

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
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**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 11/03/04  
**Department Name:** Planning and Development  
**Department No.:** 053  
**Agenda Date:** 11/9/04  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Valentin Alexeeff, Director of Planning and Development

**STAFF CONTACT:** Brian R. Baca  
Engineering Geologist 568-2004

**SUBJECT:** **Mills Emergency Permit, 04EMP-0000-00003:**  
Informational report on issuance of emergency permit.  
6757 Del Playa Drive, Isla Vista (APN 075-193-032), Third Supervisorial District

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## **Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Receive the Director's report regarding an Emergency Permit issued to Richard Mills for the installation of a temporary wooden timber safety fence on the coastal bluff at Isla Vista Beach to alleviate an existing hazard to public safety.

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2., A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work and Visit.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

Pursuant to Section 35-171 of Article II of the County's Zoning Ordinance, when an Emergency Permit is issued, the Director of the Planning and Development Department must report the nature of the emergency and the work involved to the Board of Supervisors in writing. This notification fulfills the ordinance requirement. The California Coastal Commission has also been notified of the issuance of this emergency permit.

The subject emergency permit, approved on October 25, 2004 and issued October 29, 2004, allowed the emergency installation at 6757 Del Playa Drive of temporary timber lagging to be bolted to the concrete caissons exposed on the bluff face specifically to alleviate an apparent hazard to public safety.

## **Background Information**

Several buildings located on the coastal bluff south of Del Playa Drive in Isla Vista, including the apartment building at 6757 Del Playa Drive, were determined, in October 2004 by the County Building Official, to be potentially unsafe. The coastal bluff in this area is a vertical cliff of approximately 35 feet and is actively eroding and retreating landward.

The apartment building at 6757 Del Playa Drive was improved in 1988 with caisson foundation supports. Most of these caissons have become exposed on the bluff face and portions are now essentially free standing columns. Continuing wave action caused rapid erosion behind the caissons resulting, in 2004, in the formation of a cave. Wave action continues and this cave is progressively growing in volume as blocks of bedrock fall from its roof to the floor below. As this cave is readily accessible from the public beach, it is considered an immediate hazard to public safety.

Emergency Permit 04EMP-00000-00003 was issued to temporarily prevent public access to this cave to alleviate the public safety hazard represented by the eroding cave while plans are prepared and implemented for the reconstruction of the onsite building and associated patio decks.

For more information on the specifics of the emergency work, please refer to the attached permit.

## **Mandates and Service Levels:**

None

## **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

County costs for the preparation of the emergency permit are reimbursed by the applicant in conformance with the current Board-approved fee resolution. The project causes no fiscal or facilities impacts to the County.

## **Special Instructions:**

None

## **Concurrence:**

County Counsel

## **Attachments:**

Emergency Permit (04EMP-00000-00003 issued 10/29/04