

**CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA  
FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION**

**MEETING AGENDA  
Thursday, 3 April 2014  
Tour of Inspection – 3:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting – 3:30 p.m.**

City Hall, Council Chambers  
East side of Monte Verde St. between Ocean & 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues  
Carmel, California

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

COMMISSION MEMBERS:                   LISA BOARDMAN – CHAIR  
  DAVID REFUERZO  
  KAREN FERLITO  
  KATHY BANG  
  MICHAEL CARTER

**II. TOUR OF INSPECTION**

Shortly after 3:00 p.m. the Commission will leave the Council Chambers for an on-site Tour of Inspection of all properties listed on this agenda. The Tour may also include projects previously approved by the City and not on this agenda. Prior to the beginning of the Tour of Inspection, the Commission may eliminate one or more on-site visits. The public is welcome to follow the Commission on its tour of the determined sites. The Commission will return to the Council Chambers at **3:30 p.m.** or as soon thereafter as possible.

1. Crespi Ave., 8 houses southeast of Mt. View Ave.

**III. ROLL CALL**

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**V. APPEARANCES**

Thank you for attending the meeting. Anyone wishing to address the Commission on matters not on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the Commission, may do so now. Please state the matter on which you wish to speak. Matters not appearing on the Commission's agenda will not receive action at this meeting but may be referred to staff for a future meeting. Presentations will be limited to three minutes, or as established by the Commission. Persons are not required to give their name or address, but it is helpful for speakers to state their name in order that the Secretary may identify them.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Consideration of the minutes for the 6 March 2014 regular meeting.

## **VII. APPLICATIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS**

IF YOU CHALLENGE THE NATURE OF THE PROPOSED ACTION IN COURT, YOU MAY BE LIMITED TO RAISING ONLY THOSE ISSUES YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE RAISED AT THE PUBLIC HEARING DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE, OR IN WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE DELIVERED TO THE FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION, OR PRIOR TO DELIBERATION OF THE ITEMS ON THE TOUR OF INSPECTION/PUBLIC HEARING.

1. Consideration of an application to remove one Monterey pine (34" diameter) due to the safety concerns and damage to the owners property and adjacent properties. The site is located on Crespi Ave., 8 houses southeast of Mt. View Ave. The applicant and property owner is Kristin Wolfe. Page 10.

## **VIII. ORDERS OF BUSINESS**

1. Review options for the management of beach fires and provide direction on recommendations for a fire management plan. Page 15.
2. Receive an update on the ASBS project and provide direction to staff. Page 39.
3. Consideration of co-sponsoring an Arbor Day event in July with the Friends of Carmel Forest. Page 40.
4. Consideration of changing the regular meeting date and or time of the Forest and Beach Commission. Page 42.

## **IX. REPORTS FROM STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS**

1. Receive report from the Ad Hoc Beach Committee. Page 43.
2. Forester's report – presented at meeting.
  - A. March tree data. No Page.
  - B. Project updates.
  - C. Parks activities.
  - D. Beach activities.
3. Public Services Director comments. No page.
  - A. Project Status.
  - B. Future Agenda Items.
  - C. Update of Council Items.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Forest and Beach Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the Planning and Building Department located at City Hall, on Monte Verde between Ocean and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues during normal business hours.

If there is not a special meeting, the next regular meeting of the Forest and Beach Commission will be:

1 May 2014

Tour of Inspection – as required  
3:30 p.m. - Regular Agenda

The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea Telecommunication's Device for the Deaf /Speech Impaired (TDD) number is 1-800-735-2929.

**CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA  
FOREST AND BEACH COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, March 6, 2014  
Tour of Inspection 2:30 p.m.  
Regular Meeting 3:30 p.m.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL FOR TOUR OF INSPECTION**

**PRESENT:** Commission Members Ferlito, Refuerzo, Boardman  
**ABSENT:** Commission members: Bang and Carter  
**STAFF PRESENT:** Mike Branson, City Forester  
Sharon Friedrichsen, Public Services Director.

**II. TOUR OF INSPECTION**

The Commission toured the following site:

1. Forest Hill Park

**III. ROLL CALL FOR THE REGULAR MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 3:37 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Lisa Boardman – Chairperson  
Karen Ferlito  
David Refuerzo

**ABSENT:** Kathy Bang  
Michael Carter

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mike Branson, City Forester  
Sharon Friedrichsen, Public Services Director  
Mike Calhoun, Public Safety Director  
Daryl Betancur, Acting Secretary to the Forest and Beach  
Commission

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Members of the audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**V. APPEARANCES**

Noel Mapstead asked for clarification on what could be discussed during public appearances, publication of the full agenda packet on the web site, that future packets

be published to the web site, how to get items included into the meeting packet and how to contact staff.

Mr. Mapstead's questions were addressed by Acting secretary Betancur and Forester Branson.

Commissioner Ferlito commented that the public can request to be on the agenda distribution list. Acting Secretary Betancur clarified the availability of meeting packets.

Scott Mackenzie commented that there may be a conspiracy to not distribute the agenda packet and asked for postponement of the beach fire discussion.

No other appearances.

## VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consideration of the minutes for the 6 February 2014 regular meeting.

It was moved by REFUERZO to approve the minutes.

A member of the audience requested to pull the minutes.

3: 47 p.m. Public comment opened

Noel Mapsead asked a question about a motion that was seconded for a fire moratorium but no vote was taken.

Mr. Mapstead's question was addressed by Director Friedrichsen.

A woman asked about finding minutes on the city web site.

Chair Boardman and Commissioned Refuerzo answered the question.

3:51 p.m. Public comment closed.

The motion to adopt the minutes was seconded by FERLITO.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

AYES:	Boardman, Ferlito, Refuerzo
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Bang, Carter
ABSTAIN:	None

## VII. ORDERS OF BUSINESS

1. Receive information relating to beach fires to assist with development of a fire management plan for Carmel Beach.

City Forester Branson provided an overview of the purpose of the agenda item, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the many different issues related to beach fires and answered questions from the Commission.

Chairperson Boardman provided direction to the audience on how public comments would proceed. Public Safety Chief Calhoun presented information on enforcement of the beach rules. He also announced a new beach security person would be working on weekend evenings to educate and provide direction to beach visitors on complying with the various beach rules.

Chief Calhoun answered questions from the Commissioners about when the program would start, the schedule, establishing a contact database, and if the beach rules cards would be handed out.

Public appearances opened at 4:17 p.m.

Scott Mackenzie questioned the need for rules and regulations in society for safety and made the following points:

- Daily life is hazardous
- Where did the 25' rule come from? It seems arbitrary.
- Damage to the walls is minimal.
- Do not clean in the kelp areas.
- People should not dig pits for fires.
- New signs are a good idea.
- Rings are unattractive.
- Permits are onerous.

Branson and Ferlito addressed the 25' rule.

Barbara Hardy said she represented several families and made the following points:

- Fires are a cherished event, and are family oriented.
- Kelp and flies are unattractive, but a natural process.
- The beach is self-cleaning.
- Fires are not a problem
- Permits or baskets limit spontaneity; do not require baskets or permits.
- Better enforcement is good.
- No record of charcoal harming the environment.

Steve Brooks made the following comments;

- Indigenous people had no rules.
- He likes the basket concept and a limited number of anchored, semi-permanent, seasonal rings.
- Fires should be allowed to burn out.
- Baskets are hard to manage and ash disposal is a problem.

- He provided a sketch for the fire ring idea.

Skip Lloyd made the following comments:

- He is a regular visitor to the beach and likes fires.
- The beach is not cleaning itself.
- Recently counted 15-20 fires night after night and over 120 on 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.
- The problem is the number of fires and the accumulation of charcoal.
- There needs to be a labor intensive cleanup once or twice a week.

Richard Tucker made the following comments:

- Thank you for the Powerpoint presentation.
- Signage needs improvement.
- Basket idea is good, but do not require them.
- Provide ash disposal bins.
- Rings are not attractive and not in Carmel's aesthetics.
- Engage the public to help with cleanup.
- Chief Calhoun's plan is good but the person must be professional.

Ian Martin offered the following comments:

- Enforcement needs to be on the beach.
- Use volunteers to help.
- Use a GPS to mark fires at night to assist with cleanup during the day.
- The community aspect of fires has a value worth the expenditure and enforcement.

Wayne Moon made the following comments:

- Pure white sand is a mark of pride and Carmel advertises that.
- Clean up does not eliminate the ash, nor does the ocean.
- The fire situation is an example of the "Tragedy of the Commons" form the 1000's of users.
- Urges a stop or limit on fires.

Viva Covenant and her daughters offered the following comments:

- Fires are important for children, social events, and group meetings.
- Give the proposed solutions time to work.
- Gas fires equals a ban on fires; no pleasure compared to a wood fire.

