

**NOTICE OF MEETING
CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE**


NOTE: One or more members of the City of South Padre Island City Council may attend this meeting; if so, this statement satisfies the requirements of the OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE SHORELINE TASK FORCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS, WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON:

MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016
3:00 P.M. AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2ND FLOOR
4601 PADRE BOULEVARD, SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS

1. Call to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comments and Announcements: *This is an opportunity for citizens to speak to Task Force relating to agenda or non-agenda items. Speakers are required to address the Task Force at the podium and give their name before addressing their concerns. [Note: State law will not permit the Shoreline Task Force to discuss debate or consider items that are not on the agenda. Citizen Comments may be referred to City Staff or may be placed on the agenda of a future Shoreline Task Force meeting]*
4. Approval of minutes of the June 27, 2016 regular meeting.
5. Discussion and possible action on Dune Construction permit for Marriott (Barrineau).
6. Discussion and possible action on beach plastics by interested citizens (Gluntz & Robey).
7. Discussion and possible action on new public bathroom plan for public beach access (Nixon).
8. Adjournment.

DATED THIS THE 8TH DAY OF JULY 2016


Susan Hill, City Secretary

I, THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE SHORELINE TASK FORCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF SAID NOTICE AND THAT I POSTED A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF SAID NOTICE ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AT CITY HALL/MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON **JULY 8, 2016** AT/OR BEFORE **3:00 P.M.** AND REMAINED SO POSTED CONTINUOUSLY FOR AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRECEDING THE SCHEDULED TIME OF AID MEETING.




Susan Hill, City Secretary

THIS FACILITY IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE, AND ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES ARE AVAILABLE. REQUESTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS OR INTERPRETIVE SERVICES MUST BE MADE 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THIS MEETING. PLEASE CONTACT BUILDING OFFICIAL, JAY MITCHIM; ADA DESIGNATED RESPONSIBLE PARTY AT (956) 761-1025.

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: July 11, 2016

NAME & TITLE: Troy Giles, SLTF Chairman

ITEM

Approval of minutes of the June 27, 2016.

ITEM BACKGROUND

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____
Approved by Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____

Comments:

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

MINUTES
CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2016

3:00 P.M. AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 2ND FLOOR
4601 PADRE BOULEVARD, SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS

1. Call to Order.

- a. The Shoreline Task Force Committee of the City of South Padre Island, Texas held a regular meeting on Monday, June 28, 2016, at the Municipal Complex Building, 2nd Floor, and 4601 Padre Boulevard, South Padre Island Texas. Chairman Giles called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present. Absent were Members Norma Trevino and Neil Rasmussen. City staff members present were Shoreline Management Director, Patrick Barrineau and Shoreline Project & Program Manager, Brandon Hill and Council Member Paul Munarriz.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

- a. Chairman Giles Led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comments and Announcements

- a. Public comments were given at this time.

4. Approval of minutes of the June 13, 2016 regular meeting.

- a. Shoreline Task Force Member Ron Pitcock made a motion to accept as written, seconded by Committee Member Rob Nixon. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and possible action on Dune Construction permit for Marriott (Barrineau).

- a. Committee Member Rob Nixon made a motion to table the item seconded by Committee Member Ron Pitcock. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion and possible action on Las Costas walkover mitigation (Barrineau).

- a. Committee Member Ron Pitcock made a motion to recommend to City Council to approve the mitigation plan as presented. Seconded by Committee Member Charlie Brommer. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion and possible action on Kingfish St. closure (Giles).

- a. Committee Member Ron Pitcock made a motion to recommend to City Council that the City abandon West Kingfish St. Seconded by Committee Member Charlie Brommer. Motion passed unanimously.

8. Adjournment.

- a. Since the Task Force had no further business to discuss, Mr. Giles adjourned the meeting at 4:03pm.

