

## MEMORANDUM

TO: David Refuerzo, Chairperson  
Members of the Forest and Beach Commission

FROM: Sharon Friedrichsen

DATE: 3 April 2015

SUBJECT: Update on the Beach Fire Management Pilot Program

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On February 3, 2015, City Council approved the beach fire management pilot program and authorized staff to begin implementation of the pilot program. Council provided further direction for staff to consider the appearance of the types of devices and to select several samples for community input; explore a reservation system; prepare a comprehensive beach budget for 2015-16; remand to the Forest and Beach Commission for regular review with periodic reports to Council; develop metrics for monitoring; and explore options for portable devices. In order to assist staff with the implementation effort, several community members have been asked by City administration to participate on various project tasks. These tasks can be grouped into categories as follows:

1. Devices
  - A. 26 Semi-permanent devices (Style and Placement)
  - B. Portable devices used during holiday weekends (Style and Distribution)
  - C. Logistics (Placement, Securing, Cleaning and Removal)
  - D. Reservations and Special Events
2. Education and Outreach
3. Enforcement
4. Measurement and Monitoring

Regarding implementation, the majority of effort has been focused on obtaining a coastal development permit for the program and exploring design options for the semi-permanent fire devices. The Planning Commission will consider the application for the program during its April 8, 2015 meeting. After the issuance of the coastal development permit, staff intends to order several models of fire devices and allow an opportunity for the public and operations staff to test some of the proposed models before ordering the remaining devices. The lead time of possible models ranges from 2 days, 7-10 days and 60 days for a customized option. Under an ideal scenario, several models would be available for viewing and use in mid-May. A sub-committee of community members have been researching possible models of fire kettles or fire bowls that may be suitable for this project. The Forest and Beach Commission received a report on the considerations related to the fire devices' appearance, cost and functionality with the recommendation that the fire devices be made from steel. This sub-committee is working on finalizing recommendations regarding model options.

In addition, initial efforts related to public education and outreach have commenced. Margaret Eaton with Sustainable Carmel has been seeking community input on public education and outreach and a synopsis of her recommendations is included for discussion. It should be noted that marketing and public information specialists have been contacted regarding the pilot program and forthcoming outreach activities. It has been suggested that information regarding the new pilot program and its associated rules should be provided closer to the pilot start date to avoid confusing beachgoers on the current existing rules and future changes. Staff of various departments have also met on site and have identified preliminary locations where interpretative panels regarding the purpose of the pilot program, location identifiers and signage regarding the rules could be located, ranging from locations at Del Mar parking lot, Eighth Avenue and the Scenic Pathway and staircases from 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Santa Lucia. Design concepts will be brought forth to the Commission for input before installation.

The Police Department will be responsible for enforcement and exploring options to include staffing by a police officer and private security. Staff from this department will also be part of citywide efforts related to shoreline signage. Discussions are underway with the new solid waste hauler regarding possible options for cleaning of the semi-permanent devices. Once the models are procured, it will be easier for staff to obtain information on possible cleaning methods and frequency. City staff are looking at special event guidelines and updating special event permits to note whether a fire device will be used as part of the event. An update on the pilot will be provided next month, including a status update on the portable devices and measurement and monitoring activities.