James Dalton speaking for several families made the following comments:

- The Powerpoint was dark and gloomy and had an agenda.
- Family activity away from technology is important to communicate and connect.
- Fires are part of the culture of the community.
- Let the community get involved.

Alan Siegrist offered the following comments:

- Fires are a great way to meet friends.

- At 10:00 p.m. how do you deal with your fire?
- His inn offers a “beach basket” for a beach fire for guests.
- Baskets are not attractive, perhaps rock rings.

Chairperson Boardman asked if the guests are given beach rule information.

Kevin Urquart made the following comments:

- Against a ban or moratorium.
- Need enforcement of existing rules.
- Give signage and enforcement time to work - these are essential.
- Use a focused approach to the problem.
- Perhaps use a beach rake or California Conservation Corps to assist with clean up.
- Signage is essential.

Barbara Brooks offered the following comments:

- Opposed to a moratorium; too easy without addressing the problem.
- Not an urgent problem
- Consider all solutions.

Barbara Livingston made the following comments:

- Encouraged by volunteer offers and the CRA has a monthly clean up program.
- The City promotes the white sand beach.
- The City needs to spend more on clean up and signage.
- Keep people off of the bluffs and from throwing items over the bluffs.

Chris Hardy provided some photographs and offered the following comments:

- The City promotes its white sand.
- Carbon is 5% of the visual blight, but kelp is 95% of the visual blight.
- The City should increase the money for clean up.
- Dogs are also a beach problem but are not proposed to be banned and nor should fires.

Kathy McFarland made the following comments:

- There are still fires north of 10<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- People pull rocks from the revetments to make fire rings.
- Do not ban fires.
- More enforcement of the rules.
- All beach visitors should help clean up all of the time; not just fires but all other items that do not belong on the beach.

Heidi Magurran made the following comments:

- The beach is a place to gather.
- Baskets or rocks are a joke.
- No offensive signage.
- Keep things pure and simple.



Fiona Eris, representing several hotels, offered the following comments:

- Carmel is magic and beach fires are a part of this.
- Increase education and enforcement.
- Fires are a place to connect with friends and to relax.

Maggie Eaton made the following comments:

- She is seeing a gradual degradation of the beach.
- There are numerous fires and thick smoke during the high season.
- Kelp is embedded with charcoal.
- Charcoal stains her dog's feet.
- Education and awareness can go a long way to help.
- Trash left on the beach or burned in fires is a problem too.
- Litter education with the new enforcement is important.

Noel Mapstead provided the following comments:

- The City is not enforcing rules and regulations and items in the Shoreline Management Plan.
- The Shoreline Plan mentions trash cans on the beach and using them for signs as well as more education and less signage.
- Charcoal does stain the beach but no evidence of causing any harm.
- Fires are required south of 10th Ave. to keep the slopes at Ocean Ave. clean and white.
- The beach is a place to unite families, friends, and artists.
- Enforce the rules.

Mary Arnold offered the following comments:

- Use other resources such as community service to help clean the beach.
- No ban or moratorium.

Cindy Lloyd made the following comments:

- Loves fire but there may be too many.
- Use a moratorium to let nature work for a while.
- People should volunteer but not just once a month.

Lorna Clarwood offered the following comments:

- Moments on the beach are precious.
- Signage and new enforcement seem good.
- She will help distribute beach rule cards.
- Education is a big part of the solution.

Bonnie Muller made the following comments:

- Likes seeing fires.
- Many are too large.
- Rules are fine.
- Regularly publish the rules in the Pine Cone.

Kevin Urquart offered additional comments:

- Charcoal is not a biological issue but is an aesthetic issue.
- Some hotels do pass out the beach rules.

Judy Refuerzo made the following comments:

- Trash is an issue, not just fires and not just at night.
- Her dogs eat kelp.
- Keep waste from the beach.
- Signage and enforcement are important.

Jeff Baron made the following comments:

- No moratorium.
- Trash is a problem.

Noel Mapstead provided additional comments:

- There were three fire pits at Ocean Ave but two are gone.
- Keep the one pit at the foot of Ocean Ave. for use by persons that are unable to get onto the beach.

5:29 p.m. Public comments closed.

The Commission and audience viewed a video sent by Commissioner Bang.

Commissioner Ferlito said she had proposed the idea of a moratorium to take a step back as a community to address the issues to allow fires to be maintained in a safe manner and with new technologies. She thought that the new enforcement and better signage will help, but the rules are confusing and perhaps there are too many. She pointed out that there was very little discussion of the smoke issues and in southern California testing revealed that smoke from fires was equal to smoking 800 cigarettes. Because of the testing, beach fires are required to be 700 feet from homes and 100 feet apart from each other. She thought there may be air quality issues in the future. Commissioner Ferlito also expressed her appreciation for all of the public concerns that were presented today and asked how much the City spends per year on charcoal clean up.

Forester Branson answered that the City has allocated \$10,000 for charcoal clean up.

Commissioner Ferlito pointed out that during high tides, wave action moves charcoal along the entire beach and up onto the slopes and asked Branson if he had also observed this.

Branson confirmed this observation.

Commissioner Refuerzo asked what it would take to do charcoal year-round.

Branson replied to the question.

Commissioner Ferlito thought various things should be tried such as environmentally friendly artificial logs, "fires in a can", fire rings, fire baskets and perhaps some demonstrations.

Commissioner Refuerzo commented he was glad to hear of the new enforcement but there was not enough maintenance. He thought there should be year-round efforts and more funding. Volunteers, such as the parents at River School, should be used to help too. Signage will help but it needs to specify the location and education and awareness should continue. He thought gas fires won't work.

Chairperson Boardman thanked the audience for all of the input for the discussion and mentioned several common items that were brought up: Spirit of Carmel, no moratorium, no permits or fees, better signage, more education, and effective enforcement.

Commissioner Ferlito pointed out the City Council wants a beach fire management plan by May and there should be follow up and evaluation of the various items at the next meeting.

Branson confirmed that the next meeting would be an opportunity to discuss the elements of a fire management plan.

Commissioner Ferlito pointed out that the City is inviting people to visit but is neglecting the clean up required from inviting visitors. She wants to see dollar amounts to clean the beach and allow fires on an annual basis.

Acting Secretary Betancur asked if a motion could be made to clarify the direction of the Commission.

Chairperson BOARDMAN made a motion, seconded by REFUERZO, to ask staff to come to the next meeting with alternate options for beach fires, beach cleaning, fire pits, managing existing fires, enforcement, signage, and trash.

Commissioner Ferlito offered an amendment to include alternate ways to have fires but Chairperson Boardman pointed out that the original motion already included alternative options.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

AYES:	Boardman, Ferlito, Refuerzo
NOES:	None
ABSENT:	Bang, Carter
ABSTAIN:	None

6:05 p.m. Commission took a five minute recess.

6:10 p.m. Return from recess.

(8)

2. Review of the Mission Trail Nature Preserve Master Plan scorecard.

Forester Branson presented the staff review of the MTNP goals and the Master Plan scorecard.

Commissioner Ferlito thought the scorecard was abbreviated and did not include the full descriptions of some policies as written in the Master Plan.

6:15 p.m. Public comment opened.

Greg D'Ambrosio commented that the scorecards have identified that the various Master Plans have not been fully implemented. He thought the MTNP scorecard did not include the full descriptions of the items and the scores were too generous. He offered an alternative scorecard format with the full description, performance measures, and an effectiveness column. He also thought the beach discussion should include slope and vegetation damage and use of the waste contract to help with trash issues.

Skip Lloyd asked if the public can comment on each item as they are brought up or at one time. He also thought implementation is more in need than the scorecard indicates. He thought the Master Plan is fine but a work plan is needed for each item in the plan. He also thought Item #3 was not needed and invasive plants need to be removed not just kept out. He hoped to see the Commission tour the upper part of the Preserve soon.

Cindy Lloyd said she found some duplicates in the scorecard and reminded the Commission about the "Blue Book" work plan. She also presented some photos from the S.F.B.Morse Preserve in Pebble Beach where invasive plants have been eliminated.

6:27 p.m. Public comment closed.

Commissioner Ferlito commented the scorecard was too generous and that items that say "consider" may not address the purpose of the item. She thought Greg D'Ambrosio's option was good and suggested bringing this item back in the alternate format.

Director Friedrichsen addressed the scorecard format and providing performance measures and standards.

Commissioner FERLITO made a motion, seconded by BOARDMAN, to bring the scorecard back to the Commission in a revised format.

The motion carried by the following voice vote:

**AYES:** Boardman, Ferlito, Refuerzo  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** Bang, Carter

(9)

ABSTAIN: None

**VIII. REPORTS FROM STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS**

1. Receive verbal report from the Ad Hoc Beach Committee.

Commissioner Refuerzo commented that the sand level at Del Mar is low.

