



September 21, 2024

To: Dana Point Planning Commissioners

From: Toni Nelson, Capo Cares

Re: September 22, 2024 Planning Commission agenda Item #3 – CDP #21-0019, SDP 22-0005, regarding 35811 Beach Road, Capistrano Beach

I am regrettably unable to attend tomorrow's Planning Commission meeting but wanted to weigh in on the above noted item on behalf of the Capistrano Beach community.

As you likely know, the subject property, known as the Schafer Compound, is a 1948 structure on a site that has served as an iconic gathering place synonymous with the rich surf culture that originated on Beach Road. It has significant intrinsic historic value to Dana Point, and particularly, to the Capistrano Beach community, and holds a special place in the hearts of members of the wider surf community that stretches far outside our city boundaries.

Although the property is not a designated historic site, it is very well known as a surf heritage gathering place and is noted as having "historic value" in the Dana Point Historical Society records.

I recognize that the property owner has no obligation to recognize the historic nature of the property but hope that the Planning Commission might preserve something of our history by approving the CDP **subject to the condition that a commemorative plaque describing the importance of the site be designed and approved by the Dana Point Historical Society and erected on the site upon construction completion.**

A city that recognizes and makes reasonable efforts to preserve its history enriches its culture and preserves the elements that make it a unique and special place to live and visit.

I hope you'll consider adding this small condition to the CDP approval. I am hopeful that the property owner will be as charmed by the historic significance of this site as are members of the wonderful community he will be joining.

Respectfully,

Toni Nelson

Founder, Capo Cares