

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE**  
**REGULAR COASTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Thursday, July 11, 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 7:00 p.m. Committee Member Dickey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Susan Ambrose, Richard Dickey, and Michael Smith; Chair pro tem Peter Salgado, 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 Regular CAC Meeting of June 13, 2013

Due to lack of quorum needed to take action on the minutes of the June 13, 2013, meeting, the Commissioners continued the minutes to their next regular meeting.

**4. PUBLIC INPUT - None**

**5. OLD BUSINESS - None**

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Sand Project Update

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut summarized the staff report, an update on the Army Corps of Engineers Shoreline Erosion Study/Project, including an update on the progress of the design phase of the project, update on results of the City's Federal Lobbyist to revise Federal Policy regarding funding for projects with lower Benefit-Cost Ratios, an update on grant/funding potential, and a table summarizing the estimated design, construction costs, and

funding obligations for the life of the project. Staff recommended the Committee receive and file the report.

In response to questions from the Committee Members, Assistant City Engineer Bonigut advised that the City has budgeted and also been awarded sufficient grant funds to cover the cost of the design phase of the project. With regard to the City's North Beach Sand Project, he noted that with exception of the imported sand being of lesser quality than expected, that project was overall a success, with no negative impacts to date. He also advised that staff is anticipating having a guest speaker present at a future meeting to answer questions regarding large quantity sand dumping programs.

Chair pro tem Salgado stated for the record that he remains concerned about potential negative impacts from a large-scale sand nourishment project and advocates reevaluation of the project by the State and potentially a smaller scale pilot project rather than the current proposal to dump 250,000 yards.

Report received and filed.

B. Environmental Sustainability Grant Application Recommendation

Committee Member Ambrose recused herself from considering this agenda item due to her past participation in the group and status as co-founder. She left the meeting room.

Mary Vondrak, Senior Management Analyst reviewed the staff report, a recommendation that the Committee recommend City Manager approval of the San Onofre Foundation Environmental Sustainability Grant application in full, appropriating \$1,000 from the Clean Ocean Fund and \$1,000 from the Solid Waste Fund.

In response to questions from the Committee Members, Ms. Vondrak advised the application is not clear as to what specific activities the funds requested will be used for, although the application indicates support for a family friendly pet extravaganza to provide education about responsible dog behavior including waste cleanup, and noted the organization will be required to submit a report following the event to indicate how the money was spent and how many members of the public were served.

During discussion, the Committee Members, either individually or in agreement, provided the following commentary:

- Expressed concern with potential negative impacts to allowing potentially hundreds of dogs on the State beach/campground during a short period of time.

- Expressed support with condition that additional wording require the event to focus on educating dog owners as to their responsibilities of owning dogs.
- Speculated the grant amount was small in comparison to the event's potential to be successful in its efforts to educate regarding responsible dog ownership; commented that it would be a good test case to determine whether format is successful.

IT WAS MOVED BY CHAIR PRO TEM SALGADO, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SMITH, AND CARRIED 4-0-1, WITH COMMITTEE MEMBER AMBROSE ABSTAINING, TO RECOMMEND CITY MANAGER APPROVAL OF THE SAN ONOFRE FOUNDATION ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GRANT APPLICATION IN FULL, APPROPRIATING \$1,000 FROM THE CLEAN OCEAN FUND AND \$1,000 FROM THE SOLID WASTE FUND, with additional conditions as follows:

- 1) The event must include an educational aspect and focus on instructing dog owners regarding responsible dog ownership and the prudent use of the trail.
- 2) All areas used for the event must be cleaned up following the event.
- 3) The Foundation must submit a report following the event indicating how the money was spent and the amount of public attending.

Committee Member Ambrose returned to the meeting.

C. Fiscal Year 2014 Clean Ocean Program Outreach Strategy

Mary Vondrak, Senior Management Analyst, reviewed the staff report. In response to recommendations made by S. Groner Associates, Inc., in the Strategic Vision Report, staff is proposing the Committee select 2 to 3 "end-stage" behaviors for focus in FY 2014. Staff included 3 potential campaigns for Committee consideration and noted the approach will include a public feedback loop which highlights successes.

In response to questions/comments from the Committee Members, Senior Management Analyst Vondrak described promotional methods used in the past; noted the importance of reporting successes/feedback when efforts pay off.

Chair Hart explained that the Strategic Vision Report advocates that the City select a small number of end stage behaviors to focus on and work toward establishing those behaviors rather than spreading around its resources to influence a myriad number of behaviors.

Public Testimony:

**Evan Burbridge**, resident, acknowledged problems associated with overwatering on association properties and questioned how the City will approach HOA's with suggestions for using less water.

Senior Management Analyst Vondrak discussed ongoing efforts including meetings/rebates/education by the City as part of a Tri-City effort to encourage HOA's to decrease watering of association properties.