Commissioner Ferlito asked who is responsible to close stairways when they become unusable.

Branson reported that the police have the responsibility to close the stairs if required for public safety.

Commissioner Ferlito asked that the police be asked to check the stairs during storm events.

2. Forester's report

The Commission decided to pass on discussing the report.

3. Public Services Director's comments.

No items to report.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson BOARDMAN adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Approved,

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Boardman, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Branson, City Forester

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Forest and Beach Commission

FROM: Mike Branson, City Forester

DATE: 28 March 2014

SUBJECT: Tree Removal (Private)  
Block: 104 Lot: 9 A.P.N #: 010-054-009  
E/ Crespi Ave., 8 south of Mt. View Ave.  
Applicant/Owner: Frederick and Kristin Wolf

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**Site Condition:**

This site is a 9,600 sq.ft. lot with a single-family home and detached guest unit. The lot slopes slightly downward to the rear of the property and adjoins Mission Trail Nature Preserve. The tree in question is located in the southwest corner of the lot and the base of the trunk is partially on the street right-of-way.

**Size and species of trees(s) requested for removal/pruning:**

Remove one Monterey pine – 34" dbh.

**Health and condition of tree requested for removal:**

The Monterey pine is a large mature tree and appears to be in good health and condition. There is an accumulation of several medium size (4" - 6") dead limbs in the canopy and a few locations where limbs have broken from the tree can be seen. No significant insect, disease or structural problems were observed.

**Previous requests and decisions:**

None.

**Reason for request - Description of Project:**

The applicants are concerned with the safety risk the tree poses to their personal safety, their property, and neighboring properties.

**The importance of the tree(s) to the urban forest in the area:**

The tree contributes to the upper canopy of the urban forest this neighborhood.

(11)

**Size and species of tree(s) that are to be preserved:**

Coast live oak - 8" dbh (front yard)  
Monterey pine – 16" and 22" dbh (front yard)  
Other trees in canyon at back of lot

**Impacts construction may have on trees that are to be preserved and suggested mitigation:**

N/A

**Options:**

1. Approve the application.
2. Do not approve the application.
3. Postpone consideration.

**Staff Recommendations:**

Option #2. Do not approve the application. The tree appears to be in good condition and health. The accumulation of dead material in the canopy indicates a period of low maintenance. Much of the risk of falling dead material can be reduced by having the tree professionally pruned.

The applicants have had several pieces of limbs fall onto the parking area adjacent to the tree resulting in three broken windshields and damage to their fence. The neighboring property to the south has also been struck by a falling limb. A few days ago a dead limb fell from the tree and nearly struck the applicants daughter. The piece that fell is still laying on the ground next to the parking area.

I recommend that the tree be pruned to remove the dead limbs from the tree and to reduce the weight on some of the larger limbs. The tree should be monitored for any changes in its vigor and condition.

CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA  
P.O. Box "SS" 1-4 pm  
Carmel, CA 93921  
Ph: (831) 620-2070/FAX: 831-624-2132

Date Received 3-27-14  
Application Fee: \$ 25.  
Receipt # 55842

**APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO REMOVE OR PRUNE TREES  
NO CONSTRUCTION**

Location of property: Crespi # 8 S.E. - Mt. View  
Block: 104 Lot: 9 APN 010054009

Name of Property Owner: Frederick Kinsh Wolf Name of Applicant/Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address P.O. Box 6474 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carmel, CA 93921

Phone #: 831.626.0763 (house phone) Phone #: 831.915.6995 (Kinshn/cell)

WHO WILL BE REMOVING/PRUNING THE TREE(S): TBD

City Business License #: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE NOTE IF TREE(S) ARE ON CITY OR PRIVATE PROPERTY)

Number, size and species of tree(s) to be removed: 1 Monterey Pine, approx 70-80ft tall  
located at SW corner of property. Tree straddles city  
and private property.

Number, size and species of limbs/roots to be removed: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for removal or pruning: Tree has caused significant property damage -  
hole in neighbor's roof, fence replacement 2x in 13 years, 3 broken  
windshields in past 18 mos.

Two days ago, limb fell and almost struck 11-yr. old child.  
You will be notified in writing the date and time that your request is scheduled for a hearing. If you or your representative is unable to attend the hearing, your application will be tabled. You may reschedule by contacting the Secretary to the Forest and Beach Commission at (831) 620-2070. You may waive your right to speak at the hearing and authorize the Forest and Beach Commission to act on your request in your absence by signing on the following line:

[Signature] Date: 3/27/14

**A SITE PLAN MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION AND SHOW THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Location, size and species of ALL trees on the lot.
2. Location and species of tree(s)/limb(s) to be removed or pruned
3. Footprint of the structure.
4. Location of areas for tree replanting - The City has adopted Design Review Guidelines which include a minimum tree density per lot. Please review the attached Policy and indicate on the site plan where you intend to plant trees necessary to comply with this guideline.

- Any decision of the Forest and Beach Commission is based on information submitted with this application - PLEASE BE ACCURATE.
- NO WORK IS PERMITTED until you have picked up your permit for tree work - The Permit must be posted on the job site when work is being performed.

Owner's Signature [Signature] Date: 3/27/14 RECEIVED  
Agent for Owners: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

INCOMPLETE APPLICATION WILL BE RETURNED

MAR 27 2014

City of Carmel-by-the-Sea  
Planning & Building Dept.

(13)



Crespi & S.E. - Mt. View

Monterey  
Pine Tree

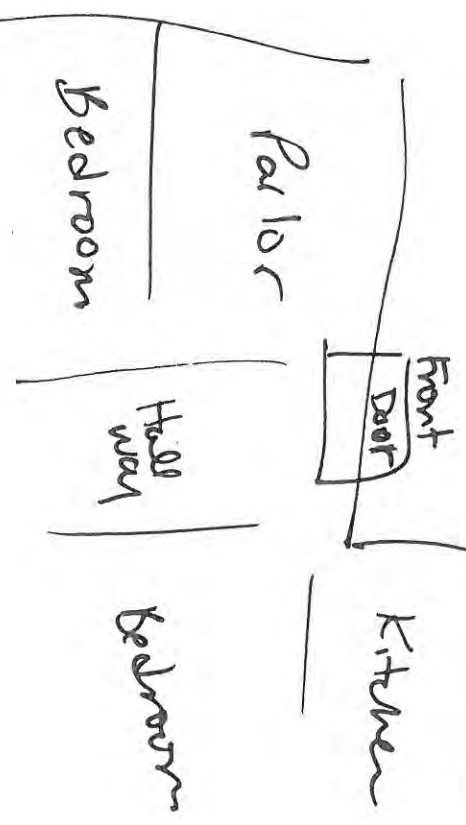


Neighbor's  
Home  
(bedrooms)



(14)

Patio



RECEIVED

MAR 27 2014

City of Concord - The-Sea  
Planning & Zoning Dept.

WOLF 010-054-009

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Lisa Boardman, Vice Chairperson  
Members of the Forest and Beach Commission

FROM: Mike Branson, City Forester

DATE: 31 March 2014

SUBJECT: Review Options for the management of beach fires and provide direction on recommendations for a fire management plan

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As part of the 6 March 2014 regular meeting of the Forest and Beach Commission the issue of fires on Carmel Beach was reviewed and many comments were received from members of the public.

The three main items that came from the meeting to help manage fires on Carmel Beach are:

1) Effective enforcement of beach rules

The Police Dept. has initiated a weekend security patrol to advise beach visitors on the beach rules and promote compliance with the rules. Currently only being done on weekends but could be expanded during the peak visitor season.

2) Better signage

New signs have been developed for the areas where fires are allowed although they still require Planning Commission approval. Additional signs that would identify the specific stairway location are also proposed. Temporary signs can also be used on the beach.

3) Increased cleanup efforts.

Current charcoal cleanup is budgeted for \$10, 000 and only once a week from June to October. Additional funding could expand this program to a year-round effort and more frequent cleanings. With the current configuration there will be an impact on other duties performed by staff in order to perform the additional charcoal cleanup. A beach rake is also an option for charcoal cleanup but the cost effectiveness needs to be evaluated. Additional trash pickup on the beach can also be a part of this item.

Other ideas that came from the meeting that can also be components of a fire management plan include: 1) city installed fire rings, 2) use of fire baskets, 3) permits, 4) more volunteer assistance for cleanup and education, 5) use of gas burning fireplaces, 6) alternative fuel (logs), and 7) a moratorium or ban.

The Commission needs to discuss the various options and provide a recommendation of what items will be the most effective and should be in a fire management plan for Carmel Beach

March 20, 2014

Lisa Boardman  
Kathy Bang  
Michael Carter  
Karen Ferlito  
David Refuerzo  
C/c: Mike Branson

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to you to comment on the "hot" issue of beach fires. After listening to an hour's worth of speakers at your March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, I realized that I needed to present another point of view.