BRANDON N. HILL

TROY GILES, CHAIRMAN

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: July 11, 2016

NAME & TITLE: Patrick Barrineau, Shoreline Director

ITEM

Discussion and possible action on Dune Construction permit for Marriott (Barrineau).

ITEM BACKGROUND

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

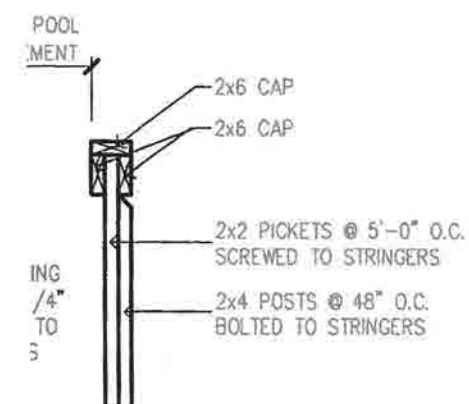
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____
Approved by Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____

Comments:

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS



1. ANY VEGETATION TO BE PLANTED IN THE MITIGATION AREA SHALL INCLUDE BITTER PANICUM, SEA OATS, MARSHHAY CORDGRASS OR OTHER PLANTS APPROVED BY THE CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND.
2. THE EXISTING VEGETATION SHALL BE COLLECTED AND REPLANTED AT THE MITIGATION SITE. MITIGATION SHALL OCCUR PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF SITE GRADING.
3. ANY DUNE MATERIAL SHALL BE FROM AN APPROVED SOURCE AND HAVE BEEN TESTED TO ENSURE IT HAS THE SAME GRAIN SIZE AND MINERALOGY AS THE CURRENT MATERIAL ON SITE.
4. ALL MITIGATION WORK AND VEGETATION INSTALLATION SHALL BE

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT HOTEL BY MARRIOTT HOTEL SOUTH PAKISTAN, TEXAS SITE PLAN RETAINING WALL

AGH
ENGINEERING
& SURVEYING
FIRM No. 1-1187
1101 N. W. 11th St., Suite 100
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304-1101
Tel: (954) 561-1101
Fax: (954) 561-1102

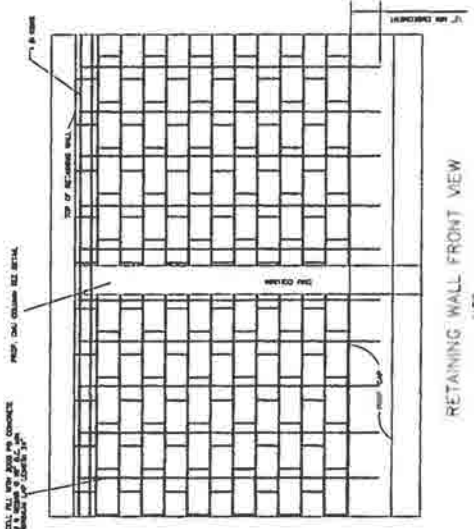


DATE	12/15/2018
DESIGNED BY	AGH
CHECKED BY	AGH
APPROVED BY	AGH
DATE	12/15/2018
PROJECT	COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT HOTEL
LOCATION	SOUTH PAKISTAN, TEXAS
DESCRIPTION	RETAINING WALL

