

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

South Coast District Office
301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300
Long Beach, CA 90802-4302
(562) 590-5071



F7a

5-19-0345 (Capistrano Beach County Park – Informational Briefing)

August 13, 2021

CORRESPONDENCE

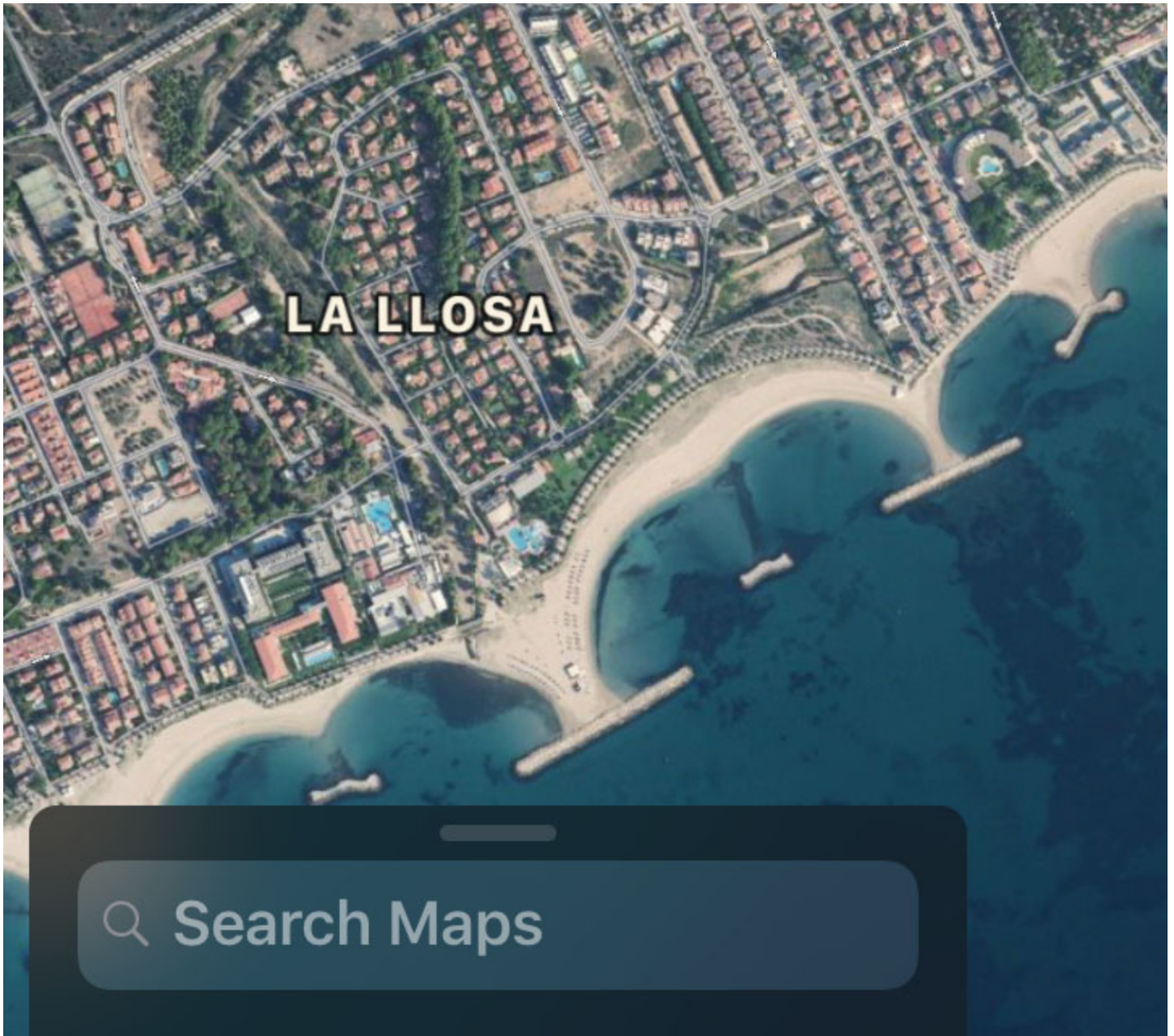
Ziff, Dani@Coastal

From: EnvironmentalJustice@Coastal
Sent: Monday, August 2, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Ziff, Dani@Coastal
Subject: FW: Capo Beach Solution

From: Yahoo <robert_g_wilson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 7:10 PM
To: EnvironmentalJustice@Coastal <EnvironmentalJustice@coastal.ca.gov>; Materials <materials@coastal.ca.gov>
Cc: Bob Wilson <robert_g_wilson@yahoo.com>
Subject: Capo Beach Solution

Capistrano Beach is easily and effectively saved and returned to recreational use using ecologically friendly natural materials. Here is the solution. Build intermittent rock breakwaters about 100 yards long every 100 yards about 100 yards offshore parallel with the beach. This intercepts the destructive waves before they erode the beach. This creates a calm area where sand is deposited and makes additional beach. Construction is done from offshore barges with cranes. This solution is used all over the world.

