

The Dana Point Historical Society Celebrates . . .
20 Years Before the Mast

A History
of
The City
of Dana
Point



At the Pilgrim Dock
Saturday, January 3, 2009

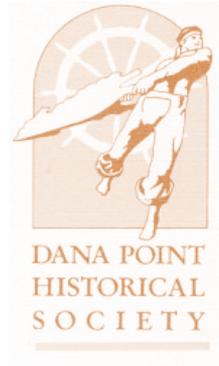
This year, 2009, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the swearing in of the first City Council. In June 1988, the residents of Dana Point voted to incorporate and in doing so, we became the 28th city of Orange County.

The first recorded attempt of incorporation was in 1959. Several subsequent attempts and wishful thinking were tried, with the final successful effort beginning in 1987. The *Rough Road to Cityhood* is detailed within this booklet along with the twenty years of cityhood history. The Historical Society hopes you enjoy this year-by-year snapshot of our beginnings.

Not only was cityhood a rough road; governance of the new city also presented problems. Large planned developments were critiqued, redevelopment plans were canceled, and recall attempts dotted this history. Yet today we have a beautiful city under our own control. We have been financially sound. We are continuing to improve our looks and status as a destination location for family, friends, and visitors.

On this special celebration, the Dana Point Historical Society is grateful for the support of the City of Dana Point, OC Dana Point Harbor, and the Ocean Institute. Thanks also go to Mayor Joel Bishop for his support and encouragement in producing this history.

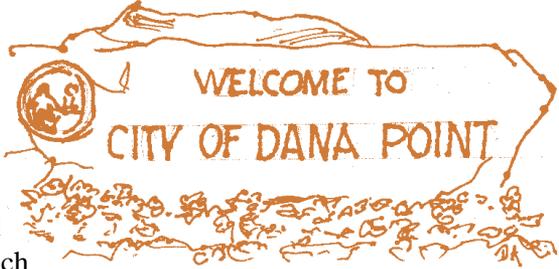
Dana Point is a new city. Relatively speaking, our area is also new, with the first major development beginning in the 1920s. As I have said on many occasions, "If we do not save it now, how will it become old?" We can hope that, eighty years from now at the 100th celebration, many will look back and be grateful that this history has been preserved.



Carlos N. Olvera
President
Dana Point Historical Society

The Rough Road to Cityhood

The concept of cityhood for Dana Point began in 1959 when the Dana Point Civic Association began conducting a fact-finding investigation. One of the strong and vocal supporters of this movement was Ralph Quackenbush, a longtime resident of Dana Point and builder and owner of the Dana Villa Motel. In July of that year, San Juan Capistrano filed for incorporation, which caught Dana Point and Capistrano Beach off guard. The three of them had been discussing the possibility of becoming one city, but due to squabbles over the boundaries, San Juan Capistrano decided to go it alone. The boundaries of the new San Juan were to include San Juan Creek and a mile of coastline, effectively dividing Dana Point and Capistrano Beach in half. This drew the ire of both communities.



To Incorporate or Not To Incorporate

In March 1961, Dana Point began independently as Capistrano Beach had voted to remain unincorporated. This was to protect Dana Point from the invasion of San Juan. However, this move did not go unchallenged. A new group called Citizens for Dana Point began circulating a petition to stop incorporation. By July the move to incorporate failed to get the number of required signatures.



In July 1962, Dana Point began another attempt at incorporation. With talk of a new coastal freeway and the progress of the new harbor, problems began to surface in the once sleepy coastal community, and this move again lost local support.

But the retreat did not last long. In January 1964 Dana Point started again amid fears of continued annexation by San Juan Capistrano and over development of the Monarch Beach area. In March 1966, Capistrano Beach expressed interest after pending annexation to San Juan was also rumored. The County Board of Supervisors opposed this incorporation because adding a new city to the harbor construction process would be too complicated. Then San Juan Capistrano, in July 1966, stepped in against the Dana Point incorporation, saying that it would take three areas seeking to be annexed to their city. This opposition convinced the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to rule against incorporation on a 3-2 vote. Immediately, backers said they would scale back the size of the new proposed city by 1,200 acres, which included the areas disputed by San Juan, the community services district of Beach Road, and the Sherman-Chandler property. Leaders indicated that they might file for a city name of Serra, in honor of Father Junipero Serra.

Circulation of petitions for incorporation began in January 1967, but the collection of signatures was slow. The proponents received two extensions to gather more signatures. Then there was a dispute over county fees for the incorporation, and the first petitions were ruled unacceptable. After receiving a fourth extension, the Board of Supervisors indicated that this would be the last. Again San Clemente expressed an eye toward annexation of portions of Capistrano Beach. When the petition went before LAFCO in July 1970, the vote was 4-1 against incorporation.

Five Times and Almost Out

The fifth effort to incorporate began in 1976 on the charge of uncontrolled development. This attempt was

modest, with few real backers. Then in 1977 another effort tried to capitalize on the movement by proposing a Dana Point-Laguna Niguel city. This got the attention of Laguna Niguel, who then decided to go it on their own. Eventually these Dana Point incorporation ideas faded away without any formal attempt.

Not until January 1986 was the issue of incorporation resurrected. Meetings to gauge the interest by its residents were held. This got Capistrano Beach active again. In October, the Dana Point Citizens for Incorporation was formed, with spokesperson Patti Short. Meetings turned into action with signature gathering through December led by chairs Judy Curreri and Mike Eggers. Dana Point became more motivated when learning of Laguna Niguel's plans for incorporation, which again included Dana Point.

The Dana Point group submitted the documents on December 31, 1986, a week behind Laguna Niguel. Capistrano Beach later dropped out as their feasibility study was not favorable, and LAFCO suggested that Capistrano Beach unite with Dana Point. At the LAFCO meeting in May 1987, the commissioners outraged Laguna Niguel by proposing that the coastal subdivisions of Monarch Beach be a part of Dana Point. This was based on a poll of residents in that area, which showed approximately 90 percent wanted to be in Dana Point, not Laguna Niguel.

No Neighbor Against Neighbor

The commission suggested the matter be put to a vote in November, but Judy Curreri opposed that idea. She indicated that would put neighbor against neighbor and that LAFCO should make the call. She further added that "to start a new city with what remains from a civil war is not a way to go about it." The advisory vote took place in November 1987 with 61 percent choosing to go with the City of Dana Point. In December, LAFCO, without Laguna Niguel present, voted to include the disputed coastal strip to Dana Point, which caused another uproar. A cityhood vote was scheduled for June 1988.

But under the protest from Laguna Niguel, the Commission voted to reconsider its decision and scheduled a new hearing in January 1988. In that hearing, LAFCO voted for the third time to place the coveted coastal strip with Dana Point.

The incorporation vote for Dana Point occurred on June 7, 1988, and set Dana Point to become the 28th city in Orange County. As Terri Lucarelli, a longtime resident of Capistrano Beach said, “for Capistrano Beach, cityhood always has meant a way to protect its borders.” Incorporation won by nearly a 4-1 margin, having taken thirteen public hearings and two elections to produce.

But the fight was not over. Laguna Niguel filed a lawsuit in April 1988 to set aside the decision over the property in dispute and in July laid claim to Sea Terrace Park by means of a developer agreement.

In October a judge decided that Dana Point could keep the Monarch Beach coastal strip.

And So, It Began

1989 (Six Months)

Judith S. Curreri - Mayor

Ingrid E. McGuire - Mayor pro tem (3 days)

William R. Bamattre – Mayor pro tem

Michael Eggers

Eileen L. Krause

The City of Dana Point's first inauguration ceremony took place on board the brig Pilgrim on January 1, 1989. Five council members were sworn in as the City's first representatives. Their first act of business was to adopt County codes and ordinances for a four-month period and set the date for the next City Council election for June 1990. The Council also, by a 4-1 vote, elected to receive a \$400 a month stipend for their services. Three days later, on January 4, Judith Curreri was sworn in as Dana Point's first mayor.

