

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

Thursday, March 14, 2013 @ 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 Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Don Brown

Staff Present: Tom Bonigut, Assistant City Engineer  
Eileen White, Recording Secretary

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Minutes of the Regular CAC Meeting of February 21, 2013

MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER JORDAN, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER AMBROSE, AND CARRIED 5-0-1, WITH COMMITTEE MEMBER NIELSEN ABSTAINING, to receive and file the minutes of the Regular CAC Meeting of February 21, 2013, with the following revision:

Page 5, 9<sup>th</sup> paragraph, last sentence, replace "Courtney's Sandcastle Playground" with "Site Planning and Aquatics Center"

**4. PUBLIC INPUT - None**

**5. OLD BUSINESS - None**

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Environmental Grant Awards

Tom Bonigut, Assistant City Engineer, reviewed the staff report, a memo from Mary Vondrak, Senior Management Analyst, providing the background,

grant statistics, and description grant funded projects issued to date under the Environmental Sustainability Grant Program. A Grant Summary Report was attached to the staff report for easy reference. Staff recommended the Committee receive and file the report.

Committee Member Ambrose requested additional information for each of the grants, including how many benefitted, what kind of outreach was provided, and how successful the event was. She believes it would be helpful for the public to see the variety of projects supported.

Chair Hart commented that the additional information would be helpful to the public and Council when researching reasons to continue the Clean Ocean Fee Program.

In response to questions, Assistant City Engineer Bonigut noted that although some organizations have received more than one grant the projects have been varied and nonrecurring, which made them eligible for grant funding; commented that although the group from St. Margaret's Episcopal School proposing new drain stencils was provided with application information, they did not submit a grant request. He agreed to provide an informational report providing the requested information.

Report received and filed.

B. Potential Use of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) for Beach Sand Replenishment

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut summarized the staff report. In response to requests from the Committee, staff has compiled an analysis of California cities with TOT taxes, details of San Clemente's TOT tax, and a summary of the necessary process to increase the TOT tax.

In response to questions, Assistant City Engineer Bonigut described the series of permits in place that will allow the City to take advantage of opportunities to obtain sand on short notice in the event it becomes available; described the North Beach sand replenishment project undertaken several years ago.

Chair Hart commented that the earlier sand replenishments project gave the City more usable beach at North Beach, allayed fears about dumped sand, and provided a learning experience for the City.

Committee Member Nielsen agreed that the dumped sand did not cause any negative impacts, including not making the water turbid or increasing cobble, as was feared by members of the public at the time. Some of that sand, although coarse in texture, remains on the beach.

Chair pro tem Salgado questioned the soundness of the sand replenishment concept. Dumping sand may have long term effects on sea grass, increase the amount of cobble on the beach, negatively affect T-Street Beach, increase turbidity of the water, etc. He would prefer to closely monitor a small scale project to determine short and long term impacts before moving forward with the large project proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). He established from staff that City Council had officially endorsed the ACOE study and that an EIR has already been adopted on the project. He believes there are many questions about sand replenishment that have not been sufficiently answered. He is cognizant that action has to be taken, just wants to make sure this is the right action. He would prefer that sand replenishment take place in phased manner rather than see sand dumping trucks on the beach.

Chair Hart commented that sand on the City's beaches has been eroding for 30 years and will continue to do so unless sand is dumped on the beaches. If no action is taken, end result may be a rock sea wall. T-Street has been a great surfing spot for over 30 years, whether there is sand on the beach or not. He does not believe that dumping sand on the beach at T-Street will ruin the surf break. A much larger, long term sand replenishment program on North San Diego County beaches has not resulted in negative impacts, and lessons learned about this program can be applied to San Clemente's beaches. He prefers sand replenishment over installation of a sea wall. He speculated that an increase in TOT tax would be necessary to fund sand replenishment, as he does think it likely that Council would divert existing general fund revenues from TOT into a special sand replenishment fund. In addition, he noted the City chose the most conservative plan of action when proceeding with the ACOE study.

Committee Member Nielsen offered to set up a presentation with Lawrence Honma regarding the North San Diego sand replenishment program.