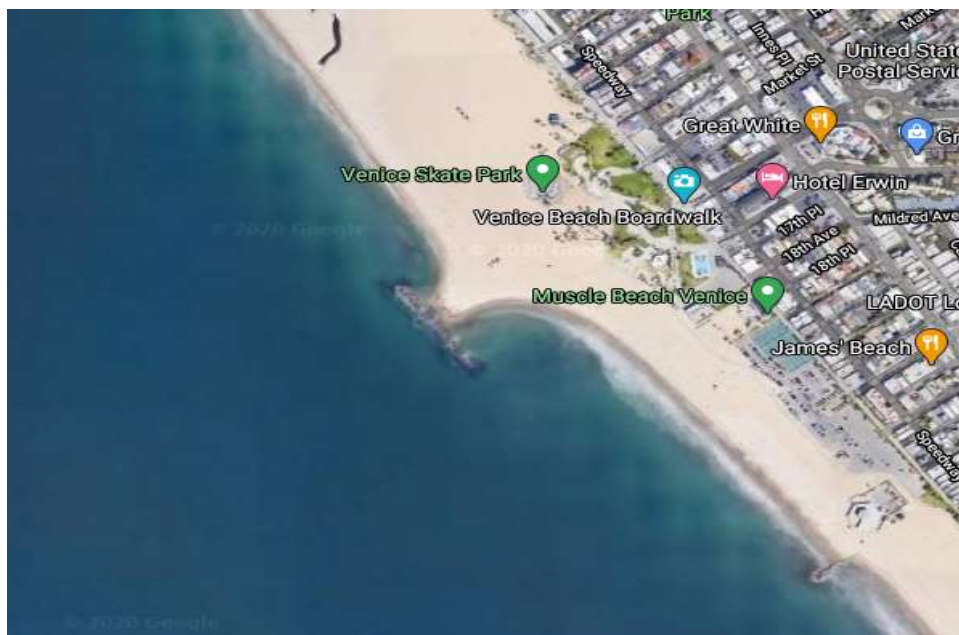
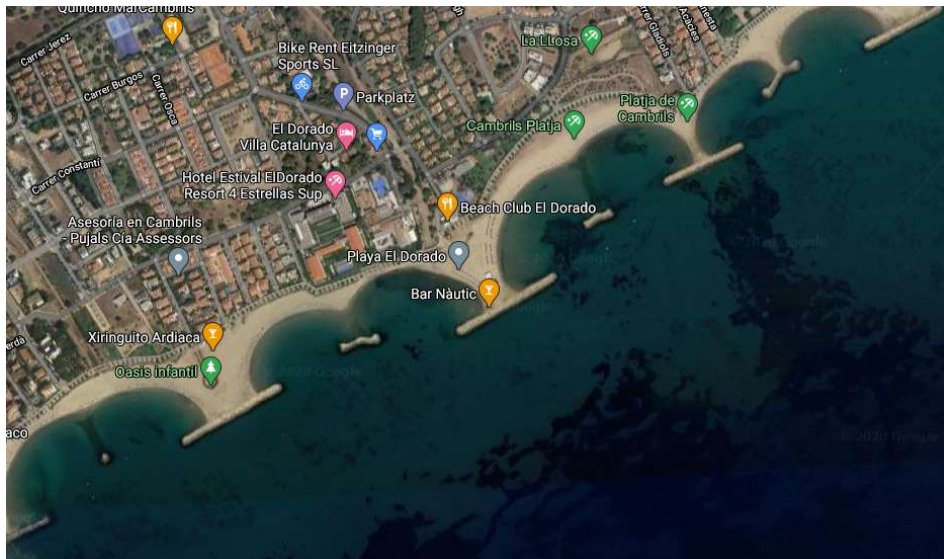
-Robert G. Wilson robert_g_wilson@yahoo.com



Sent from my iPhone

It is imperative to the residents of Dana Point, as well as tourists who enjoy Capo Beach, to preserve this treasure. As a resident of Dana Point for 35 years I am saddened to think that any governmental body would consider not doing everything possible to save it. For this reason, I, as well as my family, ask that you approve the Coastal Development Permit to maintain the existing temporary methods to minimize beach erosion until a more permanent solution can be developed. Many other beaches around the world have had similar problems and there have been successful methods to counteract erosion and preserve and possibly improve the condition of the beach.