One of the first tasks undertaken by the City of Dana Point was the development of a City Seal that would be used on all official City documents and would become Dana Point's official symbol. In January, the City sent out a call to residents asking for ideas that were "nautical in design." Thirty-three submissions were considered before artist Rick Morgan offered to design the City Seal at no cost. In July, the Council approved Morgan's seal, which featured Richard Henry Dana gazing across the harbor at the brig Pilgrim with the Headlands visible in the background. The Seal was officially adopted on July 11 and is still in use today.

Welcome to Dana Point

In July, Dana Point's first entrance sign was installed and dedicated at the intersection of Golden Lantern and Camino Del Avion. Eight others were installed throughout the City.



Unfortunately, vandalism and theft of the signs occurred within the first few weeks of installation (especially to the Monarch Beach signs) and left the council reconsidering the number and placement of the entrance signs. Eventually, the number was thinned to three.

While the City enjoyed a prosperous and promising first year (with the budget surplus for the first fiscal year at \$5.4 million dollars), a number of issues did present themselves to the fledgling city throughout 1989. An early issue for the City involved a 1.5 mile stretch of coastline which would come to be known as Monarch Beach. The ownership of Monarch Beach had been a major point of contention between Dana Point and the bordering city of Laguna Niguel for a number of years prior to incorporation and had created a “cold-war” between the cities. When the Orange County Local Agency Formation Commission awarded Dana Point the stretch of coast, the Laguna Niguel Community Services Committee brought a lawsuit against the LAFCO, accusing the agency of wrongly awarding the stretch of coast to Dana Point. The issue would not be fully resolved until October of 1991 when the State Supreme Court refused to hear a lawsuit challenging the decision to grant the area to Dana Point.

If It's Not One Thing . . .

A number of other issues also presented themselves to the City during its first year in action. In early January, the City Council was asked to mediate a rent dispute between the residents of the Dana Point Mobile Home Estates and its new landlord, who wished to raise the rent over 100 percent. A task force was eventually created to help mediate the issue, which was settled in June. A day laborer problem in Capistrano Beach took center stage for many months in early and mid-1989. This eventually resulted in the creation of a very successful day laborer phone bank system that was utilized not only by the laborers and employers in the City of Dana Point, but throughout South County.

Despite its youth, the City of Dana Point responded to all challenges admirably during its first year.

Vote Early and Often!

1989—1990

Eileen L. Krause—Mayor

William R. Bamattre—Mayor pro tem

Judith S. Curreri

Michael Eggers

Ingrid E. McGuire

The new decade got off to an exciting start in the City of Dana Point. On January 16, residents of the Capistrano Beach area were awakened when one of the San Onofre warning sirens malfunctioned and began blasting an alarm that would last for 25 minutes. Some residents responded in panic, others simply ignored it. Despite the fact that the alarm was just an accident, the siren would be a fitting opening to what would be a very eventful year in the City of Dana Point.

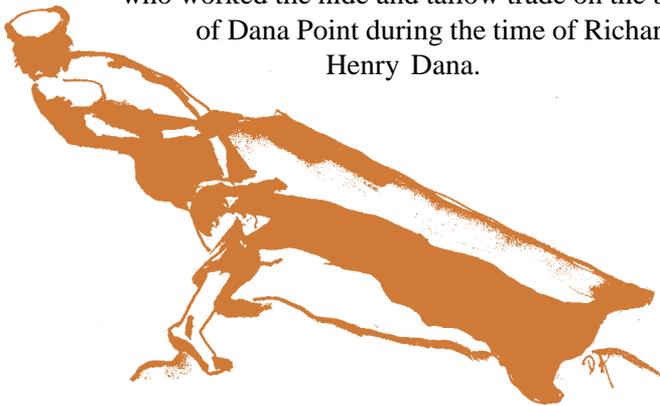
1990 would be the first time that a general municipal election would be held in Dana Point, which had become one of the fastest growing Orange County cities. Four challengers went up against three incumbent council members and the Mayor during that year. Campaigning began in early February with both incumbents and challengers running ads on local cable television programs, radio, and newspapers throughout the early half of the year. By May, the battle had heated up as challengers attacked incumbents for their policies in two debates. In the June election, three incumbents won re-election while only one challenger, Karen Lloreda of Capistrano Beach, won a seat on the City Council. Lloreda's victory gave Capo Beach the representative it had desired since the Council's first election the previous year.

Also on the June ballot that year was an 8.5 million dollar bond measure, known as Measure F, that would create a new pipeline to feed water to residents of Dana Point. Even

though the measure would raise property tax bills nine dollars a month, it was overwhelmingly approved by Dana Point voters.

There was more good news for Dana Point in June of 1990 when the City finally saw a resolution of the Monarch Beach ownership issue. At that time, state Appellate judges upheld a lower court decision from the previous year that granted the 1.5 mile coastline to Dana Point, effectively ending the ownership debate between Dana Point and Laguna Niguel.

October saw the installation of an important landmark in the City of Dana Point when the Hide Drogher statue was installed on the blufftop trail overlooking Dana Point Harbor. The statue was sculpted by artist F. Benedict Coleman and was placed as a representative of the hide droghers who worked the hide and tallow trade on the bluffs of Dana Point during the time of Richard Henry Dana.



Not in My Backyard!

1990—1991

William R. Bamattre—Mayor
Michael Eggers—Mayor pro tem
Judith S. Curreri
Eileen L. Kause
Koren Lloreda

In 1991, as the first Gulf War was heating up in Iraq, a different kind of war was rapidly developing in Dana Point—a war over development. In January of that year, the Council began to move ahead with a controversial redevelopment plan that had begun the previous year. The plan would divert \$297 million in property taxes to improve and redevelop sections of the city that had been identified as project areas. These areas included portions of the Lantern District, the Coast Highway Couplet, and Capistrano Beach. While the City Council saw redevelopment as an opportunity to revitalize blighted neighborhoods and fund public improvements, many residents did not share this view. Fearing that the redevelopment plans would give the City the power to condemn their properties (11 percent of the City had been declared blighted) and bring more pollution, traffic, and crime to the area, anti-redevelopment groups began to emerge.

Now Just a Darn Minute

By February, the redevelopment issue had turned into an all out battle between those who were adamantly opposed to the plan and the City Council. Anti-redevelopment groups began circulating petitions and even falsifying signatures in order to stop redevelopment from going forward. Some City Council members began getting harassing phone calls both at



City Hall and at home. Threats of lawsuits were brought against the Council. With the amount of opposition they were facing, the Council had little choice but to put a halt to the redevelopment plans. On February 26, the Council voted by a 3-2 vote to slow the planning effort so they could conduct studies and educate the general public about redevelopment.

General Plan Approved—or Not

This was not the only development issue to challenge the Council that year, however. On July 9, the City’s General Plan was unanimously approved by City Council. It was met with immediate resistance by area residents and business owners who were against development. Petitions began circulating again. One group, the Dana Point Action Coalition, collected 2,400 signatures to have the General Plan sent to a vote by the residents. The petition, however, was invalidated by the City Clerk on a technicality. This prompted the Coalition to file suit against the City and to threaten recall. The City, meanwhile, feared that business in the area would come to a halt as, by law, it could not issue building or business permits without a general plan. The General Plan issue would carry over until the following year.

Another war was brewing in the Lantern District—this time, a war against crime. In the late 80’s and early 90’s, the Lantern District had become fraught with crime. Drug dealing was rampant, and overpopulation was a serious issue as some one-bedroom households in the area were housing a dozen or more individuals. In November, concerned Lantern Village residents formed a Neighborhood Awareness Group that would work closely with City Council to “get the bad guys out.” The results of the improvement work done by residents, law enforcement officials, and City Council were seen by May of the following year.

Not That I Recall

1991—1992

Michael Eggers—Mayor

Karen Lloreda—Mayor pro tem

William R. Bamattre

Judith S. Curreri

Eileen L. Krause

The development battle continued to rage throughout 1992, and the year opened with a suit brought to the Orange County Superior Court against the Dana Point City Council. The Dana Point Action Coalition claimed that the City had violated the constitutional rights of its citizens by not processing the referendum petition brought to the City the prior year. In February of 1992, an Orange County Superior Court judge ruled that the petition calling for a vote on the General Plan was valid. In March, the City Council voted to appeal the ruling but decided to try for an out of court resolution first, asking Coalition leaders if a compromise could be reached.