My first comment is that Mike Branson's presentation photos were not only accurate, but somewhat understated. One only needs to walk the beach on a Sunday morning to realize that his photos could easily have captured much more damage and debris without the slightest effort to support "an agenda" for which he was accused.

The issue is not whether or not beach fires are fun and a great way to gather family and friends together. The issue is the continuous degradation of one of Carmel's premier assets. We all like beach fires, marshmallows with chocolate, picnics, sunsets and sharing warm and fuzzy experiences with loved ones on the beach; but the consequences of so many fires are real. This is a gradual, unperceived loss of our once pristine sand that cannot be restored. Since there are many hours to enjoy the beach during the day, is it really such a huge sacrifice to not build a fire?

I would like to believe that the sensible approach is to try various scenarios of education and enforcement; but I wonder how naïve we are to believe that just a few more signs and a polite reminder from the animal control officer will shape up the public. Even if all of the rules are diligently followed, where is the technology to actually clean the charcoal out of the sand? Should you decide to proceed with increased education and enforcement, how is it still justified to limit fires to south of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue? By the restriction, aren't you intentionally creating a "ghetto beach" south of 10<sup>th</sup>?

I do not envy the challenge of making a responsible decision. I do hope that you are able to sift through all input and find a way to preserve what's left of our beach...fifty shades of gray will not be a best seller in this case.

Sincerely yours,



Shirley A. Moon  
San Antonio and 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
625-3277

(16)

## Mike Branson

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**From:** Margaret via Dropbox [no-reply@dropbox.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014 3:53 PM  
**To:** Mike Branson  
**Subject:** Margaret Eaton shared "Beach Memorial Day 2013 photos" with you



From Margaret:

"Dear Staff and Commissioners of the Forest and Beach Commission: Please see the link below of a series of photos that I took on Memorial Day 2013. Please add them and this email to the record being created on the matter of beach fires. The photos on the beach were taken only between the Santa Lucia steps and the steps just to the north on 13th. The photos on Scenic were taken from Santa Lucia and several trash can sites north. These photos show fires too close to the bluff, fires buried in sand, burned trash in fires, I was not concentrating on fires that day so only a few show the fire messes. You can also see dangerous trash (cut coat hangers used for cooking, leftover food, raw meat in paper, etc). The photos on Scenic also show men using the bluff to transport wood, a tin roof, and a large pig to the beach for an in-ground pig roast. Also, overflowing trash barrels (one with a poopy diaper on top of the post) and barrels so covered with soot that you cannot distinguish trash from recycle barrels. And you can also see that this was a weekend where the beach rules were posted--to no avail given how many of the rules were ignored and how much trash was left on even this short stretch of the beach. The numbers of fires on the beach that weekend were too numerous to count unless you actually walked the length of the beach. The smoke that weekend coming from fires was very thick.

Thank you for considering this as part of the record.

Maggie Eaton  
Sustainable Carmel"

[Click here to view Beach Memorial Day 2013 photos](#)

(Margaret shared these files using Dropbox. Enjoy!)



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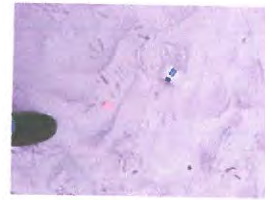
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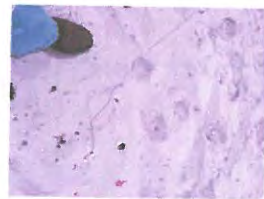
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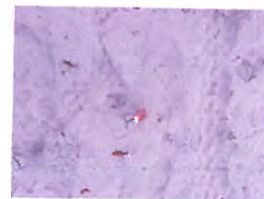
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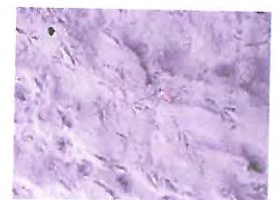
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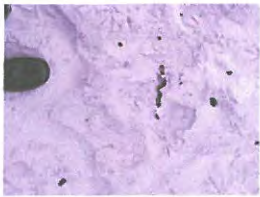


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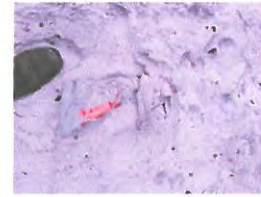
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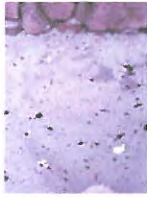
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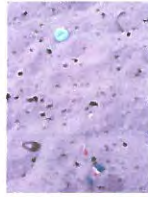
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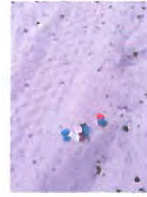
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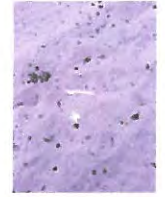
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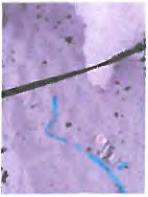
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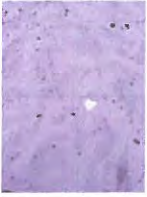
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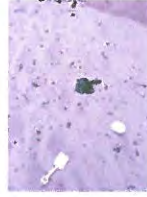
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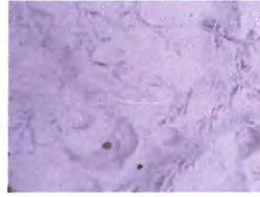
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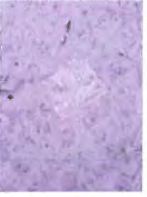
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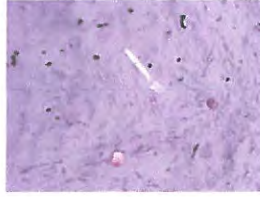
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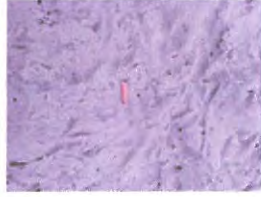
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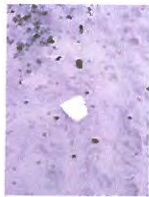
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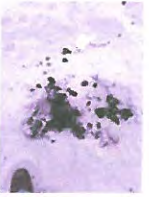
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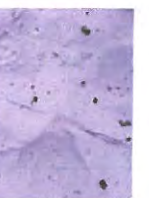
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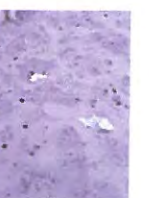
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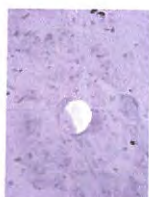
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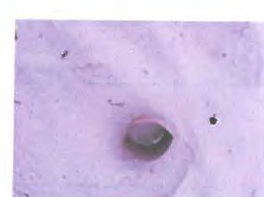
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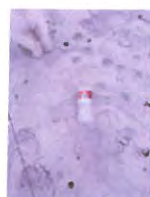
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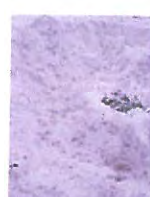
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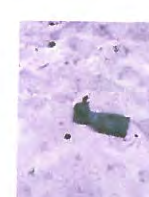
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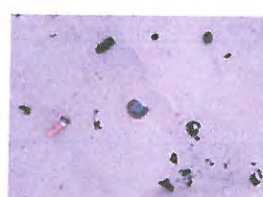
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photo-4.jpg



photo-5.jpg



photo.jpg

## Mike Branson

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**From:** Margaret via Dropbox [no-reply@dropbox.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2014 1:26 PM  
**To:** Mike Branson  
**Subject:** Margaret Eaton shared "Beach Fire and Trash photos 3-9-14" with you



From Margaret:

"Dear Forest and Beach Commissioners and Staff: Please add this email and photos to the record regarding beach fires. On the evening of 3/8/14, I walked from the south end of the Carmel Beach to the 10th St steps handing out the beach rules and trash bags. I thanked people for using their bags to take away all of their trash. I believe I visited every fire site (45 all told) and specifically mentioned that fires should be doused with water (not sand) and no trash should be burned. Early in the walk, I encountered two men going up and down the slope and throwing wood down next to the bluff. I asked them to use the stairs and move the fire site 25 feet from the bluff. When I got to the 10th St. steps, I met Security Officer Mike who was starting to do the same thing as I--hand out the beach rules and educate people about them. He had already located 3 fires north of 10th. We had a friendly chat about what I had been doing, exchanged beach rules, and I then left. The next morning, I walked again from the south end of the beach to the 10th St steps and took the attached photos. They show that, despite the fact that people at every fire site were approached twice that night and educated about the beach rules, a significant number of people ignored them. They show fires too close to the bluff and even on the rocks, fires buried in sand and kelp (some still smoldering), burned trash, lots of trash (some of it dangerous like the sharp skewers and foil wrapped food), gulls that had been pecking open a bag of marshmallows, some personal wipes left at a small cove that looked like it had been used as a latrine, and graffiti. I did not photograph every fire site but some photos show that, even when properly doused, the sites are a mess of charcoal and partially burnt wood. Some photos are duplicates to show detail and I did not photograph every cigarette butt--only if it was lying next to a piece of trash. The photos of the people in bare feet and their shoes left on the rocks is a reminder of how many people assume that walking

barefoot on the beach is a safe thing to do.