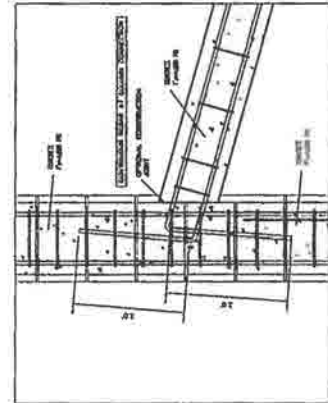
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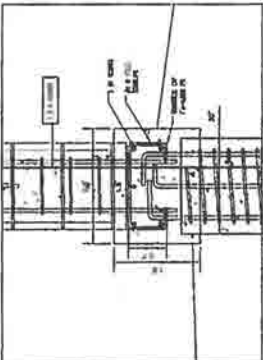
1. ALL CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST EDITIONS OF THE FOLLOWING CODES AND STANDARDS:
 - a. ACI 318M-11, CONCRETE STRUCTURES
 - b. ACI 308R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - c. ACI 309R-11, CONCRETE PUMPING
 - d. ACI 305R-11, CONCRETE MIXTURES
 - e. ACI 308.1R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - f. ACI 308.2R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - g. ACI 308.3R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - h. ACI 308.4R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - i. ACI 308.5R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - j. ACI 308.6R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - k. ACI 308.7R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - l. ACI 308.8R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - m. ACI 308.9R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - n. ACI 308.10R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - o. ACI 308.11R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - p. ACI 308.12R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - q. ACI 308.13R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - r. ACI 308.14R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - s. ACI 308.15R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - t. ACI 308.16R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - u. ACI 308.17R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - v. ACI 308.18R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - w. ACI 308.19R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - x. ACI 308.20R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - y. ACI 308.21R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - z. ACI 308.22R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
2. THE RETAINING WALL SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING:
 - a. THE RETAINING WALL SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST EDITIONS OF THE FOLLOWING CODES AND STANDARDS:
 - i. ACI 318M-11, CONCRETE STRUCTURES
 - ii. ACI 308R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - iii. ACI 309R-11, CONCRETE PUMPING
 - iv. ACI 305R-11, CONCRETE MIXTURES
 - v. ACI 308.1R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - vi. ACI 308.2R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - vii. ACI 308.3R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - viii. ACI 308.4R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - ix. ACI 308.5R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - x. ACI 308.6R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xi. ACI 308.7R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xii. ACI 308.8R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xiii. ACI 308.9R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xiv. ACI 308.10R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xv. ACI 308.11R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xvi. ACI 308.12R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xvii. ACI 308.13R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xviii. ACI 308.14R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xix. ACI 308.15R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xx. ACI 308.16R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xxi. ACI 308.17R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xxii. ACI 308.18R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xxiii. ACI 308.19R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xxiv. ACI 308.20R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xxv. ACI 308.21R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
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 - b. THE RETAINING WALL SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST EDITIONS OF THE FOLLOWING CODES AND STANDARDS:
 - i. ACI 318M-11, CONCRETE STRUCTURES
 - ii. ACI 308R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - iii. ACI 309R-11, CONCRETE PUMPING
 - iv. ACI 305R-11, CONCRETE MIXTURES
 - v. ACI 308.1R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - vi. ACI 308.2R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - vii. ACI 308.3R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - viii. ACI 308.4R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - ix. ACI 308.5R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - x. ACI 308.6R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xi. ACI 308.7R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xii. ACI 308.8R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xiii. ACI 308.9R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xiv. ACI 308.10R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xv. ACI 308.11R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xvi. ACI 308.12R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xvii. ACI 308.13R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xviii. ACI 308.14R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xix. ACI 308.15R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
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 - xxi. ACI 308.17R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xxii. ACI 308.18R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xxiii. ACI 308.19R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xxiv. ACI 308.20R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xxv. ACI 308.21R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS
 - xxvi. ACI 308.22R-11, CONCRETE TESTING AND MATERIALS