For a few months, things on the redevelopment front quieted. Then, in July, three residents began collecting signatures, petitioning to have Council members Mike Eggers and Eileen Krause recalled for their earlier refusal to allow residents to vote on the General Plan. The recall attempt did not get far. In October, the recall advocates halted their effort after meeting with Council member William Ossenmacher, who pointed out that the City's Redevelopment Agency had been disbanded (the agency had been disbanded in late July to the applause of many residents) and that any future General Plan meetings would be held with an open forum.

Despite the redevelopment battle, 1992 saw a number of positive occurrences in the City of Dana Point. In January, a brand new 200-room Hilton hotel opened near the Beach Cities off ramp, offering a comfortable and luxurious place for Dana Point tourists to stay. In February, an extension of Stonehill Road opened after nearly a 10 year wait. The extension, which began at Seaside drive, crossed over San Juan Creek and ended at Camino Capistrano, significantly helping to ease traffic congestion for those trying to get across town to the commercial district of Camino Capistrano. In July, the first ferry from Dana Point Harbor to Catalina Island went into service, ferrying with it the hope that visitors who caught the boat in Dana Point would eventually return to the area as a tourist destination. Also that year, Monarch Bay Resorts received approval from both the City Planning Commission and the California Coastal Commission to build a 400-room resort and residential community on 232 acres near Niguel Road and Pacific Coast Highway.

The City also took major steps to help end crime in the Lantern District in 1992. In January, the Council adopted a “neighborhood improvement” plan that included a controversial law limiting the number of people who could live in a single house or apartment. While the new law was met with some resistance, including a lawsuit, there was no doubt that crime fighting efforts in the area were having an effect. By mid-year, many Lantern Village residents were reporting that they had seen a substantial reduction in the amount of criminal activity.

Don't Let the Rain Come Down!

1992—1993

Karen Lloreda—Mayor

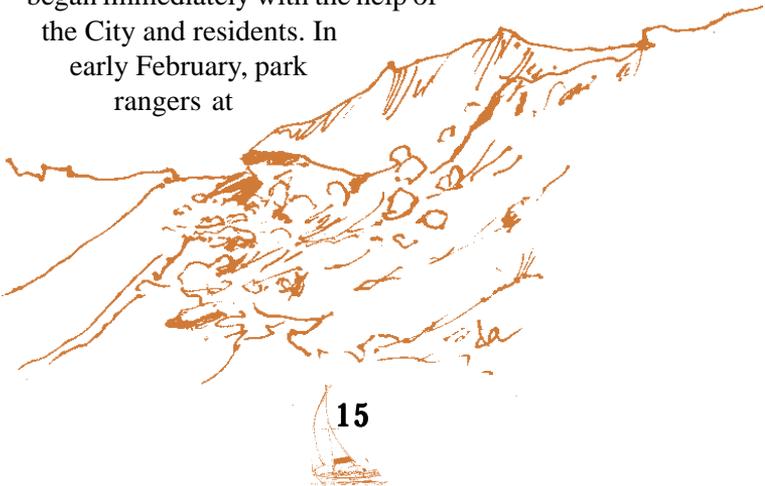
Judith S. Curreri —Mayor pro tem

Michael Eggers

Eileen L. Krause

William L. Ossenmacher

This would be a stormy year for the City of Dana Point, literally and figuratively. Major rainstorms hit the South County in January, and the repercussions from the inordinately high amount of rain would be felt in Dana Point throughout the year, beginning with the clean-up that was necessary after the particularly bad bout of weather. The trails along Doheny Bluffs suffered major erosion, which forced closure; streets and parking lots throughout the city were flooded; San Juan Creek became littered with mud and debris that overflowed onto Doheny beach; and minor mudslides along PCH and Dana Point Harbor Drive forced temporary road closures. Clean-up began immediately with the help of the City and residents. In early February, park rangers at



Doheny beach even began encouraging guests to collect the driftwood that had accumulated on the beach during the storms to use as firewood.

The worst consequence of the early year storm would be seen in February when, at 11 p.m. on February 22, a massive landslide occurred just north of Camino Capistrano and Coast Highway. Known as the La Ventana slide, the event caused the closure of both Coast Highway and the railroad tracks that ran parallel to the highway. Five houses were destroyed in the slide, and four more were evacuated. Twenty-eight blufftop residents filed 29 claims against the City for damages caused by the slide. Damage was estimated at \$7 million, and the City would face a difficult clean-up process. Legal and monetary issues would keep the clean-up from being completed until the following year.

The rains were not the only type of storm Dana Point faced in 1993, however. A typhoon had been burgeoning over development of the Headlands area since 1991, and a deluge of protest over development in the area would begin in early January and proceed throughout the year.

Open Space Initiative Sought

To many residents, the Headlands represented one of the last untouched and natural areas in the South County. When the General Plan presented plans to build a 400- room luxury hotel in the area, concern over the impact to the environment, increased crime, traffic, pollution, and overcrowding brought many concerned residents to Council meetings begging for reconsideration of the development plans for the area. Many residents hoped the City would adopt an open space initiative for the Headlands, preserving the space as natural parkland. The Council, heeding protestors' concerns, conducted a survey in October to measure public support to purchase portions of the Headlands property for preservation. The following year would show the results of the survey and would prove to be the pivotal year in the debate over Headlands development.

Creatures Were Stirring

1993—1994

Judith S. Curreri—Mayor

William L. Ossenmacher—Mayor pro tem

Michael Eggers

Eileen L. Krause

Karen Lloreda

The debate over development of the Headlands would be front page news throughout most of 1994, and it would



be a challenging year for activists on both sides of the issue. In January, the results of a survey studying resident support for purchasing portions of the Headlands property for preservation were released. While 72 percent of those surveyed originally supported the idea of the City purchasing parts of the Headlands, the number dropped to 49 percent when participants were given additional information on the cost to residents' property taxes. Immediately after the results of the survey were made public, environmental groups began protesting the results, claiming the survey was "misleading".

Plans to develop the Headlands continued, even after the Sierra Club became involved in the fight to save the space from development. Then, in early February, a type of field mouse that was on the Endangered Species List was discovered to be inhabiting a small portion of the Headlands land, forcing developers to come up with a contingent plan for its protection.

As 1994 progressed, both proponents and opponents of development would become much more vocal on the issue. In March, Councilman William Ossenmacher would launch a furious attack against the Headlands development project. He faced much opposition, however, as the majority of the Council was for the plan and suggested only minor modifications to it.

At the March 15 Council Meeting, the Council voted to set the Headlands' housing ceiling at 370 homes. In mid-March, the Planning Commission approved an agreement with the owners of the Headlands resort property dedicating 66 acres of the area to the City for open space. Then, in April, the City Council approved by a 4-1 vote, a 400-room, \$500 million resort plan that was expected to generate \$2.3 million in tax revenue for the City per year. Opponents reacted to the approval immediately. In late April, residents opposed to the Headlands development started circulating a petition to put the Headlands development plan to vote in the City's general election in November. A total of 3,800 signatures were collected, far more than the 1,500 required to get the issue on the ballot.

Headlands measures C and D were on the ballot in November. If passed, both would allow for a resort and housing development on the Headlands property. Neither measure passed, effectively ending, at least for a short while, the battle over the Headlands. The repercussions of the vote would start to be felt almost immediately, however, when the developer banned access to the land under trespassing laws and, in late December, filed a lawsuit claiming that the public vote in November had violated private property rights.

Other, less volatile land issues were taking place as well. In February, a tie-back plan to restore the La Ventana bluff was finally approved, and, in July, clean-up finally began at the site of the 1993 landslide, giving residents hope that Coast Highway would be open soon.