This is the 3rd set of beach trash photographs that I have submitted for the record about the part of the Shoreline Management Plan concerning beach trash and fires. My submission from April 2012 shows that, even on a slow weekend, too much trash is left. My submission from Memorial Day 2013 shows that signs placed at the bottom of the steps do not sufficiently encourage people to observe the beach and litter rules. This submission today shows the same result even after beach users were approached twice to educate them about how to manage their fires and remove trash.

From these experiences and from the information that I submitted about beach fire smoke, I conclude that more is needed to keep the beach free of trash and to prevent the harmful effects of the beach fires.

Thank you,

Maggie Eaton

Sustainable Carmel"

[Click here to view Beach Fire and Trash photos 3-9-14](#)

(Margaret shared these files using Dropbox. Enjoy!)



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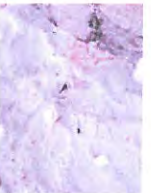
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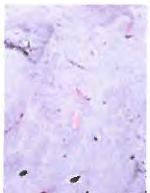
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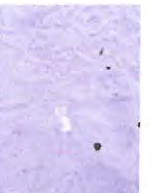
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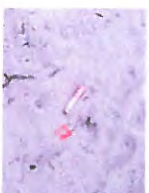
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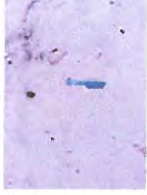
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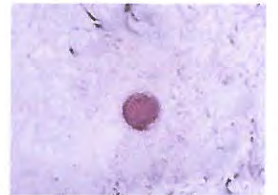
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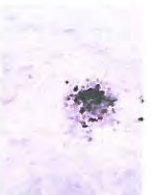
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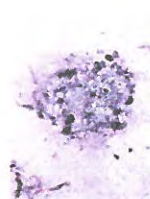
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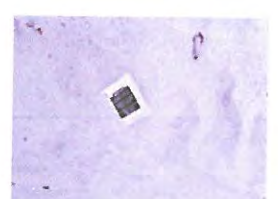
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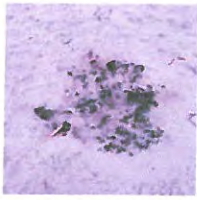
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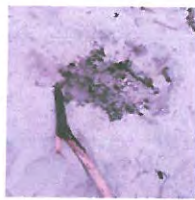
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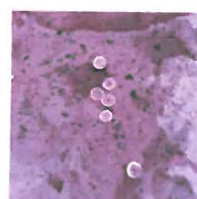
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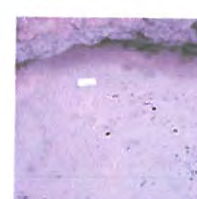
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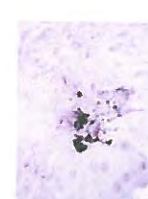
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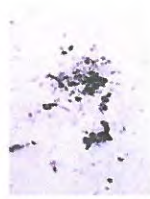
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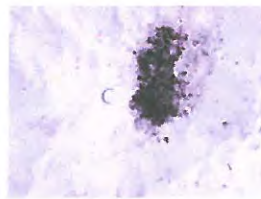
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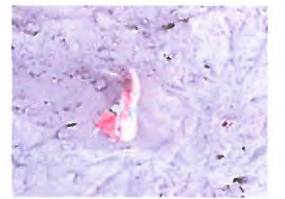
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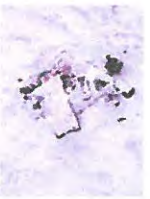
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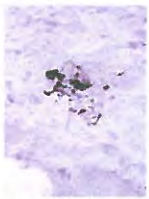
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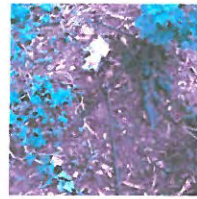
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## Mike Branson

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**From:** Margaret via Dropbox [no-reply@dropbox.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 17, 2014 4:58 PM  
**To:** Mike Branson  
**Subject:** Margaret Eaton shared "Smoke from Beach Fires.docx" with you



From Margaret:

"Dear Commissioners and Staff of the Forest and Beach Commission: Please accept the attached document for the record in the matter of fires on Carmel Beach.

Thank you,  
Maggie Eaton  
Sustainable Carmel"

[Click here to view](#)

(Margaret shared these files using Dropbox. Enjoy!)

## Smoke from Beach Fires

To: Carmel Forest and Beach Commission

From: Maggie Eaton, Sustainable Carmel

Re: Smoke From Beach Fires

Date: March 16, 2104

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At the most recent meeting of the Forest and Beach Commission, Commissioner Ferlito reported that the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) had cited studies indicating that, sitting next to a wood burning fire for an evening was equivalent to being exposed to the secondhand smoke of 800 cigarettes<sup>1</sup>. She went on to say that she was therefore surprised that none of the public comments dealt specifically or solely with the effects of the smoke from the ever-increasing numbers of fires on Carmel Beach. Since the hazard of smoke inhalation was the reason that I stopped having my own wood fires on the beach, I would like to offer my comments on this subject.

I have been walking on the beach for over a year and a half on evenings when people have been building fires. Representing Sustainable Carmel, I have been handing out the beach rules and offering trash bags to those who have forgotten them. This effort was intended to reduce the growing amounts of trash and litter left on the beach. On the evenings that I have made these walks, I return from the beach smelling of smoke so that I need to shower and put my clothes in the washer. The smoke is also irritating to my throat, nose, and eyes. On the evenings when there are many fires, I have decided not to go down to the beach because of these problems. Instead, I put the beach rules under the windshield wipers of the parked cars. Even then, the exposure to the smoke (as evidenced by what I smell and what my clothes smell like) is significant. Years ago, because I know what wood smoke can do to the lungs, I stopped having my own fires on the beach. I know that it is harmful (see below). Consequentially, I face a dilemma on those evenings when I want to pass out the beach rules and trash bags. In order to do this, I have to expose myself to this smoke. Also, on the worst nights (even with as few as 20 fires but certainly when there are 40-90 fires on the beach), I have to close my doors and windows to avoid having smoke in my house, which is 2 blocks from the beach. Still, with these precautions, I can smell smoke in the house and I am exposed to the smoke when I walk my dogs at night.

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<sup>1</sup> Another metric quoted in the South Coast AQMD reports is that "One firepit in one evening is estimated to emit as much PM 2.5 as one heavy duty truck driving 564 miles." PM 2.5 refers to fine particulate matter of 2.5 micrometers in diameter, or about one-30th the width of a human hair. See: <http://www.aqmd.gov/hb/attachments/2011-2015/2013Jul/2013-Jul5-030.pdf>

Using Google maps satellite view, I counted about 150 homes within 2 blocks of the beach from south of 10<sup>th</sup> Street to the southern end of Carmel Beach.<sup>2</sup> These are the homes that are directly east of the beach and usually downwind from the beach fires. Of course, when the wind blows at an angle to the beach, more and different homes will be downwind. The smoke exposure to the people living in and recreating outside of these homes is different from the smoke exposure to those who sit by their beach fires. While the homeowners are probably exposed to a lower concentration of inhaled chemicals and fine particulate matter, their exposure is from multiple fires on 1-3 evenings a week for at least the summer months and holiday weekends. It is thus more constant. My neighbors and I resent the fact that we have to breath this smoke when we want to enjoy the nice weather by being on our patios or by having our windows open—these are the evenings when the weather is fine which means that these are also the evenings when the most people are on the beach with fires burning. As I have, others of my neighbors have stopped going to the beach for supper picnics because of too many people and too much smoke. One neighbor commented, however, that probably the safest place to be on beach fire nights is between the fires and the ocean (meaning upwind from the smoke) but then you have to contend with the surf.

