

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
May 27, 2008

Committee Reports

ITEM H.1

Possible Revised Beach Survey Proposal

In discussions with our MHTL survey engineer, Paul Cuomo, regarding potential problems with the public challenging a property owner over the invisible lines out on the beach, Mr. Cuomo suggested that we increase the number of survey locations to better cover all the variations in the beach contour from end to end. The District currently measures mean high tide at 13 locations. It is suggested that these be increased to 21.

With only 13 survey stations, there are some areas that end up being evaluated by a basic extrapolation method that is not as accurate as actual physical measurements. In dealing with the public, presenting and defending survey data that is acquired through guesswork may give cause for someone to suspect our information as being unreliable.

The cost for surveying at 21 locations is \$6000 as compared to the current rate of \$3500 for measuring at 13 locations. Since we conduct these surveys twice each year, the budget for this item would practically double. A recommendation was made by Mr. Cuomo that the District consider measuring the MHTL only once each year instead of twice. He sees no reason to do this more than once.

As a follow up, if the Board were to cut this back to once a year it would be most useful to eliminate the winter measurement and retain the summer measurement as this is the time when most of the public is out on the beach and the community could go into each summer with fresh data to use in the event a member of the public challenges a property owner.