CHANGE Again Already

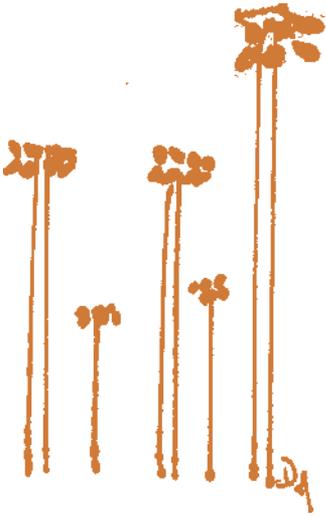
1994—1995

Judith S. Curreri—Mayor
Karen Lloreda—Mayor pro tem
Toni Gallagher
Harold Kaufman
William L. Ossenmacher

The year started out on a positive note for the City of Dana Point with the re-opening of Coast Highway in April, nearly two years after the La Ventana landslide had forced its closure. A January reopening had originally been planned, but heavy rains early in the year forced delay. The April 5 reopening overjoyed local residents, who had been dealing with heavy detour traffic passing through their neighborhood during Coast Highway's closure, and local merchants, whose businesses had suffered from the decrease in traffic on Coast Highway. Even more pleasing to the residents in the area was the "natural" look the repaired bluff was given. While the hillside was tied-back with several thousand tons of steel and concrete, the face of the wall was sculpted to look like a naturally eroding bluff. So natural was its appearance that few passersby or visitors to the area would even realize that the bluff face was actually a man-made structure stabilizing the hillside and preventing future slides.

Unfortunately, things were not as stable as the La Ventana Bluff for City Council in 1995. Just as the Headlands controversy had dominated the headlines the previous year, a recall attempt would be the major topic of news, discussion, and debate in 1995. In mid-May, two Dana Point Council Members, Karen Lloreda and Harold Kaufman, were both served recall notices by a group of area residents who had formed an organization called CHANGE (Citizens Help Against Non-Representative Government and Excess). The group focused their complaints around the two





council members' votes for developing the Headlands the previous year, for upgrading the Dana Hills High School Sports field to include bright stadium lights (something that many residents who lived in the vicinity of DHHS adamantly opposed), and for allowing what CHANGE called a "bloated and overpaid" City staff that did not even live in Dana Point. CHANGE felt that Kaufman and Lloreda had "ignored the

will of the people of Dana Point." Opponents of the recall attempt quickly formed their own organization, Dana Point United, in support of Kaufman and Lloreda. These groups would face off a number of times during the year.

When CHANGE served their official recall notice at the May 9 City Council meeting, they issued a list of demands that included an investigation into purchasing as much of the Headlands property as the public wanted and a vote to abandon the Dana Hills field upgrade, as well as a number of other changes. Kaufman and Lloreda both responded to the recall notice in late May. Kaufman claimed that the recall petition circulators were misleading residents and wasting taxpayer time and money. Lloreda responded similarly, stating that the petition "[did] not promote good government" and that the petition writers had misrepresented her positions on a number of issues. Despite the recall attempt, Lloreda was selected City Mayor and Harold Kaufman, Mayor Pro-Tem by a 3-2 Council vote on June 13.

By October, CHANGE had submitted a petition with over 10,000 signatures to the City clerk's office to force a special election in March. Despite recall proponents' attempts, their work was unsuccessful. The Recall was rejected by City voters on March 26 of the following year.



Home, Sweet City Hall

1995—1996 (18 Months)

Karen Lloreda—Mayor

Harold Kaufman—Mayor pro tem

Judith S. Curreri

Toni Gallagher

William L. Ossenmacher

Dana Point would continue to be a politically tumultuous place throughout 1996. In-fighting and verbal sparring within City Council would create agitated Council meetings and, on more than one occasion in 1996, caused Council members to walk out of meetings or shut them down early. Making things even more difficult was the resignation of the City Manager in January, which left the Council scrambling to find a replacement that all could agree on. The selection process would cause tempers to flair and the relationship between Council Members to become even more strained throughout the year. It was not until after the November election, when power changed hands and a majority was formed within the Council, that the selection of a new City Manager could really get underway.

Despite the squabbling, Council was able to agree on some important community improvement items for the City of Dana Point in 1996, including the planting of trees in the Town Center area and voting to spend \$4 million to finally buy the property on Golden Lantern that housed the City offices. The City had been paying nearly \$32,000 a month to rent office Space in the complex, and the purchase proved to be a successful money-saving strategy. Additionally, in August, Council approved the construction of a \$250,000 roller-hockey rink in Del Obispo park, a move that was greatly appreciated by local youth who had been struggling to



find a legal place to play roller-hockey within the city. Unfortunately, a contract dispute arose in December that would delay the project indefinitely.

Perhaps the most exciting event for Dana Point in 1996 took place in April when the Olympic torch traveled through the town on April 27 on its way to the Olympic Games in Atlanta, GA. A glorious celebration was held in honor of the event that included a concert in the La Plaza area,

performances by the Dana Hills High School Marching Band, an art show, and a 70-foot high balloon arch. The party, while a fun-filled time for the whole family, had the added benefit of being an economic boon for local businesses as throngs of people packed into the restaurants and shops on Del Prado and PCH during the festivities.



A Plan Comes Together

1997

William L. Ossenmacher—Mayor

Toni Gallagher—Mayor pro tem

Harold Kaufman

Karen Lloreda

Ruby Netzley

The battle over developing the Headlands would come to the forefront again in early 1997. This time, however, the City of Dana Point would find itself with more say in what became of the property. In January, a panel of three justices of State Appeals upheld the 1994 ruling banning development of the Headlands property. The City immediately began researching and developing legitimate land-use proposals for the area. Planning was briefly delayed when the property owners asked the State Supreme Court to review the lower court's ruling and the 1994 referendum against development. But, in April, the State Supreme Court announced that it would not hear the builder's appeal.

Consultants Hired

After the ruling, the City once again began to develop plans for the Headlands area, this time under the court's instruction that the City must create a plan. The first task was to decide how to zone the property in a way that was acceptable both to residents—who disliked the idea of any development in the area—and the property owners—who envisioned resorts and housing on the land. In order to help with the development of a specific plan for the property, the City hired a consultant in early July to help with the process. In September, the Planning Commission also voted to hire a consultant to study drainage and have a geotechnical analysis



of the area conducted. These first steps would be the building blocks for the development that the Headlands would experience in the coming years.

Deciding what to do with available land was an issue on the other side of town, as well. In June, discussion began over what should be done with an unsightly vacant plot of land on Stonehill near San Juan Creek called “Creekside Park.” Plans for the area originally called for the building of a Senior Center on the space. However when the site was deemed “inappropriate” in size and practicality, other ideas started to emerge. One strongly supported idea was to create a community garden in the area and rent out individual plots of land to local residents who wished to work the soil. In October, residents even began a petition drive to have the barren field developed. A final decision on what to do with the land would be reached the following year.

\$9.1 Million Capital Improvement Program

Despite legal expenses and consultant fees, Dana Point was thriving financially. In April of 1997, the City announced an estimated budget surplus of \$2.5 million for the following year. The City, however, remained cautious in its spending. In July, the Council announced a number of cuts to grant programs including the annual Festival of Whales, which would be reduced from \$30,000 to \$10,000, and the elimination of a \$60,000 yearly economic development position. Despite their frugality, in October the Council approved a seven-year, \$9.1 million Capital Improvement Program that would concentrate on beautification and rehabilitation throughout the City of Dana Point.

Plan Some and Lose Some

1998

William L. Ossenmacher—Mayor

Toni Gallagher—Mayor pro tem

Harold Kaufman

Karen Lloreda

Ruby Netzley

Land development and planning in the City of Dana Point would be in the spotlight once again in 1998, and this time it was not only the Headlands property grabbing attention.

After a long struggle by local residents, a decision over what to do with Creekside Park finally fell into place in April of 1998. At that time, Ann Christophe Landscape Architects was awarded a \$35,000 contract to design the space as a passive park, including a tot lot, picnic areas, walkways, and nature trails. The development brought relief and delight to residents in the area who had long been campaigning for the “eyesore” on Stonehill to be developed.

