard *CAPO CARES* was again showing interest in our maintenance yard property. About a week ago I received a second phone call from the County, again asking about our property, to which I reminded them of the District's position on this. They confirmed that the group *CAPO CARES* had approached them about our property.

From the outside, our maintenance yard can appear to be somewhat unused and deserted and it might serve the District to plant more than just iceplant along our fenceline and storage area to make it look like it's being used more regularly. We know it gets used every day but to the random casual observer it can seem deserted.