

Meeting #685

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
June 28, 2022

Old Business

ITEM 9a

Shoreline Protection/Advisory Committee Report

The month of June was spent dealing with a surprise short-notice bombshell of news from the City regarding a pending Coastal Commission Hearing on an amendment to the City's Local Coastal Program. The Local Coastal Program (LCP) is the Planning Document that sets the 'rules of engagement' so to speak, for development in the Coastal Zone. All coastal municipalities in California are required to have an LCP that is certified by the CCC and have it incorporated into their Zoning Code. Along with this is a requirement for updates to the LCP on an interval basis of maybe every ten years or so, hence the notice from the City for the amendment to the LCP.

The amendment, as originally submitted by the City to the Coastal Commission, was basically a review with a few insignificant changes, and really nothing that would impact Beach Road. However, the Coastal Commission Staff returned the document to the City with 'suggested modifications', many of which would have some onerous repercussions for Beach Road owners, thus further limiting the ability of property owners to remodel, redevelop, rebuild, and protect.

The Committee has ultimately requested that the hearing for the LCP Amendment be completely withdrawn so that the consultants for the Committee could have adequate time to conduct an in-depth review and make recommendations. As of this writing (June 25th) it is not known if the CCC has agreed to completely withdraw to a later date.

If the Advisory Committee and the consultants were not in place to monitor the City's movements, the suggested modifications put forth by the CCC would most likely have been approved and another limiting layer of difficulty would be incorporated into the development standards and Zoning Code for Beach Road owners.

To continue keeping you informed on our progress, the reports each month will be left to accumulate at the end of the current report:

Report From May Meeting:

Following last month's productive meeting (April) with Dana Point City staff, the Committee has since met with Mayor Joe Muller and our 5th City District Councilmember Mike Villar, to inform them of our earlier meeting with City staff and the unequivocal agreement by all that the City will NOT cede its jurisdiction to the Coastal Commission.

The matter relates directly to the business of the ongoing shoreline protection that is being placed, the relationship to the Mean High Tide Line (MHTL), and the City's Local Coastal Plan (LCP) that has been certified by the Coastal Commission. Language in the LCP specifically indicates that regulation of development (sandbags and boulders) seaward of the MHTL falls to the Coastal Commission directly, while development landward of the MHTL falls to the City of Dana Point (*see attached sample beach photo*).

The concern by the Advisory Committee was that it might be tempting for the City to cede its jurisdiction to the CCC in the face of having to deal with a flood of 186 permit applications all at the same time. Regardless of what the workload could be on the part of the City, it is imperative that the City retain its jurisdiction. Establishing this understanding has been a high priority of the Advisory Committee. Next step is to educate our legal consultants on the individual details of the existing conditions of the homes along Beach Road.

It's important to note here that the Committee has been active on other fronts, in addition to ensuring this common ground with the City. As has been reported in the past, the Committee continues to participate in the efforts by the County with its regional stakeholders project titled *Coastal Resiliency Strategic Plan*, that brings together every private owner and every agency that could benefit from shoreline protection solutions here in South OC. Secondly, the Committee is following developments and progress with another shoreline protection-related group called *Smart Coast California*. While the County's project is narrowed to a sector roughly from Laguna Beach to South San Clemente, the *Smart Coast* group is more of a statewide coalition. This group recently held an all-day seminar in Long Beach to present itself in a large public forum to generate a larger public awareness of who they are and what they're doing for private ownership interests within the entire California coastal zone.