Unfortunately, not all planning, development, and renovation attempts in Dana Point went quite so smoothly. In January, concern had started to mount over plans by the County to revitalize and renovate Dana Point’s historic Harbor. Consultants for the County claimed there were serious problems with parking and navigation in the area and began presenting ideas to quell the traffic problems, including building a two-story parking garage. Boaters, harbor merchants, and harbor residents responded vehemently against such an idea. A harbor task force was established in February to help redevelop a plan that would be pleasing to all, and in late March, five possible plans for the Harbor were unveiled. While the unveiling was met with suspicion and fear by some opponents of the renovation, by June, a plan had been selected. In December, the County Board of Supervisors approved definitive renovation plans for the



Harbor, and renovation planning came underway the following year.

Capistrano by the Sea was yet another area where renovation set off a tide of debate in 1998. The preceding year, plans were unveiled by the owners of Capistrano by the Sea to renovate the property and build 50 homes priced at roughly a million dollars each on the land. During the course of 1998, everything from what would happen to the Capistrano By the Sea psychiatric hospital, to the fate of the Dolph House (the first house in Dana Point), to what



would become of the 160 Eucalyptus trees on the property came up for debate. In July, after the Capistrano By the Sea Hospital closed (under circumstances deemed suspicious by some residents but financially related by the owners), a workshop was held in which these issues were discussed with the public. In September, plans emerged that would save both the Dolph house and most of the healthy Eucalyptus trees on the property. A final decision and zoning change would be accomplished in 2000.

The debate over the Headlands property continued to rage throughout 1998 as well, and lawsuits over the issue abounded. After months of legal wrangling, the courts made a decision in favor of the landowner, which barred the City from preparing a specific plan for the property. While the City followed the law and began processing the landowner's plans, it appealed the case. Once again, the Headlands debate would carry over into the following year.

When You're Having Fun

1999

Ruby Netzley—Mayor
Ingrid E. McGuire—Mayor pro tem
Harold Kaufman
William L Ossenmacher
Wayne Rayfield

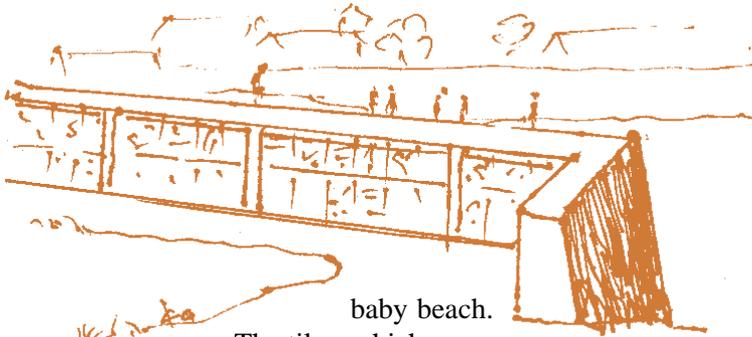
The final year of the twentieth century was an exciting one for the City of Dana Point as the City celebrated its 10 year anniversary. Festivities marking the event were held throughout the year. On January 3, the City and Historical Society held a reenactment of the swearing in of the first City Council on board the Brig Pilgrim, just as it had been done 10 years before. Speeches were given by Council members past and present, including then Mayor Ruby Netzly, who called for "... joy in our City for the next ten years and more." Also during the New Year event, the Dana Hills High School Choir performed a moving rendition of the national anthem, and a display of artifacts and memorabilia from Dana Point's struggle for cityhood was put on display.

Dana Point's anniversary celebration continued throughout the year, the highlight being a colossal birthday party held in Heritage Park on July 10. The party came complete with games, a bounce house for the kids, musical performances, and a birthday cake that fed 500 guests. In September, the City's tenth anniversary ad hoc committee and the Dana Point Historical Society hosted a reenactment of the 1989 "shotgun" wedding between Capistrano Beach and Dana Point, helping to highlight the unity between the two cities.

The City had other things to celebrate at the end of the century as well. In February, the sheriff's blotter reported a dramatic decrease in the amount of crime the city had seen

in the past few years. Areas such as Lantern Village, which had previously been plagued by gangs and drug dealers, were becoming safe neighborhoods once again. The downward trend in crime was in large part thanks to citizen organizations such as the Lantern Village Association working with community oriented policing.

In November, the Dana Point Historical Society installed and dedicated its painted tile display on the sea wall at



baby beach.

The tiles, which were sold at \$50 apiece, primarily during March's Festival of the Whales, were decorated by residents of all ages and raised more than \$25,000 for the Historical Society.

Also cause for celebration in 1999 was the tentative agreement that was finally reached between the City of Dana Point and the owners of the Headlands Reserve property. The agreement would include approximately 75 acres of open space, 130 homes, and two bed and breakfast inns in lieu of the formerly planned hotel. While controversy would continue to surround the property for years to come, the agreement helped end some of the hostility that had existed between groups on both sides of the issue.

Dock Walkers Patrol

2000

Ingrid E. McGuire—Mayor
Wayne Rayfield—Mayor pro tem
Harold Kaufman
Ruby Netzley
William L. Ossenmacher

Dana Point's historic Harbor was a hot topic during the year 2000 as issues ranging from water pollution to harbor improvement cropped up throughout the year.

One of the first programs enacted to help improve water quality in the Harbor was the "Dock Walkers" program, which came about in April. The volunteer organization, comprised mostly of retirees and an extension of the Volunteers in Police Support Program, patrolled the docks on Saturdays and Sundays, educating boaters about "clean boating" and looking for possible polluters and litter problems. In May, the City announced that it would be undertaking a number of other programs to help improve the Harbor's water quality, including upgrading the City's storm drain system to prevent urban runoff into the Harbor, installing trash filters in the drain systems to filter out debris and refuse, and increasing street sweeping to a weekly basis. The City also began citing people for feeding the squirrels around the Harbor. The waste produced by the unnaturally high population of squirrels was a major cause of the high bacteria content in the water. Another improvement was the installation of a high tech buoy in the Harbor in early August. Funded by the state, the buoy provided information on wave height and water temperature in and around the Harbor area and was lauded by both surfers and boaters alike.

Perhaps the most excitement over Harbor improvements revolved around the plans for the construction of a new

Ocean Institute. The new six-building structure would be built on the location of the existing Ocean Institute, which was slated for demolition. A number of charitable contributions were received throughout the course of the



year, including over \$9 million in donations from Orange County families and a grant from the California House of Representatives for another \$1.7 million dollars. Construction of the new Ocean Institute would begin the following year when donations would reach \$16.5 million.

The first year of the new millennium was also exciting for Dana Point teenagers. After nearly a year of lobbying and compromise, an 11-member Youth Board was formed to act as a liaison between city youth and City Council. The Board's first meeting took place in May, at which time the members laid out a list of issues they wished to tackle, including parking at Dana Hills High School, community volunteer opportunities for youth, and the building of a skate park. The first major act of the Youth Board was to hold an end-of-summer bash in September, which was a rousing success with Dana Point teens, their parents, and City representatives.

There was more excitement in the year 2000 when Creekside Park finally opened in August. Though originally constructed without a bathroom, the park, which cost \$1.2 million to build, was lauded by city residents who had been petitioning for the transformation for years.

