



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: June 4, 2013

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: ADOPT A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT'S PROPOSED AMENDED RULE 444 PROHIBITING OPEN BURNING ON BEACHES

DATE: MAY 23, 2013

FROM: OFFICE OF THE CEO

PRESENTATION BY: THOMAS R. HATCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: DANIEL K. BAKER AT (714) 754-5156

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council provide direction on adopting a Resolution (Attachment 1) opposing the South Coast Air Quality Management District's proposed amended Rule 444 prohibiting open burning on beaches.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

On June 7, 2013, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) will consider an action to prohibit the public from utilizing beach fire rings for burning activities effective January 1, 2015. The stated purpose of this action is to mitigate the public exposure to potentially high concentrations of wood smoke at Orange and Los Angeles county beaches. Under the proposed change, a city or county could, through formal action, make the prohibition effective sooner than January 1, 2015. Millions of visitors come to Orange County beaches each year and many are drawn to the beaches for the inexpensive, family friendly fire ring experience. There are over 700 fire rings located throughout Orange County beaches. It is estimated that visitors to Orange County beaches generate millions of dollars in annual revenue to beach cities through parking fees, sales tax from local shopping, and transient occupancy tax which indirectly benefits all Orange County cities through a strengthened regional economy.

Recognizing the important role our neighboring beach communities play in providing the Southern California region with passive and affordable recreational opportunities, Mayor Righeimer asked staff to prepare a Resolution opposing the SCAQMD proposed universal ban on beach fire rings in Orange County. The Resolution also includes language that supports efforts to find a comprehensive solution that incorporates the interests of the cities in the region that want a long-time, family-friendly, Southern California tradition of beach fire rings to continue.

FISCAL REVIEW:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

LEGAL REVIEW:

The City Attorney's has prepared and reviewed the attached resolution.

CONCLUSION:

Mayor Jim Rigeheimer recommends that the City Council authorize the adoption of the attached resolution opposing the South Coast Air Quality Management District's proposed amended Rule 444 prohibiting open burning on beaches and direct staff to forward the executed resolution on to the SCAQMD board for consideration.



THOMAS R. HATCH
Chief Executive Officer



DANIEL K. BAKER
Management Analyst

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Resolution opposing the South Coast Air Quality Management District's proposed amended Rule 444 prohibiting open burning on beaches

RESOLUTION NO.2013-__

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA OPPOSING THE SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT'S (SCAQMD) PROPOSED AMENDED RULE 444 PROHIBITING OPEN BURNING ON BEACHES

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the SCAQMD has proposed an amendment to Rule 444 which, if approved, will add beaches to the list of prohibited areas for open fire burning; and

WHEREAS, the City of Costa Mesa recognizes the important role beach communities play in providing the Southern California region with passive, affordable family-friendly, recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, many Orange County beach cities have provided fire rings on their respective beaches for decades to allow beach patrons to burn fire wood as a long-standing beach tradition; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment to Rule 444 prohibiting open fire burning will eliminate an important, inexpensive, family-friendly, recreational opportunity afforded to millions of residents and visitors which will greatly impact Orange County's local economy as well as visitors and residents enjoyment of the beach; and

WHEREAS, Orange County beach communities receive millions of visitors annually, and many visit our beaches for the fire ring experience; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that visitors to Orange County beaches generate millions of dollars in annual revenue to beach cities through parking fees, sales tax from local shopping, and transient occupancy tax which indirectly benefits the economy of Orange County; and

WHEREAS, communities that use Orange County's beaches within the jurisdiction of the SCAQMD have different interests that should be considered prior to a complete ban on open burning in fire rings; and

WHEREAS, the City of Costa Mesa believes the use of Orange County's public beaches is a regional issue that needs to reflect broad interests;

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council opposes the SCAQMD proposed Amended Rule 444 prohibiting open burning on beaches.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Costa Mesa supports further efforts to find a comprehensive solution that incorporates the interests of cities in the region that want a long-time, family-friendly Southern California tradition of beach fire rings to continue.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 4th day of June 2013.

James Righeimer, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Brenda Green, City Clerk

Thomas Duarte, City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) ss
CITY OF COSTA MESA)

I, BRENDA GREEN, City Clerk of the City of Costa Mesa, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that foregoing Resolution No. 13-__ was duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Costa Mesa at a regular meeting held on the 4th day of June, 2013, by the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereby set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Costa Mesa this 4th day of June, 2013.

BRENDA GREEN, CITY CLERK

(SEAL)