Coastal beach erosion can be controlled permanently by an intermittent breakwater about 100 yards long with a gap of about 100 yards. The breakwater is positioned about 100 yards offshore parallel to the beach to be protected. The breakwater protects the beach from waves and provides a calm water area where sand accumulates and actually augments the beach in time. Pictures are below.



Regards,
Barbara Wilson
Resident of Dana Point



August 6, 2021

Chair Steve Padilla
California Coastal Commission
455 Market Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94105
Via Electronic Delivery

cc: Dani Ziff, Coastal Program Analyst, California Coastal Commission

RE: Item F7a Capistrano Beach County Park: Informational briefing

Dear Chair Padilla,

The Surfrider Foundation (Surfrider) is a nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network. The South Orange County chapter has been fighting to protect and restore Capistrano Beach for many years.

The County's review of nature based adaptation solutions evaluated three project locations: South Reach with partial parking lot removal; South Reach with full parking lot width removed; and North Reach along the Capo Beach bicycle path and part of Doheny State Beach. The alternatives analysis only evaluated pilot projects and does not evaluate the potential for a complete living shoreline project to address Capistrano Beach erosion over the entirety of the beach.

Surfrider prefers alternative (3), South Reach with full parking lot width removed. This project would give a better indicator as to effectiveness of the living shoreline approach while simultaneously addressing urgent public safety and access concerns. We cannot delay addressing those issues at Capistrano Beach or kicking the can further down the road.

Since 2004, at least 9 emergency permits have been granted to address erosion at Capistrano Beach. OC Parks has had ample time to address the issues at Capistrano Beach Park – we must end the haphazard approach now. The existing rock revetments, geotextile sand cubes, and a large timber seawall are exacerbating erosion and leading to unsafe conditions at the beach park. High tide and waves regularly overtop the parking lot and threaten beachgoers on the sidewalk and beach. Further, the existing geotextile sand bags are degrading and polluting the beach and ocean.

Plastic Geotextile Bags are Degrading



The photograph above from September 2019 depicts the state of the geotextile sandbags OC Parks is seeking to retain in this application. Sandbags were meant to serve as a temporary solution and have clearly degraded already over time into plastic pollution that enters the ocean. The sandbags should be addressed in OC Parks' pilot project.

Unsafe Conditions



On the weekend of July 4, 2020, there was a high tide and the waves completely overtook the shoreline at Capistrano Beach and overflowed through the parking lot, which had to be evacuated. This storm surge further damaged the sandbags that had been put in place the previous year, caused additional damage to the already crumbling sidewalks and pavement of

the lot, badly damaged the existing seawall, and almost brought down the Coast Trail pathway. This clearly demonstrates the urgency of the situation and that patchwork armoring of the beach or piecemeal approaches are not the correct long-term solution. The sidewalks and parking lot are also failing behind the armoring, mainly because they are built on non-engineered fill. The substandard site must be entirely excavated prior to any future construction.

Maintaining the parking lot at this point is unsustainable; anything less than taking out the entire parking lot would be a half measure. The County continually spending money on armoring and restoring the lot is a misuse of time and money that could be used for real emergencies. Living shoreline pilot project alternative (1) or (2) does not address parking lot concerns and is likely to lead to the need for additional shoreline armoring and emergency permits at Capistrano Beach. A living shoreline would ensure that there is space to walk to the shore and “put a towel down” for decades to come.

Further, alternative (3) would better – and should include addressing – the existing buried debris field installed during the Capistrano Beach Club era. This stretch of beach has faced intense waves and high tides for decades, and has a corresponding history of structures losing the battle. The waves have revealed the old seawall and car chassis filled with cement, tiles from the filled-in pool of the Capistrano Beach Club, and debris from other previous attempts to keep the sea at bay. These debris are potentially leaching toxic elements into the surrounding beach area and ocean.

Coastal Trail Linkage - Alternative Solution

Maintaining the Coastal Trail linkage between Doheny State Beach all the way to San Clemente is important. ADA-approved modular tracks that can be stored during harsh weather, and laid out when needed, is one creative way to allow for trail access along the beach. This may serve as an interim solution as part of a pilot project.

Moving forward, we encourage OC Parks to make it clear throughout the public outreach process the lack of viability for beachfront infrastructure at this location due to coastal hazards and rising seas. The best opportunity to preserve Capistrano Beach and public access for decades to come is a nature-based living shoreline.

Capistrano Beach should be thought of not as a problem, but as a possibility to come up with creative solutions that the rest of the state can model. Our coastlines and beaches are central to the identity of Orange County, and the state at large. The continual encroachment and building up to the shoreline has cost us many beaches that we won't be able to recover, but Capistrano Beach gives us the opportunity to reclaim some of that beach.

Sincerely,

Henry Chou
Chair, Surfrider Foundation, South Orange County Chapter

Mandy Sackett
California Policy Manager, Surfrider Foundation