

November 3, 2015

Mayor Olvera and City Council
City of Dana Point
33282 Golden Lantern
Dana Point CA 92629

RE: CDP 15-0021

Dear Mayor Olvera and City Council,

I unfortunately will not be able to attend the city council meeting this evening but i would like to express my concerns about changing the access to Strands Beach. I was present the previous city council meetings when the Strands development was in its genesis and I argued then how the revetment had significantly diminished our beach. I argued that because of the revetment there was often no beach access at high tide. Now I understand they want to put a gate on the revetment to limit even further access. Let me share my concerns about this idea.

I am a surfer, swimmer, and quite accustomed to walking on rocks on the shore. Because of recent tide and current conditions there is a large portion of the beach that has exposed rocks. One morning I decided to run the beach and did not put much thought into running past this rocky area. Unfortunately a rogue wave came in, knocked me down, and in the process I lost my phone and sandal. Yes, a lesson learned.. All subsequent runs I made sure that I traversed onto the revetment to avoid a repeat performance if the tide was high.

My concern is one of public safety. There are going to be the stragglers on the beach who decide not to exit the south end of the beach before gates close. I think it is wrong to try to limit access to one hour after sunset. If those folks got caught in high tide trying to make their way back to the North Strand Access way I fear they may lose more than a phone, possibly they could lose their life.

I also find it amusing that the home owners of the Strands want more privacy by restricting access to the revetment and gates above. Who in Newport Beach buys a home on the boardwalk and then calls the city council of Newport Beach to tell them to restrict access on the boardwalk? If the owners at the Strands did not want the public bothering them then perhaps they should have not built so close to the beach. Even better perhaps they should not have built the revetment in the first place that took away a large portion of my beach.

As an eleven year resident of Niguel Beach Terrace I feel that I should have full access to the beach that is just steps from my front door.

Respectfully,


Judy L Bourget MD

Agenda Item No. 11
11/3/15