

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
April 29, 2008

Manager's Reports

ITEM I.1

Community Entrance Improvement Project

The District's original proposal to Metrolink for construction of an additional lane at the community entrance has been temporarily shelved, as was reported last month. The City of Dana Point had submitted a request for creating a *Quiet Zone* at the RR grade crossing which has caused delays with the District's approval process with Metrolink. In view of this development the District then opted to continue seeking approval for that portion of the overall project that featured the construction of the RR parking as this area sits well outside the proposed *Quiet Zone*. Metrolink agreed that splitting the project into two phases would be acceptable to them so the District is now pursuing approval for the RR parking only as Phase I. The portion of the overall project that includes the additional lane at the community entrance becomes Phase II and will be coming at some time in the not-too-distant future after the City's *Quiet Zone* project is worked out and completed.

The *Quiet Zone* is simply a designation for the development of additional safety elements within the RR grade crossing area to help control the movement of vehicles and pedestrians at a higher level of safety. This would include items such as crosswalk safety strobe lights in the pavement, more coordinated signalization, striping and reflectors, more barrier arms at the crossing itself, more audible warning tones, etc. The City and Metrolink have been busy for several months on this and the District met with both City and County officials on Thursday, April 24 and discuss details of how the *Quiet Zone* can be coordinated to address the traffic entering and exiting Beach Road, the County Beach Park and the county's bicycle and pedestrian path along the volleyball courts.

An earlier effort to obtain an easement from the County along the seaward edge of the Beach Road entrance driveway to create a pedestrian path for our guests and property owners was denied by the County. The Director of OC Parks, Mark Denney, explained that the County cannot give away to a private entity, property owned by the public as it does not meet the *public benefit* requirement. However, during the site meeting on Thursday, the need for a safe pathway for Beach Road pedestrians was again discussed and there is a possibility that the County could enter into an *easement exchange* with the District where they could grant the easement extension along our entrance driveway in exchange for some "elbow room" in our northgate maintenance yard right at the gate.