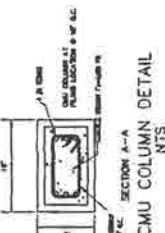
RETAINING WALL PLAN VIEW
NTS



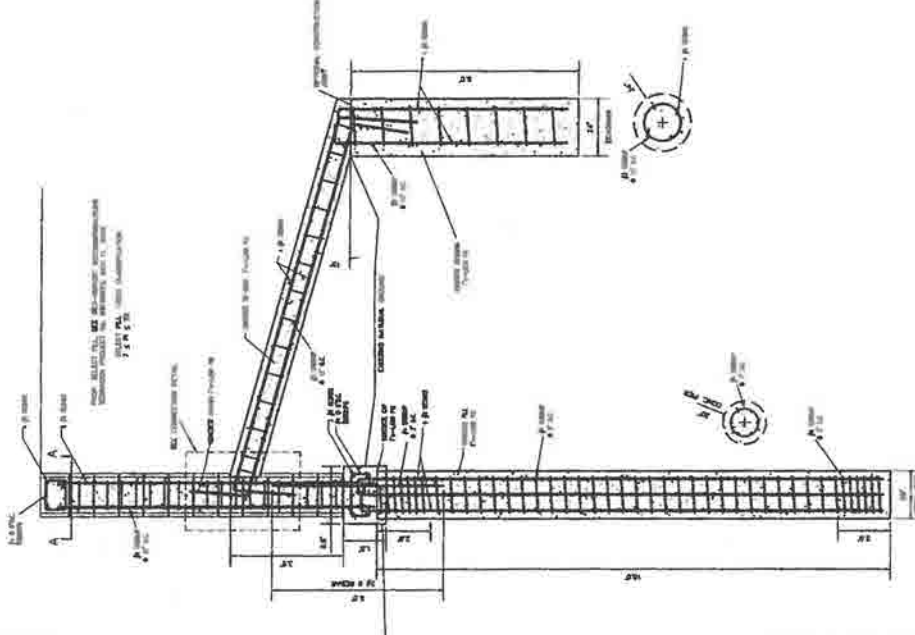
CONNECTION DETAIL
NTS



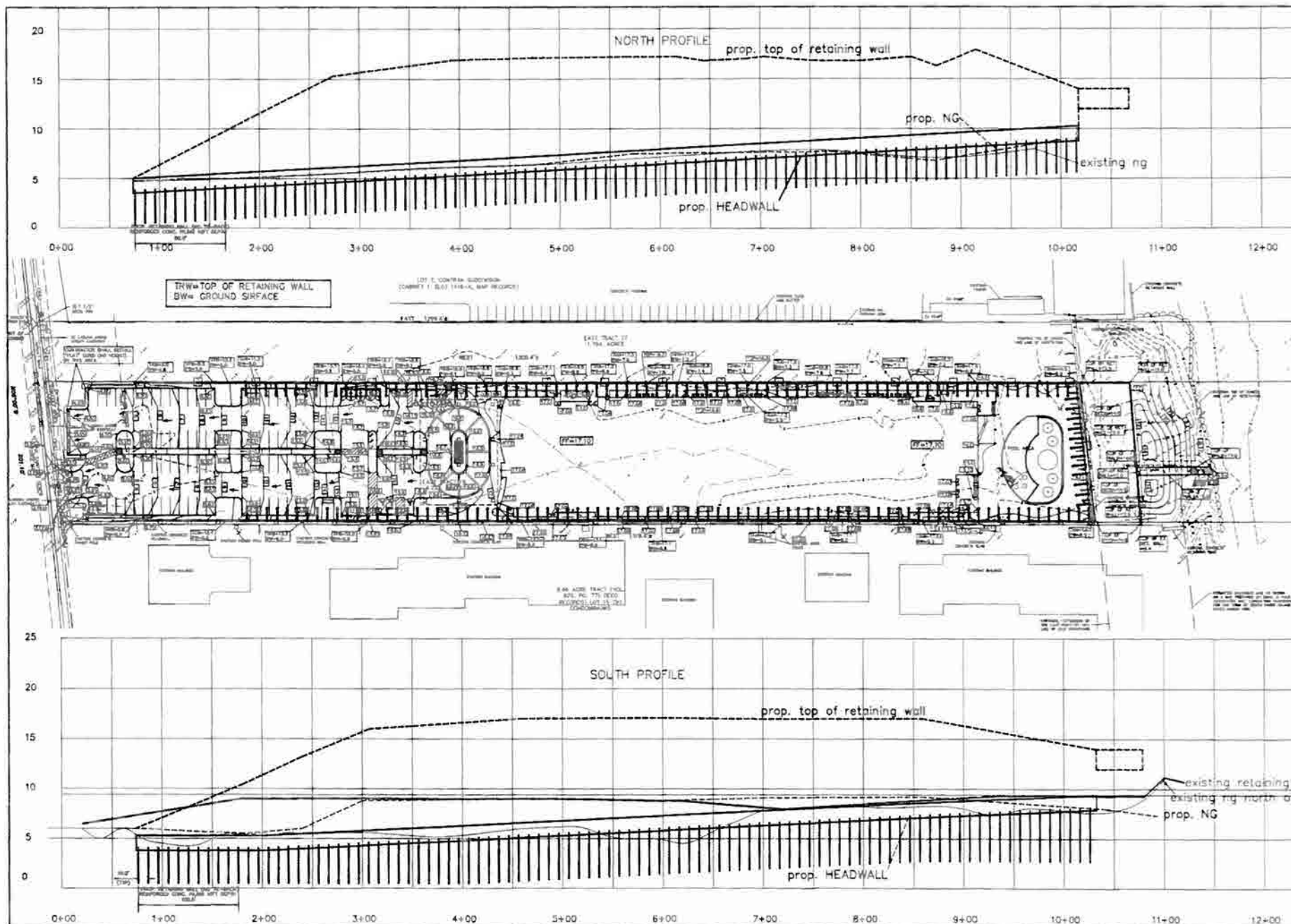
CONCRETE CAP DETAIL
NTS



CMU COLUMN DETAIL
NTS



PILING DETAIL AND RETAINING WALL SECTION
NTS



Project: AGH
 Station: 1.0
 Date: 06/14/2018
 Drawn: AGH
 Checked: AGH
 Approved: AGH
 Date: 06/14/2018



AGH
 ENGINEERING
 & SURVEYING
 1416-A
 1416-A
 1416-A

COURTYARD BY MARriott HOTEL
 BY MARriott HOTEL
 SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TEXAS
 RETAINING WALL
 SITE PLAN

3. New Frontal Dune and Mitigation area Planting

4.

The plant density and species diversity will be based on the data obtained during the site investigation and on the contractors experience with vegetation management on a frontal dune system.

All plants relocated will be managed for survival during the relocation process and introduction into the mitigation area. Contractor will assure that everything necessary will be done to achieve the highest possible survival rates of all relocated materials.

All plants destined for a propagation facility will be documented upon collection and upon propagation (initial and usable). These plants will be returned upon completion of the new frontal dune or as soon as fully rooted.

Based upon data collected during the site investigation, if relocated material is not sufficient to fill the area of the new frontal dune or mitigation area, additional plants will be propagated from donor locations located on South Padre Island. This same source will be used in the case of reduced survivability.

5. Management, Maintenance and Reporting

The contractor will assure proper management and maintenance to assure survivability, growth and proper health of all plants during relocation or propagated planting, and for a period of one year from the time of completion of the planting phase of construction of the Marriott.

This will include but not limited to the installation and maintenance of a temporary irrigation system, fertilization and replanting of all plant losses to bring the final plant count to meet GLO standards and regulations.

The contract will provide reports at all required intervals including a post planting six month and one-year report documenting survivability and any remedies required and implemented.

Vegetation Protocol for Proposed Hotel Marriott Steve Mercer, Coastal Transplants

Outlined below is the proposal for plant relocation and management for the hotel Marriott at South Padre Island.

All dune vegetation impacts will be mitigated on a one-to one basis with native dune plants. Plants on site will be retained if possible and commercially grown native plants supplemented as needed to provide 8,100 dune plants for the proposed dune mitigation area.

1. Site investigation

The entire 10,000 square foot area of disturbance will be investigated for frontal dune vegetation for relocation.