I would also like to address the comment that we homeowners do not have a legitimate complaint since we bought homes close to a beach where fires are allowed and therefore knew about, and assumed the risks and unpleasantness of, smoke exposure from the beach. First, when we bought our home here, there were significantly fewer fires on the beach. The problem has grown since then to proportions that we could not have predicted. Second, for the new homeowners in this area, I doubt that the potential buyers are inspecting the house on busy beach nights and I doubt that the sellers are disclosing the smoke exposure problem in their negotiations with the buyers. Third, Carmel has a well-known marketed asset of a “picturesque white-sand beach” ([www.carmelcalifornia.com](http://www.carmelcalifornia.com)) and “a mile long pure white sandy beach” ([www.ci.carmel.ca.us/carmel/](http://www.ci.carmel.ca.us/carmel/)), neither claim alerting potential homeowners about what happens when dozens of fires are burning on the beach. So, in fact, there is no basis to assume that people buying homes in the “smoke zone” have purchased their homes knowing about the current smoke exposure problem.

Also, some people are citing as precedent the failed attempts by the City of Newport Beach and then the South Coast Air Quality Management District to ban the beach fire rings in the Southern California region that includes Orange and Los Angeles Counties. The South Coast AMQD report cited the medical literature, EPA research, and national air quality standards as evidence of the public health risks that occur as a result of smoke pollution.<sup>3</sup> However, significant opposition to the ban was based on support for the tradition of social gatherings around a beach fire and the income that would be lost without the fires. While the divide in Carmel between those who oppose the pollution and

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<sup>2</sup> Two blocks means counting the homes on Scenic and directly east to the western facing homes on the second street back (where my house is). This corresponds to the west facing houses on Carmelo and, once Santa Lucia is crossed, those west facing homes on San Antonio S. I believe that the houses further from the beach are also exposed to beach fire smoke but, since I don't live there, I will not assume so.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.aqmd.gov/hb/attachments/2011-2015/2013Jul/2013-Jul5-030.pdf>

hazards of beach fires and those who want to preserve the social tradition is similar to that in Newport Beach, there are distinctive differences here. The South Coast beaches automatically limit the number of fires to the number of beach fire rings. Here, there is no such limit, hence the ever increasing number of fires and smoke. See Table 1 from the South Coast AQMD report which shows how many beach fire pits exist on the beaches included in its beach fire rule change. Even though most of the SoCal beaches are longer and wider than Carmel's, eight of those 12 beaches have fewer fires allowed (based on the number of fire pits) than are burned on Carmel Beach on a busy weekend evening.<sup>4</sup> That the density of Carmel Beach fires is higher is also evidenced by the fact that the AQMD ultimately decided that the fire pits could stay if (among other restrictions<sup>5</sup>) they were 50-100 feet apart—which meant that most of them could stay. On busy Carmel Beach nights, fires are significantly closer together than that. Third, the beaches in Southern California often derive revenue<sup>6</sup> from beach use (from parking or camping fees, concessions selling wood, etc), a countervailing benefit that Carmel does not have. Combined, this information shows that we here have more risk and less benefit from beach fires--the unlimited number of beach fires allowed on Carmel Beach often results in higher concentrations of fires (and thus smoke) than do the fires on the Southern California beaches that the AQMD has determined to be unacceptably polluting.

### Health Effects of Exposure to Wood Smoke

Wood smoke is known to contain such compounds as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, aldehydes, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and fine “inhale-able”

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<sup>4</sup> Residents, including myself, have routinely counted 50 fires on the Carmel Beach and upwards of 100 fires on the very busiest nights.

<sup>5</sup> The new AQMD restrictions on the use of beach fire pits prohibits fire rings within 700 feet of a residence. If the rings *are* within 700 feet of a residence, they need to be spaced at least 100 feet apart or at least 50 feet apart if there are no more than 15 fire rings per contiguous beach area within the city's boundaries. The new rules also require education to inform the public of (1) the health hazards associated with wood smoke exposure, (2) the prohibition against burning inappropriate materials such as treated wood or trash, and (3) the recommendation to exercise only in areas where no fires are burning. Further, the AQMD will solicit proposals for the demonstration of low- emission outdoor public beach-type fire rings and/or low-emission retrofit equipment and devices for existing outdoor public beach-type fire rings fueled by sources other than wood such as propane and/or natural gas. See: <http://www.aqmd.gov/hb/attachments/2011-2015/2013Jul/2013-Jul5-030.pdf>. The Friends of the Fire Rings filed a motion for a preliminary injunction to stop the implementation of these beach fire rule changes but that motion was denied on 1/31/14 by an Orange County Superior Court judge who stated that “the AQMD has presented enough evidence to show that wood burning can be harmful to the health and that it had a rational basis ...” to adopt its rules and that the Friends “failed to establish by competent evidence either irreparable harm or a probability that it will prevail on the merits”. This litigation is expected to continue. See <http://www.aqmd.gov/news1/2014/FireRingInjunctionRuling.htm>

<sup>6</sup> According to its Chamber of Commerce, Huntington Beach would lose \$1 million a year in beach parking fees and the purchase of bonfire supplies if the fire pits were removed from its beaches. <http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?id=9083004>

particulate matter.<sup>7</sup> Some wood smoke also contains benzo[a]pyrene and formaldehyde, which are possible human carcinogens. Medical research has been documenting the harmful effects of inhaling these chemicals and fine particulate matter from smoke for decades.<sup>8</sup> The findings of these studies have been cited by healthcare practitioners and governments to conclude that exposure to smoke from burning wood is hazardous especially to children, people with cardiac and lung disease, and the elderly. The effects linked to inhaling wood smoke range from an increased incidence or exacerbation of asthma, pneumonia and other pulmonary infections, obstructive lung disease, irregular heart rhythm and cardiac tissue inflammation in the elderly, poor exercise performance, sleep apnea, and ear infections in children. These are in addition to the usually reversible effects of eye, nose, and throat irritations; cough; and wheezing.

As an example of how governments have adopted these health conclusions, the information below is from AirNow.gov, a website developed by a consortium of the U.S. EPA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Park Service, tribal, state, and local agencies. Together, these organizations developed the site to provide the public with easy access to national air quality information. This is a quote from that site:

*Smoke is made up of a complex mixture of gases and fine particles produced when wood and other organic matter burn. The biggest health threat from smoke comes from fine particles. These microscopic particles can get into your eyes and respiratory system, where they can cause health problems such as burning eyes, runny nose, and illnesses such as bronchitis. Fine particles also can aggravate chronic heart and lung diseases - and even are linked to premature deaths in people with these conditions.*

***Some people are more susceptible than others:***

*If you have heart or lung disease, such as congestive heart failure, angina, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema or asthma, you may experience health effects earlier and at lower smoke levels than healthy people.*

*Older adults are more likely to be affected by smoke, possibly because they are more likely to have heart or lung diseases than younger people.*

*Children also are more susceptible to smoke for several reasons: their respiratory systems are still developing; they breathe more air (and air pollution) per pound of body weight than adults; and they're more likely to be active outdoors.*

An expanded and more detailed version of the public health hazards from inhaling wood smoke is contained in the South Coast AQMD Reports of 2012 and 2013. The AQMD was prompted to conduct air quality measurements taken downwind from beach fires

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<sup>7</sup> See footnote 1.

<sup>8</sup> For instance, see Pierson WE et al. Potential adverse health effects of wood smoke. *Western Journal of Medicine*. 151:339-342, September 1989. Available from: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1026893/pdf/westjmed00121-0093.pdf>

(which exceeded acceptable standards) and to research the health hazards because of citizen complaints about the smoke. The medical part of the report (which starts on page 3) was generated to supply background information to inform regulators of the implications of continuing to allow beach fires in the district.<sup>9</sup>

### Conclusion

Beach fires are not allowed or they are restricted on most beaches in California because of the smoke pollution and the resultant public health risks.<sup>10</sup> The numbers and density of beach fires allowed on beaches have been regulated for years primarily by confining them to a set number of fire rings. Carmel Beach is clearly out of step with the rest of the federal, California, and local governments by allowing an unlimited number of beach fires and not even justifying this practice by measuring the smoke pollution that comes from them. I am urging the City to acknowledge the problem, measure the impact of the current beach fire situation, and adopt the findings of other credible environmental and medical sources about the impact of exposure to wood smoke so that the City can eliminate or substantially reduce the harm and the nuisance caused by these fires.