Committee Members concurred to add a presentation from Lawrence Hanma to a future agenda. They also requested staff add Sand Replenishment Update as a standing item on future agendas. In addition, all agreed that other sources in addition to TOT tax increases should be explored as a means to fund sand replenishment.

At the Committee's request, Assistant City Engineer Bonigut agreed to forward copies of the monitoring report for the North Beach Sand Replenishment Project to the Committee Members, and also transmit the Committee's key points regarding raising of revenue for sand replenishment to the new City Manager.

Report received and filed.

C. Prima Deshecha Watershed Tour

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut reviewed the staff report, a summary of the purpose, points of interest, and tour format discussed to date. He discussed items needing further clarification and requested the Committee Members provide input.

Committee Members discussed importance of doing dry run of the watershed tour in advance of the official tour, and Committee Members Salgado and Brown volunteered. Chair pro tem suggested the Committee consider delaying next month's meeting until April 18 in order to allow adequate time for the dry run. Assistant City Engineer Bonigut advised they should let him know when they are going, and he will join them if his schedule permits. He suggested they make notes as they go along the tour, consider parking opportunities for the public, estimate travel time to each location, and anticipate questions that may be asked by the public.

Committee Member Smith agreed to arrange for parking in Shorecliffs private lot, and inquire into arranging to use the clubhouse for the end meeting place.

Committee Members concurred to reschedule their next month's meeting to April 18 and tentatively schedule the watershed tour for Saturday, May 18.

Committee Member Ambrose suggested the CAC invite Mayor Baker to welcome the public at the first stop, and speak at the end of the tour. She suggested other dignitaries should be invited as well. Assistant City Engineer Bonigut agreed to invite Mayor Baker, and will ask around if others interested in the topic are willing to speak.

Chair Hart requested the Committee Members bring suggestions for station topics/presenters for discussion at their next meeting.

Chair pro tem Salgado thanked Committee Member Smith for submitting the letter to the San Clemente Times as it helps the public visualize the extent of the problem.

Report received and filed.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Bacterial Monitoring Report Dated February 13, 2013

B. February 2013 Environmental Programs Update

Committee Members commented on the high coliforms level for a single date at North Beach; commended staff for the informative and compelling public

outreach; established from staff that the number of businesses ignoring the Styrofoam ban is increasing.

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 Plastic Bag Ban Presentation to Council Debrief and Grant Reports Detail to the April meeting agenda. Sand Replenishment Program Update was added as a standing item to each month's agenda.

Committee Member Nielsen will check with Lawrence Honma and Greg Heron to see if either or both are available for sand replenishment program presentations in the coming months.

### **B. Staff Announcements**

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut announced that Chair Hart was on the agenda to present the CAC's Plastic Bag Ban Presentation at Council's meeting of March 26, which starts at 4:00 p.m. In addition, he agreed to send out an email to determine availability for the meeting with California Coastal Commission (CCC) staff and schedule the meeting base on their responses.

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

Committee Member Smith reported that at their last meeting, the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission reiterated their recommendation that South Coast Aquatics (SCA) be given a Junior Partnership as several meetings with staff and a proposed agreement have not resulted in a special partnership agreement; heard a presentation from Assistant City Engineer Bonigut regarding parks and trails planned for the Marblehead Coastal Development; approved striping for junior tennis on the Bonita Canyon tennis courts. He suggested the CAC may be interested in viewing Assistant City Engineer Bonigut's presentation.

Committee Member Ambrose commended Assistant City Engineer Bonigut and his staff for their work on the Clean Ocean Program; announced retirement dinner for George Scarborough, retiring City Manager, on April 5, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. at \$45.00 per head.

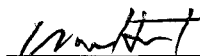
Chair pro tem Salgado apologized for not being able to attend and support Chair Hart as he makes the Plastic Bag Ban Presentation at Council's budget meeting on March 26.

Chair Hart announced annual Earth Day activities scheduled for April 20, 2013, including a beach cleanup from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., with live music, informational booths, vendors and other events at Parque del Mar until 2:00 p.m. Those interested in volunteering for the event can contact him or Nanci Mavar.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER AMBROSE, SECONDED BY CHAIR PRO TEM SALGADO, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED to adjourn at 9:17 p.m. to the next regular adjourned meeting of the Coastal Advisory Committee on Thursday, April 18, 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