During discussion, the Committee Members, either individually or in agreement, provided the following commentary:

- Suggested one of the campaigns focus on educating residents that grass-oriented, water intensive landscaping is not the best option for coastal communities; capturing water on-site, rather than letting it drain to the ocean, should be a goal.
- Suggested a campaign to encourage the use of reusable bags.
- Suggested the City encourage the public to participate in the City's rebate program for homeowners that provides incentives for replacing grass landscaping with drought tolerant plantings.
- Related the overwatering that occurs when overly ambitious landscape contracted workers, who do not pay water bills, overwater plants and/or waste water in their efforts to keep areas clean of debris.
- Suggested broadening some of the campaigns to incorporate ideas generated by tonight's discussion.
- Suggested incorporating lawn signs or other outward symbol of recognition to reward homeowners that have cut down on their water usage by a certain percentage or realized a set goal.
- Commented that of the 3 campaigns suggested by staff, the campaign to sign up for street sweeping reminders is not as important as developing campaigns to reduce water usage.
- Commented that recent lawn replacement with drought tolerant plantings on private homes has generated positive interest in the community.
- Commented that currently the City does provide notice to homeowners when water usage is drastically increased, i.e. when a swimming pool is refilled.
- Commented that in addition to association properties, overwatering also occurs on school and golf course properties.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER AMBROSE, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SMITH AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE CAMPAIGN #1, CUT DOWN SPRINKLER WATERING TIMES; APPROVE CAMPAIGN #2, AVOID APPLYING FERTILIZER BEFORE FORECASTED RAIN; AND REPLACE CAMPAIGN #3 WITH ENCOURAGE

AND EDUCATE WITH REBATE PROGRAM HOMEOWNERS TO REPLACE YARDS WITH DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTINGS AND/OR REDO SPRINKLER SYSTEMS WITH MORE WATER EFFICIENT SYSTEMS.

D. Clean Ocean Fee Renewal

Tom Bonigut, Assistant City Engineer, narrated a PowerPoint Presentation entitled, "Clean Ocean Fee Renewal, CAC, dated July 11, 2013," including a summary of the program's inception, existing rate structure, ongoing need for the program, and process for its continuance. He provided several alternatives for the Committee Members to consider, including no fee, increased fee, and increased terms, and described changes the service program would undergo for each of the alternatives. He recommended the Committee consider leaving the term at six years and increasing the fee to \$6.23/\$5.14 for residents living on public/private streets to ensure continued implementation of the current program with projected Poche and Comprehensive Load Reduction Plan (CLRP) needs.

In response to questions from the Committee Members, Assistant City Engineer Bonigut advised he believes the public will understand the need for the increase in order to keep the current program; explained that private street residents pay less because private associations provide street sweeping on their private streets; and provided percentages of residents voting for the program each time it has been approved.

Committee Members concurred to endorse a 6 year term, with increases to \$6.23/\$5.14 for public/private streets, and commented on the effectiveness and benefits of the program to date.

IT WAS MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SMITH, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER DICKEY AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL DIRECT STAFF TO PROCEED WITH A PROPERTY OWNER MAIL BALLOT ELECTION FOR RENEWAL OF THE CLEAN OCEAN FUND PROGRAM FEE FOR A SIX YEAR TERM WITH INCREASE IN FEES TO \$6.23 FOR RESIDENTS LIVING ON PUBLIC STREETS AND \$5.14 FOR RESIDENTS LIVING ON PRIVATE STREETS.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. Bacterial Monitoring Report Dated July 2, 2013

Assistant City Engineer Bonigut reported on the recent valve failure which allowed treated water to go straight to Poche instead of out to the ocean. The faulty valve has been replaced. In addition, he noted staff is researching change in frequency and/or additional equipment for the bird deterrent program to increase its efficiency.

B. June 2013 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 acknowledged no meeting in August due to lack of agenda items; added "Outreach Program Follow-up" to the September agenda and "Poche Update on Plans discussed at Prior Meeting" to the October agenda.

**9. ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Committee Member Ambrose commended staff for the informative and easily understood Clean Ocean Fee Update Report.

Committee Member Smith reported that at its May meeting, the Beaches, Parks and Recreation Commission discussed new play equipment for Max Berg Park; considered a proposal from a French soccer team to lease space adjacent to Steed Park; approved recreation program scholarships for Marine Families; discussed the fire rings issue. At its meeting in June, the Commission received the Beach Trail Management Plan proposal from staff and approved the pier restrooms upgrade. At its July meeting, the Commission welcomed 2 new members; received an award for the Recreation Division's Health and Wellness Program; discussed the revised Softball Reservation Policy for Bonito Canyon Park; approved Phase II of the Courtney's Sandcastle Playground.

Committee Member Dickey thanked the Committee Members for their warm welcome; received offer from Chair Hart to supply additional information to help ease his transition onto the Committee.

Chair pro tem Salgado commented on the large crowds congregated at the beach for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

Chair Hart invited all to attend the Annual Art Auction to be held at the Community Center Gallery and featuring donated works of art for purchase with all proceeds going to charity. He asked anyone interested in donating art to contact him.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER AMBROSE, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER SMITH, AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED to adjourn at 9:45 p.m. to the next regular meeting of the Coastal Advisory Committee on Thursday, September 12, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room, at the Community Center located at 100 N. Seville, San Clemente, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

  
~~Bill Hart, Chair~~ *Dan Brown, Acting Chair*

Attest:

  
Tom Bonigut, Assistant City Engineer