

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
September 29, 2020

New Business

ITEM 10a

Shoreline Protection/Report from Coastal Commission Meeting

The following is a brief summary of the Board's meeting on Friday 9/25 with staff members from the Coastal Commission (CCC) and City of Dana Point.

First Topic (Coastal Act Violations and Short Term Protection Solutions)

The CCC wants a temporary intermediate-term protection permit to be obtained by the community (through coordination with the Board) so the unpermitted armoring can be removed. They indicated that they will be looking at every house and evaluating its armoring. The CCC didn't specifically identify which existing armoring types – just included all of it. Our understanding is that pre Coastal Act development (homes, seawalls, boulders) will be exempted as long as the owner can show proof and that the seawalls and armoring are NOT sitting on State Land. No one is exempt from encroaching on State Land, no matter when your home was built – *the Board will be looking into what the State regards as the boundary line between public and private – this will help to begin identifying where encroachments exist.*

This sounds onerous but the CCC has indicated that before the unpermitted armoring is removed, the community has to get an intermediate temporary permit for acceptable replacement protection so that when the illegal materials are removed, the legal temporary protection is immediately installed. The CCC indicated that it hopes the homeowners would not be exposed in between removal and replacement so the work will be done simultaneously at each home that has illegal shoreline protection.

CCC was not very helpful in making a distinction between the unpermitted armoring and what they consider temporary legal armoring – could be the very same material you already have out on the beach with the difference being a permit vs no permit and maybe some sandcubes, gabions, K-rails and/or boulders could be encroaching onto public property and would have to be moved back onto the private part of the beach. They definitely do not like the sand berm that's been pushed up in front of many homes and will definitely require this berm to be graded back down.

Seawalls or Boulder Revetments (as a final long-term permanent solution)

CCC is strongly opposed to such development UNLESS all other types of shoreline protection options have been implemented and prove to be ineffective. CCC suggested the following types of 'Soft or Green' protection in advance of concrete seawalls or rip rap: *(go to next page)*

- offshore artificial reef and groins as counterparts to a sand nourishment program (groins are small jetties that extend perpendicular to the beach at spaced intervals to trap sand)

This is all new information as of about 11:30 AM Friday and the Board will need time to discuss when and where to begin the process. CCC understands this but is expecting movement on dealing with the First Topic very soon. The Board has not hired a coastal engineer nor any other consultants at this time. Our next regular Board meeting is Tuesday at 10:00 AM.