

**MINUTES  
CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE  
REGULAR COASTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, December 13, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.  
Community Center, Ole Hanson Fireside Room  
100 N. Seville, San Clemente, CA 92672

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**1. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Hart called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Committee Member Ambrose led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Susan Ambrose, Robert Jordan, Michael Smith; Chair pro tem Peter Salgado and Chairman Bill Hart

Absent: Don Brown, Ken Nielsen

Staff Present: Tom Bonigut, Assistant City Engineer  
Mary Vondrak, Senior Management Analyst  
Eileen White, Recording Secretary

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the Joint City Council/Commissioners/Committees Meeting of October 23, 2012

Committee Members acknowledged receipt of the City Council-approved minutes.

B. Minutes of the Regular CAC Meeting of November 8, 2012

MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER AMBROSE, SECONDED BY CHAIR PRO TEM SALGADO, AND CARRIED 4-0-1, WITH COMMITTEE MEMBER SMITH ABSTAINING, to receive and file the minutes of the Regular CAC Meeting of November 8, 2012, as submitted by staff.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT - None**

**5. OLD BUSINESS - None**

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Comprehensive Load Reduction Plan (CLRP) Submittal

Mary Vondrak, Senior Management Analyst, summarized the staff report; reviewed key changes made to the document since it was last reviewed by the CAC; requested the Committee provide additional comment on the attached San Clemente Coastal Streams Comprehensive Load Reduction Plan, dated December 4, 2012. She recommended the Committee provide comment and receive and file the report.

In response to questions, Tom Bonigut, Assistant City Engineer, reviewed the anticipated process of the document. He anticipates receiving comments and recommendations from the Regional Water Board, with review and update every year. Staff anticipates keeping a running total of revisions/updates/notations during the year, and then submitting them all at once in December of each year. He agreed to review the document for potential improvement with acronym recognition and/or indication of relationships with other acronyms; noted the document only covers areas listed for TMDL's; noted the CAC will be advised of any major changes/revisions proposed.

Committee Member Smith noted he was not present for first review of the document at the last CAC meeting; agreed with statements made at that meeting that the document is precise, well written and very thorough; suggested correction to Appendix 3, Page C-12, to clarify that the Poche Creek UV Sterilization System *does not* discharge effluent directly to the ocean.

Committee Member Ambrose recommended staff send the correction related to the Poche Creek UV Sterilization System in a timely manner because the Poche Beach pond situation is an issue subject to substantial community and City Council attention and scrutiny.

Discussion ensued regarding particulars of walking tour of the Prima Deshecha Channel. Committee Members considered the ramifications of inviting the public and/or combining the tour with a Mayor's Walk, noting that inviting the public may generate a larger crowd, provide an opportunity to educate the public regarding its own contribution to the state of the watershed, and generally increase public awareness. It was also pointed out that a smaller group may be easier to transport to key locations along the watershed, provide a better audible range for participants, and increase opportunity for the Committee Members to become more knowledgeable about the watershed. In addition, the ability for all interested persons to meet the required physical demands for the tour was also discussed.

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut commented that opening up the walking tour to the public, providing shuttle buses, and/or combining the tour with a Mayor's Walk would require staff hours to organize the event and generate transportation costs. He suggested the Committee consider limiting the tour to

Committee members with the Committee Members determining the best vantage points. Following their tour, they could consider how to expand the effort. One way to expand the effort could be creation of a guided video photo tour, in the form of a PowerPoint presentation, with maps, videos, photos, information, etc., to be shown at a future CAC meeting with interested public. He agreed to check with the City Clerk to determine the correct notification procedure for the walking tour. He will put this agenda item on the January meeting agenda for further discussion of potential dates and key locations to explore.

Report received and filed.

B. Potential Plastic Bag Ban

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut summarized the staff report, a review of the CAC's efforts to date to implement a ban on single use plastic bags. He distributed a copy of a DVD staff made of founder of the Algalita Marine Research Foundation Captain Charles Moore's February 2009 presentation to the CAC detailing the large amount of trash and debris in the Pacific Ocean. Efforts to ban single use plastic bags by other cities have been challenged in court by Save the Plastic Bag Coalition over potential environmental impacts, and several different types of environmental studies have been successfully used by prevailing cities to enact similar bans. Council considered the CAC's request at its February 2012 Strategic Planning Workshop, but it wasn't included in the City's list of priority projects. Staff recommended the Committee review documentation and provide direction to staff.

In response to questions, Assistant City Engineer Bonigut advised that several cities have used Negative Declarations as the environmental documentation for the plastic bag ban. He acknowledged Committee Member Salgado's offer to do the Negative Declaration, but noted that Council would have to approve the request to pursue the ban before it would get to that point. Several cities have had some success using negative declarations to defend lawsuits mounted by the plastic bag industry.

Committee Member Salgado reiterated his offer to write the negative declaration; noted the newly seated Council may be more receptive to a ban; volunteered to develop a PowerPoint presentation featuring photographs of plastic bags on the beach, information and photos contained in the Captain Moore presentation, and additional documentation/letters for presentation to City Council at a future meeting. He established from staff that the Surfrider Foundation's attorney contact number can be found on the Surfrider website.

