

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
April 30, 2024

New Business

ITEM 10a

Pines Park Storm Drain Flooding

On Easter Sunday, March 31st, our area experienced a very heavy monsoonal-type rainfall that lasted for a few hours and caused serious flooding around town. Many garages on Beach Road had water reaching inside as the rainfall volume was so much greater than the carrying capacity of the storm drains.

Of particular concern is the large storm drain that flows out of Pines Park and under Beach Road about halfway between the guard shack and the first residence. Our Board President, Pat McNulty, just happened to be entering the community at the moment when the rain was the heaviest and was able to capture a disturbing video of how the storm water had exceeded the capacity of the drain structure and was overflowing over, around and through the green fencing, with a torrent of water like whitewater rapids ripping through the County's fence on the opposite side of the road tearing out the vegetation on that side.

Due to the obstructions by the fencing on both sides of the road, the flood of water also flowed both north and south on Beach Road. The guard shack literally became an island for about 90 minutes and the subgrade garage at 35061 immediately filled with water up to street level.

Dr. George Thomas, owner of 35061, reported to the District that this flooding problem with his subgrade parking and garage has occurred several times during his ownership, of which the District is well aware, and has asked if there is anything the District can do about the flooding issue.

While the obvious question is why was this subgrade garage and driveway ever permitted, the more immediate question is what to do about it now. The City Engineer has been notified in an email letter that included the video and photos of the flooded garage so the City is now well aware of the problem and has said they will look into this.

Preliminary review indicates that the house was built in 1989. This was right around the time Dana Point detached from the County and became a City. This brings up the question: was this one of the last projects approved by the County or among the first approved by the new City.

For now, and before anyone goes out hiring engineers, the City and County both need to have an opportunity to review this and respond.

ITEM 10a



Photo – Pat McNulty

EASTER SUNDAY – MARCH 31, 2024

JUST PAST THE GUARD SHACK

LOOKING SOUTH