

PHIL BEHRENS P. O. BOX 50422 SANTA BARBARA, CA 93150 (805) 969-9006

Nov. 6th, 2010

Mr. Salud Carbajal
Supervisor
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
Email: SupervisorCarbajal@sbcos1.org

RE: Coastal Commission/Local Land Use

Dear Mr. Carbajal:

Because of ill health, I have not been able to keep up with everything that might affect me as a property/home owner at Miramar Beach in Montecito, California.

In this light, I am somewhat distressed to discover there are people out there who have decided they have some special right to re-assess how we home/property owners should be allowed to conduct our lives on property that has been in our possession from anywhere for twenty to fifty years. We know what we bought and when we bought it... and it was for the single purpose that we have to right to use our property at our pleasure and not at the whims of those whom lately have decided to "change the rules". That is not how this country is supposed to work... or at least that's what I've been taught for the seventy-five years I've been on the planet.

That some cabal of well-meaning folks, who I don't think have ever been elected to this Commission, now decide that we, who have owned and taken care of the beach in front of our respective homes for decades, should be denied the right to repair our beach access steps when needed, is simply outrageous. And the concept that we be allowed to repair only 50% of our stairs is silly and inane. What half do we choose to repair? The top half... the bottom... perhaps just the right or left side? What if someone told these "Commissioners" they could no longer use their access to the street in front of their homes? Perhaps they aren't allowed to access their cars parked at the curb? Maybe they should remove any hedges/fences that disallowed passersby to look into their property? This all seems patently insane to me.

The general public has access to Miramar Beach, tides permitting, and nobody's been excluded for any reason. We have people sitting in front of our home regularly and we have no problem with that. If they need to use a phone, a bathroom, or have an emergency... who do they turn to first? The homeowners...

When the present access was built, it was some of the beach homeowners who paid to beautify the steps and ramp so it didn't look like a concrete channel as proposed by the County. Those people were not offered reimbursement... nor did they expect any.

A more cogent argument from the Commission should be one of safety for the public.

But that does not seem to be the thrust here. Rather it appears the Commission is rallying for control of public land that will serve no purpose to the public or the homeowners... but will give the Commission more "muscle" to flex when they feel it appropriate for that kind of action.

Fax: (805) 969-5544

E-mail: cinemen@cox.net

PHIL BEHRENS P. O. BOX 50422 SANTA BARBARA, CA 93150 (805) 969-9006

The old adage... "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" applies here. The Commission does not need to have any more control of Land Use Development where the beach is concerned. It's not their bailiwick; they can do nothing to improve it, and those of us who have lived there for over two or more decades don't need their input or their "conceptual ideas". I'm sure they have a very full plate of problems they have to deal with... but taking control of California's beaches in this manner is simply a move for control where no control is needed. They should simply back off and move other more pressing problems.

We have a homeowners association that works diligently to protect and preserve the oceanfront adjacent to our respective properties. We do not need the interference of some governing commission to "take over" that responsibility. We're all capable adults who have spent considerable time and assets to acquire the properties we enjoy on the Pacific Ocean, and we've heard no complaints thus far. In that vein, let the Commission and its advocates move on to other, more critical considerations while we continue to take care of our responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Louis Behrens
1542 Miramar Beach
Montecito, CA 93108

cc: Supervisor Janet Wolf – jwolf@sbcbos2.org
Supervisor Doreen Farr – dfarr@countyofsb.org
Supervisor Joni Gray – jgray@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
Supervisor Joe Centeno – jcenteno@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
Clerk of the Board – sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
Miramar Beach Homeowners Association – khstjohn@gmail.com