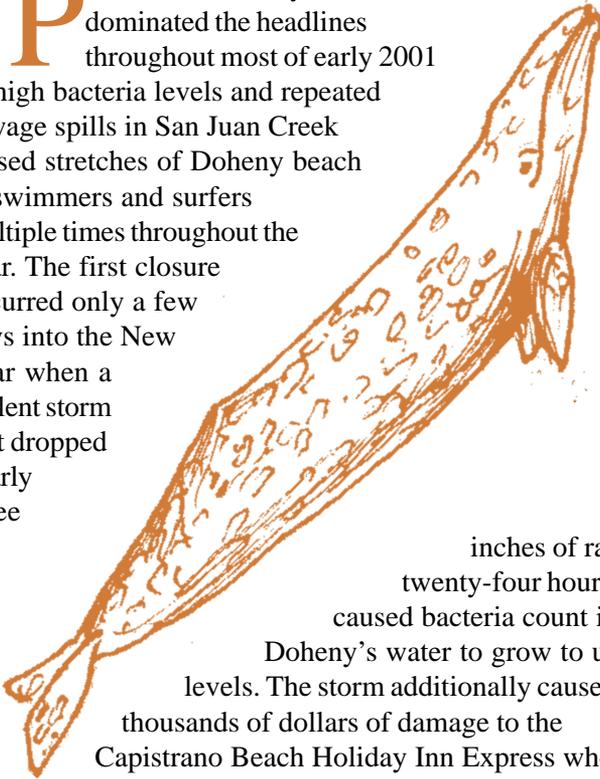
My Roof Has a Hole in It

2001

Harold Kaufman—Mayor
Wayne Rayfield—Mayor pro tem
Ingrid E. McGuire
William L. Ossenmacher
Joe Snyder

Pollution at Doheny Beach dominated the headlines throughout most of early 2001 as high bacteria levels and repeated sewage spills in San Juan Creek closed stretches of Doheny beach to swimmers and surfers multiple times throughout the year. The first closure occurred only a few days into the New Year when a violent storm that dropped nearly three

inches of rain in a twenty-four hour period caused bacteria count in Doheny's water to grow to unsafe levels. The storm additionally caused thousands of dollars of damage to the Capistrano Beach Holiday Inn Express when the underground parking garage flooded with water, mud, and debris. Cars were submerged in nearly five feet of water despite the fact that the hotel had spent \$200,000 the previous year to prevent just such drainage problems.



Fortunately, there were no injuries.

Rain continued to fall in February and March, and the first weekend of the annual Festival of Whales was washed out due to the storms. The event, which would usually see about 50,000 visitors during its opening weekend, only had about 2,000 visitors and many events and activities had to be cancelled. An estimated \$10,000 in whale watching revenue was lost as a result of the rain.

September 11, 2001

The unparalleled newsmaker in Dana Point and the rest of the world in 2001 were the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. Like most Americans, Dana Point residents first reacted to the attack with horror and shock that soon gave way to compassion, generosity, and patriotism. On the eve of the attacks, Saint Edward's Church stayed open all night for prayer and comfort. Candlelit vigils were held throughout the community, and fundraising efforts began almost immediately. When the Doheny Days Music Festival took place at the end of September, the promoter of the festival, Omega Events, reduced ticket prices to \$10 each and donated all proceeds to the families of the September 11 victims. The newly opened St. Regis Monarch Hotel held an Olive Tree planting ceremony in remembrance, complete with a Color Guard.

Unfortunately, the economic outfall that resulted from the attacks affected Dana Point in much the same way other American tourist destinations were affected—a dramatic decrease in the number of visitors. Hotels all over the City saw cancellations in reservations, and local attractions such as fishing expeditions and whale watching tours also suffered. Once again, it was the local Dana Point residents who helped turn the situation around. Locals began to stimulate the City's economy once again by turning out in record numbers for November's Turkey Trot. Residents also spent money within the City during the Christmas holiday, doing holiday shopping in local stores instead of malls outside the community.

Don't Go Near the Water!

2002

Joe Snyder—Mayor
Ingrid McGuire—Mayor pro tem
Harold Kaufman
William L. Ossenmacher
Wayne Rayfield

The year started out on a positive note for the City of Dana Point as the City Council finally ended the three year struggle to find and appoint a permanent City Manager. In January they appointed Doug Chotkevys, who had been working as Assistant City Manager in Whittier since 1991, to the position. Chotkevys impressive experience and activism with water quality matters made him an ideal choice for the city, especially as Dana Point's beaches were still suffering high bacteria levels and pollution induced closures.

Water quality would be a major issue in Dana Point throughout 2002.

Beach Contamination

In February, the County hired a water quality specialist to study the reasons for the high bacteria contamination on Baby Beach, the small coastal area on the west end of the Harbor that was constantly suffering from pollution closures. In May, Heal the Bay issued a report ranking both Baby Beach and Doheny Beach as having some of the poorest water quality in Southern California. The report came as no surprise to those who had encountered numerous beach closures due to high bacteria levels for the past several years. The County responded to the report by putting additional funds towards cleaning up Dana Point's beaches, and the City Council also voted to put additional funds towards studying the causes for the dirty water. By October,



it would be determined that urban runoff was the key pollutant and reason for high bacteria levels at our beaches.



Dana Point's residents, and especially it's youth, did their part to bring awareness to water quality in the area. In June, the Dana Point Youth Board, with support from the South Coast Water District, organized a "Respect The Beach" event at Dana Hills High School. The event aimed to bring awareness about pollution causes and prevention to the local community.

The most promising advance in improving water quality in Dana Point occurred in July when the City presented plans to build a water treatment facility in Dana Point. The \$2.7 million facility would be at Salt Creek just southwest of Ritz Cove Drive. The plan was unanimously approved by Council during it's July 23 meeting and was overwhelmingly supported by residents of Monarch Bay. Plans for construction would come underway almost immediately and would be completed by 2005.

There was also excitement in Dana Point Harbor during 2002 as renovation and beautification efforts finally got underway. The first step was the repainting and re-roofing of the businesses at the Dana Wharf Center. While the beautification and renovation process would be slow-going, the Harbor would eventually see quite a face lift. There was even more excitement when the Ocean Institute held its Grand pre-opening of it's new 34,000 square foot Education Center during the Tall Ships Festival. The opening was a rousing success, and the new facility was the center of attention during the festivities.

Whales Parade against Traffic on PCH

2003

William L. Ossenmacher—Mayor

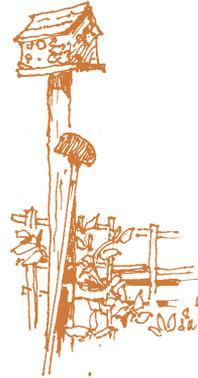
Joe Snyder—Mayor pro tem

Russell Chilton

James Lacy

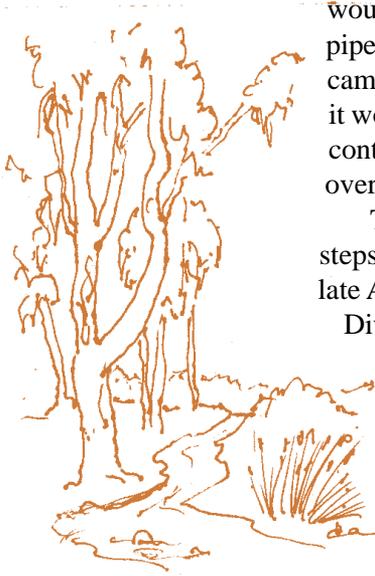
Wayne Rayfield

The year 2003 would start with some controversy surrounding the City Council. In December of the previous year, City Council had voted to rename the Harry Otsubo Community Gardens located on Golden Lantern and Stonehill and relocate the iconic garden to Creekside Park. Longtime residents of the area were greatly angered by the proposition and lodged a number of protests against the City, claiming the relocation and renaming of the gardens dishonored the Gardens' founder, Harry Otsubo. Council seemed to agree, and less than one month later it voted to restore Harry Otsubo's name to the garden and keep it where it was.



The City also faced some controversy during the annual Festival of Whales that took place in March. For the first time since the festival's inception, the annual parade took place along PCH. While the parade seemed a rousing success, drawing nearly 1,700 spectators, many local business owners were not happy about the change in the route. Some claimed that the closure of PCH to vehicular traffic hurt sales during the weekend. Despite protests, the City decided not to change the route, and future Whale Festival parades would continue on PCH.

Water quality was still at the forefront of attention in 2003. Two sewage spills early in the year once again demonstrated the need for stricter methods of monitoring sewer lines in the Harbor Town. In March, South Coast



Water District announced that it would begin monitoring sewage pipes using high-tech video cameras. It also announced that it would start exercising more control and instating new policies over rivate sewers

The City was also taking steps to improve water quality. In late April, the North Creek

Diversion Project, which would divert urban runoff near Doheny Beach to a nearby sewage treatment plant and remove debris using filtration devices, got underway. The move would improve water quality at the chronically

polluted Doheny Beach and was lauded by residents, surfers, and beachgoers alike. While the project would not be completed until the following year, by October it was already showing its advantages.