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<sup>9</sup> See <http://www.aqmd.gov/hb/attachments/2011-2015/2013Jul/2013-Jul5-030.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> See, generally <http://www.beachcalifornia.com/beach-bonfires-california.html> (which describes the Carmel Beach fire rules as “fairly generous by California beach standards”. And as examples, see the restrictions for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (in fire rings only) [http://www.nps.gov/goga/parkmgmt/fire\\_beachfireregs.htm#CP\\_JUMP\\_219242](http://www.nps.gov/goga/parkmgmt/fire_beachfireregs.htm#CP_JUMP_219242), San Diego (in fire rings only) <http://www.sandiego.gov/lifeguards/safety/bchreg.shtml>, Oceanside (in fire rings only) <http://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/gov/pw/harbor/info/>, Del Mar which imposes a \$1,00 fine for burning anything on the beach <http://www.delmar.ca.us/faqs/Pages/BeachesParks.aspx>, Newport Beach which allows only charcoal fires <https://www.newportbeachca.gov/index.aspx?page=2126>, Santa Monica which prohibits fires, BBQ's, and portable stoves <http://www.smgov.net/Portals/Beach/content.aspx?id=25620>, Avila Beach prohibits fires on the beach but allows them in firepits on Olde Port Beach, <http://www.visitavilabeach.com/Avila-Beach-FAQs.htm>, Asilomar allows only small fires contained in a hibachi or portable chimnea [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=566](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=566)

Table 1

**Estimated Beach Fire Pit Locations in Los Angeles and Orange Counties**

Source: <http://www.aqmd.gov/hb/attachments/2011-2015/2013May/2013-May3-029.pdf>

*Note: Of 108 California state parks, only 29 allow fires for beach vacationers and visitors as per <http://www.beachcalifornia.com/beach-bonfires-california.html> Los Angeles County has 42 beaches and Orange County has 48 beaches, most with regulated or banned beach fire rules as per <http://www.beachcalifornia.com/sitelist.html#Californiacoast> The ones in the South Coast AQMD table below allow fire pits. Google Maps satellite views show that many of these beaches are unlike Carmel's—they are longer, wider, and not near homes. For instance, Dockweiler State Beach is a very wide beach almost 4 miles long (comprising 91 acres) along which are 90 fire pits. Next to the beach is a busy roadway on the other side of which is a large industrial area. This beach is also very noisy since it is just under the flight path to and from LAX, which is a 15 minute drive away. The beach in Huntington Beach (divided into 3 jurisdictions) is 8.5 miles long with the fire pits scattered along that length. Next to the beach are large parking lots and the Pacific Coast Highway. Satellite views show how widely dispersed the fire rings are. All told, the Orange County beaches are fairly contiguous and are 40 miles long as per <http://www.beachcalifornia.com/beach/orange-county-beaches-map.html>*

*These notes are meant to show that there are often higher concentrations of fires on Carmel Beach than on those beaches that, according to the South Coast AQMD, are causing unacceptable air pollution.*

Beach Name	City	No. of Beach Fire Pits
<b>LOS ANGELES COUNTY</b>		
Dockweiler State Beach	Playa del Rey	73
Cabrillo Beach	San Pedro	6
		Total = 79
<b>ORANGE COUNTY</b>		
Bolsa Chica State Beach	Huntington Beach	178
Huntington City Beach	Huntington Beach	112
Huntington State Beach	Huntington Beach	240
Balboa Beach	Balboa/Newport Beach	33
Corona Del Mar State Beach	Newport Beach	27
Aliso Beach County Park	South Laguna	7
Doheny State Beach	Dana Point	163
Capistrano Beach Park	Capistrano	4
North Beach	San Clemente	5
San Clemente City Beach	San Clemente	9
		Total = 778

## Mike Branson

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**From:** NParton01@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, March 07, 2014 6:53 PM  
**To:** Mike Branson  
**Subject:** beach fires

As an home owner in Carmel on Lopez,I support Beach Fires.

Mrs. Nancy Parton

(37)



## Mike Branson

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**From:** Daniel Rhodes [danrhodes@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 06, 2014 4:13 PM  
**To:** Mike Branson  
**Subject:** Fires on Carmel Beach

Dear Mr. Branson,

It has come to my attention that there is some public discussion about eliminating the fires on Carmel Beach.

We feel that we are blessed with the opportunity to have these fires, in that they extend the use of this amazing resource into the evening (and allow the use of the beach in weather that might not otherwise be hospitable.)

We are among a large number of people who regularly take advantage of the opportunity to have these beach bonfires, and to enjoy the views, the sunsets, the and the camaraderie at one of the most beautiful beaches in the world.

Our experience is that the beach fires are carefully tended, and further, could pose no fire risk to any buildings. (The front line houses across the street are protected by distance, elevation, and in most cases by a bank of iceplant, which is mostly water.)

I'm not sure what could have caused a concern about these bonfires, but to disallow them would be a sad mistake, both limiting the public access to this spectacular resource, and diminishing another part of what is so special about the city of Carmel.

Regards,  
Daniel Rhodes  
(831) 625-4114

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lisa Boardman, Chairperson  
Members of the Forest and Beach Commission

FROM: Mike Branson, City Forester

DATE: 31 March 2014

SUBJECT: Update on the ASBS Dry Weather Urban Runoff Diversion Project.

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The dry weather urban runoff diversion project along Scenic Rd. is nearing completion but a few additional areas have been added to the program to increase its effectiveness and contribute further to keep Carmel beach clean.

Three new percolation areas are proposed, two trenches and one manhole, along with a new centripetal collection unit. Staff has reviewed the areas and worked to minimize impacts to any trees in the area. A site map and plans will be available at the meeting.

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Lisa Boardman, Chairperson  
Members of the Forest and Beach Commission

**FROM:** Sharon Friedrichsen, Public Services Director  
Mike Branson, City Forester

**DATE:** 31 March 2014

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of co-sponsoring an Arbor Day event in July with the Friends of Carmel Forest.

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Commissioner Ferlito was approach by the Friends of Carmel Forest with an idea for an Arbor Day event in July. Commissioner Ferlito's outline of the concept is in the attached email.

The City of Carmel does not have an official day to recognize Arbor Day but an event is a requirement to maintain our City being recognized as a Tree City U.S.A.

The Friends of Carmel Forest is a recognized city support group and co-sponsorship of an event requires approval of the City Council.

## Mike Branson

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**From:** Karen Ferlito [ferlito@pacbell.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 07, 2014 12:33 PM  
**To:** L. Kohrs Lisa; Mike Branson; Sharon Friedrichsen  
**Subject:** Possible Arbor Day event

Steve brooks approached me with an idea for an Arbor Day event that the F & B Commission could co-sponsor along with FOCF.

FOCF has brought dr. Matt Ritter to Carmel for informational tree walks in the past. These walks were highly successful and always fully attended. Steve's idea is to have a two day event perhaps in July. Dr. Ritter is a professor at cal poly and is available only when he is not teaching.

There would be an afternoon lecture and slides how on the first day. The second day there would be two tree walks.

Since there is really nothing magical about a specific date for an Arbor Day event this could serve as one for F & B. I spoke briefly with Lisa about getting this on the April agenda so we have time to seek cc sponsorship.

Please contact me or Steve or both for additional info.

Karen Ferlito  
Sent from my iPad.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lisa Boardman, Vice Chairperson  
Members of the Forest and Beach Commission

FROM: Mike Branson, City Forester

DATE: 31 March 2014

SUBJECT: Consideration of changing the meeting time of the Forest and Beach Commission

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In order to accommodate Commissioners schedules and attendance to the Forest and Beach Commission meetings, commissioners are being asked to assess whether an alternative meeting time and date would be suitable.

Please consult your personal calendars and schedules to see if a different start time or date is feasible. This item will be discussed during the meeting.

## Sharon Friedrichsen

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**From:** kathleen bang [kathybang@me.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 30, 2014 8:23 AM  
**To:** Sharon Friedrichsen  
**Subject:** Share with F and B commission

Hi Sharon. Here are photos from a fire on the beach this AM. Unattended, bottom of steps at 11th. Note beer bottle, and other assorted large trash. Police were called and are there trying to put it out.

Was there an officer on duty last night?