Committee Member Ambrose endorsed Committee Member Salgado's suggestion, and recommended the Surfrider letter and information be included in the presentation. In addition, a Surfrider representative may be available to attend the meeting.

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut suggested that if the CAC is interested in again recommending consideration of a plastic bag ban to the City Council at its February 2013 Strategic Planning Meeting, that Committee Members forward all information, photos, letters, data, etc., to him by January 3 for discussion at the CAC January 10 meeting. Committee Members can discuss strategies and finalize the PowerPoint Presentation at the meeting. In addition, he discussed how the ban would work, discussed reasons for the paper bag fee, and agreed to contact other cities for information on how their bans were developed, approved, and/or enacted.

Chair Hart agreed to conduct research in order to counter arguments against the ban. He agreed to meet with Committee Member Salgado to help with development of the PowerPoint Presentation.

Report received and filed.

C. Pharmaceutical Products Disposal

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut reviewed the staff report, an update on residents' current choices for proper disposal of unused medications and description and anticipated fees for the drug drop box program. Staff recommended the Committee consider enhanced outreach to remind residents about proper disposal in the trash, as this is the easiest and most convenient method for residents.

Chair Hart advised the issue is pharmaceuticals getting into the sewer system when drugs are flushed down the toilet. Potential drugs in water are not treated or neutralized at the sewage treatment plant, and the water goes into the outfall unmodified. Of major concern are the amount of and/or effect of hormonal drugs on marine life. He noted a guest opinion article in the San Clemente Times is another effective way to promote public education.

Committee Member Jordan indicated that some testing is being done to determine the amount of personal care and pharmaceutical products entering the water system through bodily functions and through the drain. Testing results have indicated very low concentrations in the system.

Committee Members concurred that the best solution is to increase public awareness of proper disposal in household trash, and discussed most effective promotion efforts, such as flyers, newspaper ads, and bill inserts.

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut noted that Channel 30 slides, water bill inserts, notice in quarterly newsletter, and website flyers are all low or no cost options that would be very effective. If those efforts do not produce the desired results, the Committee may choose to notify by direct mail. In addition he

agreed to research if the program can be covered by the Clean Ocean Program education fund.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER AMBROSE, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SMITH, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED to approve a public awareness campaign, consisting of education efforts and distribution of information regarding the proper disposal of pharmaceuticals.

## **7. COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. Bacterial Monitoring Report Dated December 4, 2012
- B. October & November 2012 Environmental Programs Update

Committee Members received and filed items 7A and 7B.

## **8. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

- A. Potential Future Agenda Items

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut reviewed the Potential Future Agenda Items and requested the Committee Members provide input.

Committee Members added Memorandum from Staff Regarding CAC Street Sweeping Revisions, Poche Watershed Tour, and Single Use Plastic Ban Recommendation to the January 2013 meeting agenda.

- B. Staff Announcements

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut reported a meeting with Don Kindred and Jay Longley regarding potential assistance, financial or otherwise, for efforts at Poche Beach. Mr. Long indicated he is both interested and motivated to help with the clean up efforts.

## **9. ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Committee Member Smith requested to be included in the California Coastal Commission meeting to be scheduled by staff. Assistant City Engineer Bonigut noted a third member could attend without violating Brown Act guidelines, and Committee Members unanimously supported his inclusion.

Committee Member Jordan offered to forward an email to all Committee Members regarding a sustainability-themed meeting, featuring the Charles Moore Presentation, put on by a Northern California city water board.

Committee Member Ambrose established from staff that information on California Coastal Commission conventions or meetings can be found on their website at [coastal.ca.gov](http://coastal.ca.gov).

Chair Hart reported that a new community organization entitled “The North Beach Community Organization,” was formed within the last year by local North Beach residents to drive initiatives and get issues involving North Beach in the political arena. During their first open meeting, many attendees voiced approval of activities, music, a farmer’s market, repair of volleyball courts as preferred uses at North Beach. He referred Committee Members to an article in the San Clemente Times for additional information. Although he has been involved in the inception of the organization, he does not intend to stay active as he does not live in the area. In addition, he advised all to visit ebay to purchase special pink or green Rainbow sandals, donated by Rainbow Sandals, with the City matching funds, to support Courtney’s Sandcastle Playground.

Committee Member Smith recommended all read [The Sun Post](#) article regarding sand replenishment.

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut advised an expanded on-line version was available at [The Orange County Register](#) website. He found the article both accurate and informative, and also recommended a separate but related article by John Dorey.

Committee Member Ambrose announced improved communication between businesses and the City with the election of Councilmember Bob Baker as Mayor.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER AMBROSE, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER JORDAN, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. to the next regular meeting of the Coastal Advisory Committee on Thursday, January 10, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room at the Community Center located at 100 N. Seville, San Clemente, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bill Hart, Chair

Attest:

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Tom Bonigut, Assistant City Engineer