In the meantime, construction was still being planned for the Salt Creek Water Treatment project. There was some concern over financing for the project as the City announced that the construction of the facility was not in the City's two-year budget. Funding from outside sources, however, including a \$4 million grant from the State, ensured that construction would soon be underway on the project.

I Saw the Harbor Lights

2004

Joe Snyder—Mayor
James Lacy—Mayor pro tem
William L. Ossenmacher
Russell Chilton
Wayne Rayfield

In 2004, Dana Point celebrated its fifteenth year of cityhood. Many things had changed in the passage of that time. Areas that were once blighted and crime ridden were now flourishing and had become areas of pride for the City; streets that had once abruptly stopped in dead ends were now major thoroughfares, and the little harbor town was continuing to expand and improve more every year.

An issue that had been at the center of debate and controversy for many years during the City's 15 year history was finally put to rest in 2004 when, in January, the California Coastal Commission narrowly approved the Headlands Development Plan. The 7-5 vote by the Commission allowed for the building of 122 homes, a 90 room hotel, and a 40 room hostel. While the vote was narrow, and many of the commissioners opposed the plan, the area's five parks and the fact that more than half the property would be preserved as open space helped sway the decision in favor of the developer. Unfortunately, due to the environmental sensitivity of some of the space, a lighthouse, cultural center, and veterans' memorial center had to be sacrificed from the plan.

Development was being planned in other parts of the City as well, especially in the Harbor. In February, architectural renderings of the proposed Harbor renovation were finally released. Labeled as "California Coastal", the design was met with general satisfaction from boaters and

business entrepreneurs alike. An Environmental Impact study on the design soon began, and renovation would continue on the Harbor throughout the following years.



In May, the City began researching ideas to improve and redevelop the Town Center area along PCH and Del Prado. On May 12, they hired ROMA design group to create a specific plan for the area. In September, the City along with the designer began holding workshops with local citizens to discuss plans and ideas for the area. Planning on the Town Center area would continue over the next few years.

In February, the descendants of Richard Henry Dana Jr. held a family reunion in the Harbor town. Over 70 descendants of the City's namesake showed up for the event. In July, the Dana Point Theatre Company put on its inaugural production of William Shakespeare's *A Comedy of Errors* in Heritage Park. The event drew a crowd of nearly 3,000 people over a four-day period. Then, in August, the Farmer's Market found a permanent home in La Plaza.

The events of 2004 demonstrated once again how far the small harbor hamlet of Dana Point had come in 15 years. It would continue to shine in the years to come.

Water: Ya Win Some, and Ya Lose Some

2005

Wayne Rayfield—Mayor

James Lacy—Mayor pro tem (5 weeks)

Lara Anderson—Mayor pro tem

Russell Chilton

Diane Harkey

This year would start out stormy for the City of Dana Point in both the literal and figurative sense. Heavy rains at the very start of the year would cause damage throughout the city, the worst being the collapse of a portion of the San Juan Creek levee wall near the San Juan Capistrano border. The collapse caused mandatory evacuations of residents from the Rancho Del Avion Mobile Home Park and voluntary evacuations for residents all along the creek. Crews managed to stabilize the embankment relatively quickly without any damage to homes, but city and county crews were kept busy in other parts of Dana Point throughout the storm season.

In May, landslides occurred on Philemon Drive, located above Camino Del Avion, causing houses to slip towards the busy thoroughfare below. City crews and residents worked together to halt the slide and stabilize the bluff but not before at least one house was red-tagged due to slippage.

Storms also raged over the Headlands issue in 2005. In late February, the Surfrider Foundation and Sierra Club filed a lawsuit in the San Francisco court challenging the State's approval of the Headlands development. The groups claimed that the project would destroy eleven acres of sensitive habitat and that plans to construct a 2,000 foot wall violated the state's coastal laws. The lawsuit did not go far, however. In April a judge of the San Francisco court tossed out the lawsuit, saying that it would have to be heard in Orange



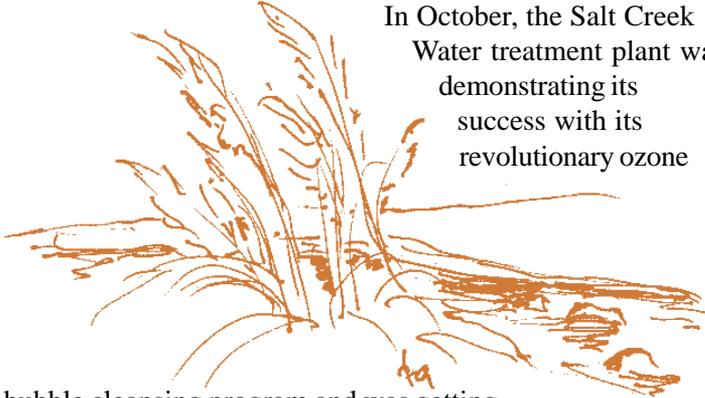
County. While both environmental groups vowed to appeal the decision, no further legal action was taken by the groups that year.

Despite the stormy atmosphere in Dana Point, the City had much to celebrate during 2005. In January, two-year Councilman Wayne Rayfield was elected Mayor of Dana Point. The Councilman, who had also been the 2004 Citizen of the Year, received a standing ovation by Council audience members when his appointment was announced.

Also cause for celebration was the City's ever improving crime rate. In March, the City announced that its crime statistics were in a steady decline, falling 12% from 2003 to 2004.

Also falling was the amount of bacteria in the water around Dana Point. In June, the City and County initiated a test project to help reduce bacteria levels in the waters of Baby Beach. The project consisted of dropping large paddles known as Oloids in the harbor. The Oloids would stir up the stagnant water in the area, reducing the ability for bacteria to breed. The results of the test were not definitive, but early water quality tests appeared promising. Water quality was also improving along Salt Creek.

In October, the Salt Creek Water treatment plant was demonstrating its success with its revolutionary ozone



bubble cleansing program and was getting much attention from agencies throughout California and the U.S. for its success.

The City of Dana Point was on an upward path and would continue its rise as it approached its twentieth year.



Location, Location, Location

2006

Lara Anderson—Mayor
Russell Chilton—Mayor pro tem
Diane Harkey
James Lacy
Wayne Rayfield

The redevelopment and revitalization of both Dana Point Harbor and the City's Town Center were the hot topic issues in Dana Point in 2006. In January the County Planning Commission approved the plans that had been presented for Harbor revitalization. The \$120 million, 20-year plan was then sent to the Board of Supervisors, who approved it in February. In June, the project finally went before the City. While some residents expressed concerns ranging from traffic and parking in the area to height limits on the structures, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to continue the planning process. However, they did recommend that planned dry-stack storage buildings, which would house up to 400 boats, be removed from the plans. Their recommendation was upheld, and by August the dry-stack storage had been eliminated. On September 13, the Council debated Harbor revitalization issues for over four hours before voting 4-1 to approve the \$120 million upgrade.

Town Center planning was coming along in 2006, as well. Early in the year, the Town Center Subcommittee undertook a study of height limits for Town Center buildings, which included touring local residences to find out what sort of impact increased height limits would have on residences. Height concerns had been identified as a major worry of local residents during Town Center meetings the previous year. Even more controversial, however, was the question of whether or not to make Del Prado and PCH two-way streets or keep them the one-way thoroughfares. In November of the previous year, the subcommittee had voted to keep the



streets one-way. In May, however, the Subcommittee reversed its decision in an 8-4 vote. In September, the Dana Point Planning Commission approved the Town Center revitalization plan, and the plan was sent before Council, but the traffic issue delayed Council's decision on the project. Finally, in December, the City Council decided to approve the plan only after the traffic issue was removed to be considered a separate project at a later date.

Years of planning had finally



led to
action on the
Headlands property
in 2006. In February,

grading began on the property in preparation for the building of 118 homes on the hotly debated space. November saw the first plots go up for sale. In a three day period, the property owner, Headlands Reserve LLC, sold 25 beachfront plots at an average of \$5.9 million apiece. Despite the controversy surrounding the area, it was clear that people were eager to become Headland's homeowners.

