Meeting #732

CAPISTRANO BAY DISTRICT
AGENDA REPORT
October 27, 2026

Old Business

ITEM 10a

Supervisor Foley Comments on Sand Replenishment

Over the past few months, staff has been trying to chase down further information about a 1960 Department of the Army letter and their recommendation to annually dump 23,000 cu. yards of sand at Doheny Beach after the construction of the Dana Point Harbor.

This stemmed from the sediment that was expected to be dredged out of the Habor for the construction of the yacht basins in the mid-60's. Cited in the letter was the understanding by the Army Corps of Engineers that placing a harbor in this location would interrupt the natural flow of sediment around the Dana Point Headland. To mitigate for this calculated loss of sediment, the USACE recommended an annual replenishment in the amount of 23,000 cu. yards of sand.

Given the time of the harbor construction project, it's reasonable to think that this annual replenishment could have commenced around 1970. What is known today is that this replenishment program never materialized. What's more, just recently our Fifth District Supervisor Katrina Foley made a public statement that there was supposed to be more like 50,000 cu. yards of sand dumped annually on Doheny Beach and the stretch of beach just to the south.

And of course, everyone knows that never materialized either. District staff is now asking the question of the County and our County Supervisor - 23,000 yards of sand over a period of 55 years amounts to 1,265,000 cu. yards – double that to 50,000 yards and that's enough to sustain the beach that was created when the harbor was built.

The County has yet to respond to the inquiry and we will continue to press the County for answers.