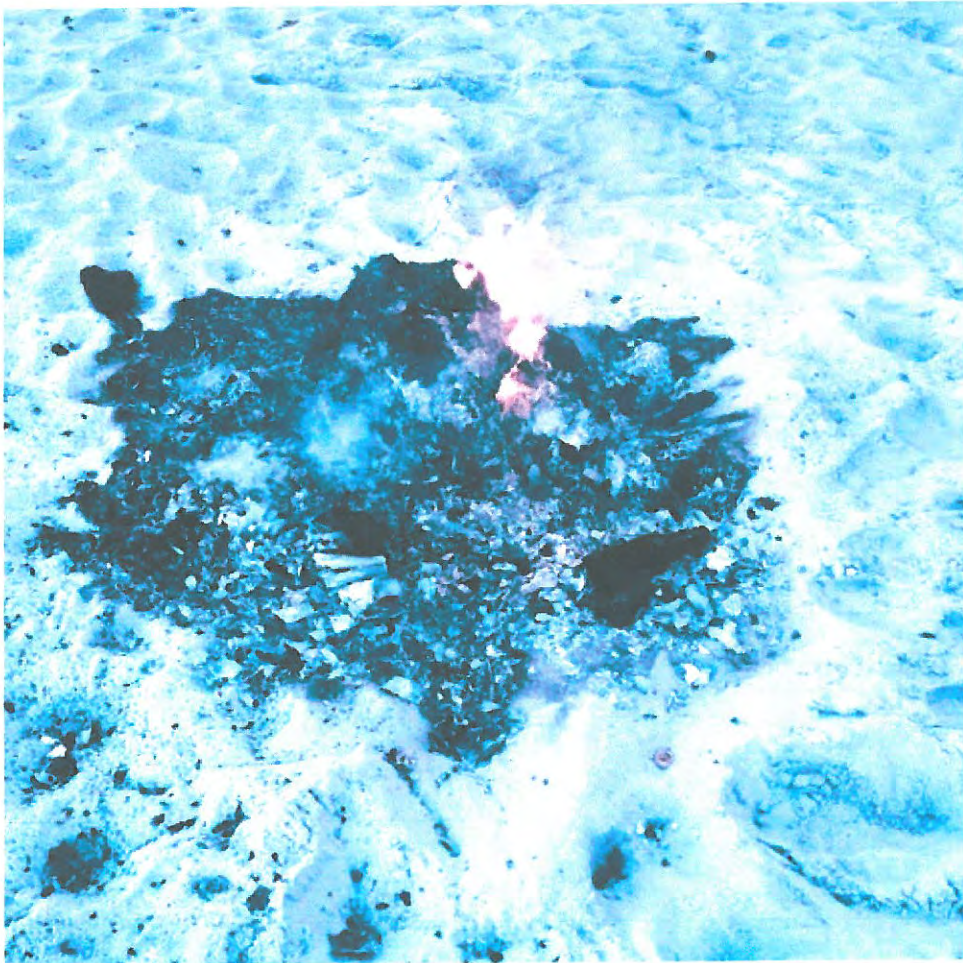
Please share with the Forest and Beach Commissioners.

Thanks.

Kathy

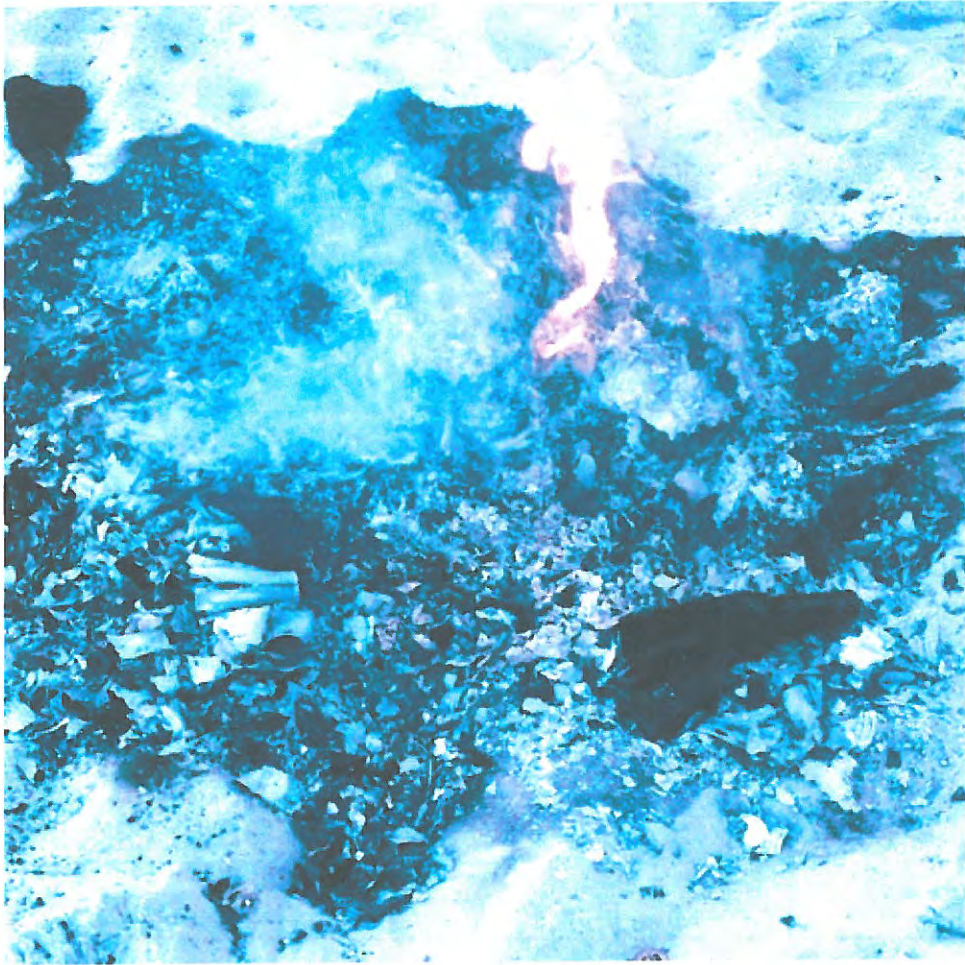


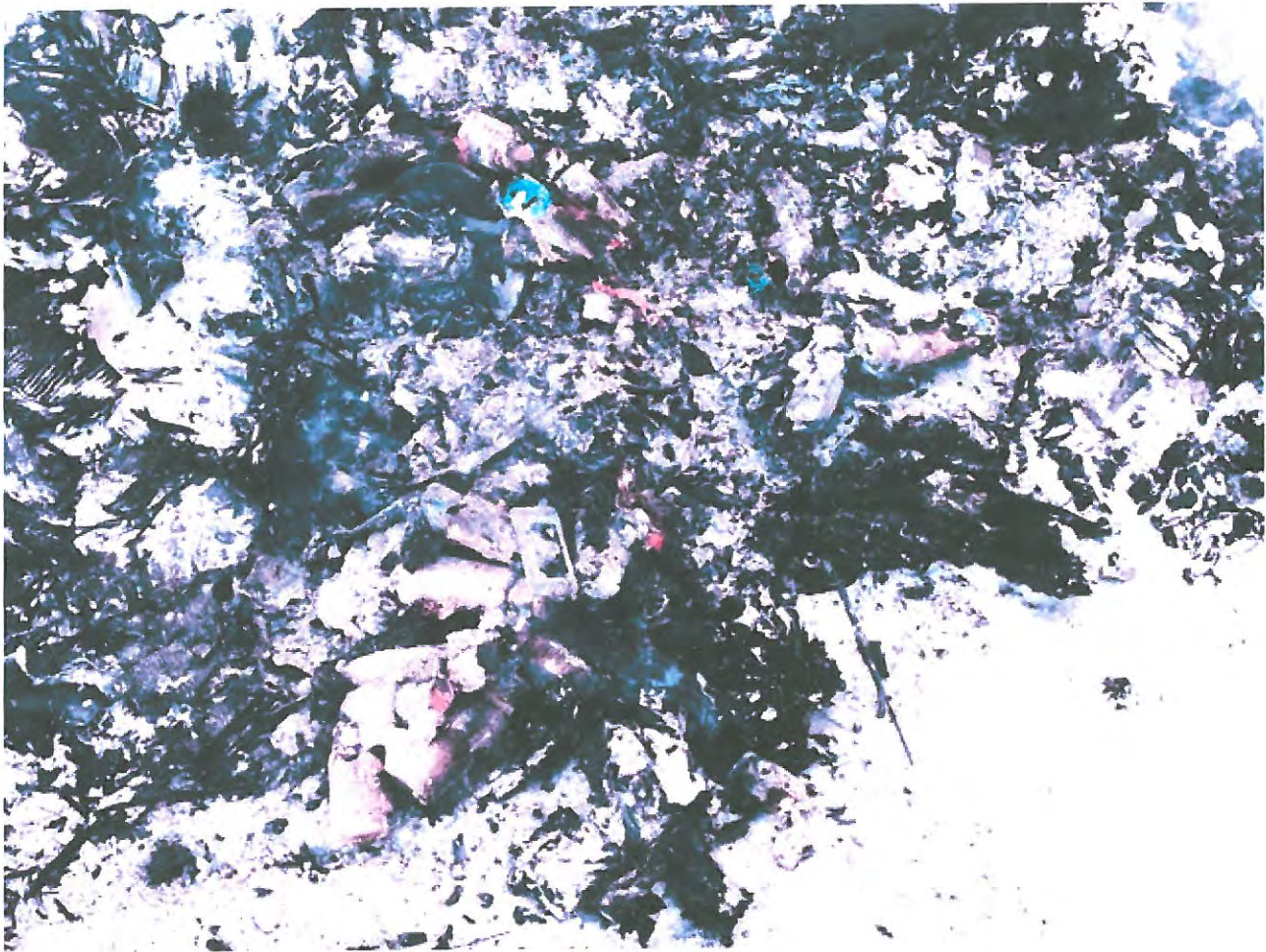
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