2006 also yielded some positive results in the area of water quality. Testing on the bacteria levels at Baby Beach showed that the paddles that had been placed to increase water circulation appeared successful. Further studying was suggested for definitive results, and testing continued throughout the year.

In August, the other major water quality improvement project in the City of Dana Point, the Salt Creek Ozone Treatment Facility, won national recognition by the American Public Works Association, putting the City on the map as an exemplar for water quality improving efforts.



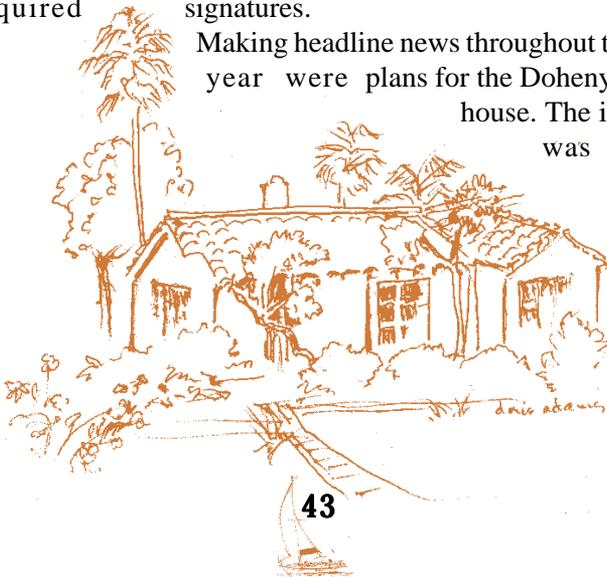
History vs. Property Rights

2007

Diane Harkey—Mayor
Lisa Bartlett—Mayor pro tem
Lara Anderson
Joel Bishop
Steven H. Weinberg

As the new year began, assignments to community agencies seemed to be a political issue when new City Mayor Diane Harkey replaced Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency representative Lara Anderson with mayor pro-tem Lisa Bartlett. The action was to insure the city pro-toll road stance was represented. Mayor Harkey also drew attention when she announced her plans to run for the California State Assembly. Some of the mayor's actions brought forth a group announcing her recall in July. The recall crept forward with a few stumbles as a second petition could not be verified. The petition was finally approved after two months. The recall effort also brought accusations of a Brown Act violation, but by December the effort ended when the recall proponents failed to get the required signatures.

Making headline news throughout the year were plans for the Doheny house. The issue was



personal property rights vs. saving an historic structure. The City had turned down an offer to purchase the house earlier. A plan to develop the five lots the house sits on was being opposed by the Dana Point Historical Society, who preferred to see the home restored as a single family residence. Public input was taken in April where demolition of the house was rejected as an alternative. The result was an Environmental Impact Report being required of the applicant in December.

Public meetings on the harbor upgrades revealed that they would cost about \$85 million, nearly \$40 million more than previously estimated. With the proposed reduction in number of boater slips, a Dana Point Boaters Association was formed to rebut the improvements. Capo Beach got Fire Station 29 back on line after a complete remodel. And, the City began seeking applicants for the newly formed Traffic Improvement Commission after it had been abandoned nearly 10 years before. The proposed balanced city budget was presented to the City Council at mid-year with a surplus of nearly \$2.7 million

The South Coast Water District approved, on a 3-2 vote, a concept design of a new office building located along San Juan Creek to replace the current five facilities in three cities. Also approved was a traffic study for use of the San Juan Creek property. And then the SCWD voted 3-2 to develop 14 acres of the property for boat and RV storage use. The new Groundwater Recovery Plant, which will take groundwater and make it drinkable, was unveiled.

Plans were shown for a mixed-use project at the current location of the Dana Marina Inn on Coast Highway. Twenty-four homes would be built above 12,000 square feet of retail space as part of the proposed Town Center project.

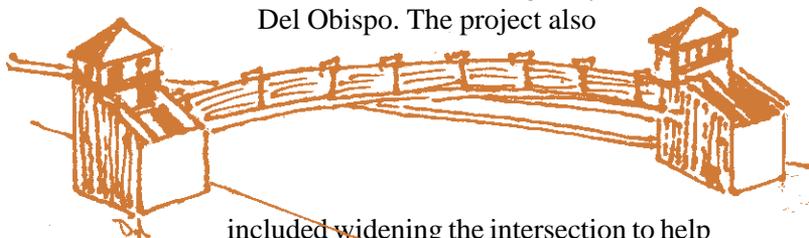
The National Resources Defense Council found Doheny State Beach was the most polluted beach in Orange County in 2006. The City also approved donating \$10,000 to the new non-profit organization to support the adopted 5th Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton. Unveiled was a new Tri-city trolley plan to help tourist and residents go between Dana Point, San Clemente, and San Juan Capistrano.

A Bridge to Somewhere

2008

Joel Bishop—Mayor
Lisa Bartlett—Mayor pro tem
Lara Anderson
Diane Harkey
Steven H. Weinberg

In February, the City Council, among some controversy, approved a pedestrian and gateway to Dana Point across Coast Highway at Del Obispo. The project also



included widening the intersection to help relieve traffic congestion. Construction during the summer was questioned, but minor inconvenience was noticed.

What used to be known as the Youth Docks in the harbor was changed to OC Sailing and Events Center. Along with a new harbor director and a new name, OC Dana Point Harbor, the plans for revitalization continued throughout the year. Having been planned for the past ten years, new harbor dredging began in October and was scheduled to last through the end of the year.

A landmark restaurant, Proud Mary's in Dana Point Harbor, burned down early in the year, but the owners were determined to rebuild the favorite site among locals and tourists alike. Re-opening of the popular eatery was scheduled for spring.

Desalination was the buzzword for water amid a looming water shortage. The South Coast Water District approved funding to support the Municipal Water District of Orange



County to explore the feasibility of building such a facility on SCWD property. By April the SCWD moved their public meetings to use the new Dana Point City Council chambers.

The Dana Point Historical Society released their production of a two-volume DVD of local history due in thanks to a grant from the City of Dana Point. Designed for third graders in local schools, the demand quickly outgrew the production. The period covers the pre-1900 era through 1940.

The Return of Killer Dana?

Controversy of sorts arose when the Surfing Heritage Foundation received support from the Dana Point City Council to continue a study to establish a surfing museum in Dana Point. Whether to have it was not the question as nearly 100 percent support it. Where to locate it was the big question.

The long awaited Town Center plan went before the Coastal Commission in May. Amendments required by the Coastal Commission were accepted by the City Council.

The “silly season” began in July with two seats on the City Council up for grabs with three contenders. In the end, Lara Anderson was reelected with the largest vote count of 9,390 in Dana Point history, and Scott Schoeffel, a longtime planning commissioner, was elected.

The Doheny house was again on the minds of many. The Draft Environmental Impact Report was released in October with comments due in December. Various alternatives were compared to demolition of the 1928 home. Public hearings were to be scheduled the following year.

The crowning moment of the year was the dedication of Sea Terrace Park in December. After 20 years of legal control, citizen input, committee meetings, and mostly funding of \$3.7 million, ribbon cutting by Mayor Joel Bishop opened the 22 acre park. This adds to an existing five acre park that is next to the library.

CR&R

A HIGHER STANDARD OF RESPONSIBILITY WASTE & RECYCLING SERVICES

There were important strides made in the City in 1990 to aid with waste reduction in Orange County. In March, the City enacted a curbside waste recycling program. Under the program, residents were provided with bins in which they could dispose of their bottles, cans, and newspapers for recycling.

In an admirable move, the City Council decided that the pilot program would be funded by the City and not passed on to the community.

**Drawings by Doris Adams
Copy by Autumn Hayner/Carlos N. Olvera
Layout by Beverli Jinn
Printing by Beacon Printing
Project Supervisor Georgelean Olvera**



2009

Lisa Bartlett—Mayor
Steven Weinberg—Mayor pro tem
Lara Anderson
Joel Bishop
Steven H. Schoeffel