

CEPD adopts assessments roll

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The Captiva Erosion Prevention District approved the beach renourishment assessments tentative roll after revising it in detail last Tuesday, July 10.

“I am very comfortable with this,” said Sherrill Sims, vice chairman of the CEPD. “Everything is explainable.”

The CEPD commissioners had previously approved the methodology that they would apply to produce the tentative roll. They agreed to apply \$1 million from the CEPD reserves across the board to eliminate an amount of exceeds, not all of it however. The exceeds are the increased amount of assessment costs since the 2004 tentative apportionment of cost letters that were sent out first to the Captiva property owners.

Alison Hagerup, CEPD administrator, will have a tentative apportionment roll at hand. Property owners are able to contact Hagerup to find out the assessment costs of their property, as well as discuss any issues they have with the assessments they were given.

Letters to the property owners have also been approved and they have been sent to the property owners. The letter includes three pages, two to explain the reasoning behind the increase of the tentative apportionment of cost as well as the benefits the property owners receive from the beach renourishments. The last page will list the property STRAP identification number, benefit category, and the assessment cost.

Some of the commissioners were concerned as to how many property owners would express a problem with their assessments. Sims explained that it was not the CEPD’s fault and that every exceed was explainable.

“Think about it this way, any entity whether it’s a property tax paying, institutional, commercial, whatever, if a side walk gets put down your street, that’s an assessment,” said Sims. “You pay it. It doesn’t make any difference who you are because you’re getting a benefit from it. We are the same way. What this is providing is the same service to these people.”

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 24 at 5:01 p.m. for all Captiva property owners who have objections or need clarifications. A written objection is needed if a property owner is to come to the public hearing for an objection.

“I don’t think you’ll have to deal with anything according to previous history,” said Bill Stronge, the CEPD economist. “I mean, you’ll have to bite the bullet a little bit. Some one is going to come in who has an exceed.”

More information and detailed analysis of the 2004-2005 beach renourishment assessment methodology is available at the CEPD’s new website, www.mycepd.com. Captivans and other interested parties could also join the CEPD’s mailing list by filling out the information on the contact page of the website.