Frontal dune species and densities will be sampled across the front of the existing frontal dune. A total of five random one-meter square areas will be sampled on the current frontal dune transecting the dune parallel to the ocean.

Non- frontal dune areas to be disturbed will be sampled along a center line perpendicular to the ocean with a total of five random one meter square areas to determine species and densities consistent with frontal dune sampling and capable of relocation.

The two data sets will be combined to extrapolate the number and species of plants to be relocated.

2. Relocation

All plants located within the frontal dune area will be moved from the area of disturbance to the mitigation area. Species capable of direct relocation will be moved directly to the mitigation area. Species not capable of direct relocation will be taken to an off-site propagation facility for propagation to return to the site upon completion of the new frontal dune.

Upon completion of the new frontal dune, all plants suitable for relocation will be moved from the building, pool, and deck area to be disturbed to the new frontal dune area or to a propagation facility until propagated, fully rooted, and then returned to the new frontal dune area.

in the dune mitigation area. The final dune mitigation contours are provided in the attached plan, and will reach an elevation of +14 feet NGVD, 2 feet higher than the proposed retaining wall.

The project includes construction of a new retaining wall to be located 42 feet landward of the Historic Building Line and 78 feet landward of the Line of Vegetation. The retaining wall design is intended to collapse under wave attack.

The existing retaining wall on the site is located 86.7 feet landward of the Historic Building Line. The proposed retaining wall is 44.7 feet seaward of the existing retaining wall. Both structures are well landward of the adjoining retaining wall to the south, located on the Tiki Condominium property, and the existing retaining wall to the north at Clayton's Beach Bar and Grill.

The proposed hotel and swimming pool are located landward of the existing retaining wall on the site.

Deck and Walkover

The proposed deck will be constructed at +14 foot NGVD and extend seaward from the existing retaining wall to the alignment of the proposed retaining wall, which will have an elevation of +12 NGVD. The deck is approximately 50 feet seaward of the existing retaining wall on the northern property boundary and 44.7 feet seaward of the existing retaining wall on the southern boundary. The deck area totals 6,990 square feet.

The entire proposed Marriott Hotel deck will be located further landward than the existing retaining wall and deck at Clayton's Beach Bar and Grill, and further landward of the retaining wall and structures on the Tiki Condominium site.

The walkover will extend from the proposed retaining wall approximately 78 feet seaward to a position coterminous with the existing Line of Vegetation. The seaward end of the walkover shall not extend seaward of the Line of Vegetation, as determined by a new survey to be conducted 30 days prior to the commencement of construction. The survey and updated dune mitigation plan will be provided to the GLO and City for review and final approval prior to commencement of construction.

Dune Mitigation Area

The dune mitigation area extends from the proposed retaining wall seaward to a position approximately 61 feet to the Line of Vegetation along the northern boundary and 78 feet to the Line of Vegetation along the southern boundary. The dune mitigation area shall not extend seaward of the Line of Vegetation, as determined by a new survey to be conducted 30 days prior to the commencement of construction. The survey and updated dune mitigation plan will be provided to the GLO and City for review and final approval prior to commencement of construction.

The dune mitigation area will encompass approximately 8,100 square feet and will be vegetated by Steve Mercer, Coastal Transplants Company. Mr. Mercer will install 8,100 native dune plants

Memorandum

Peter A. Ravella Consulting, LLC

To: Patrick Barrineau, SPI Shoreline Director
Fr: Peter Ravella, Principal
Cc: Barry Patel, Mayor SPI, Natalie Bell, GLO
Dt: July 5, 2016
Re: Marriott Hotel Memo in Support of the Beach Dune Permit, Shoreline Task Force Meeting of July 11

Purpose: This memo is offered in support of the pending BD Permit application for the proposed Marriott Hotel,

Existing Site Conditions

As reflected on the attached site plan dated July 6, 2016, the existing site is located on South Padre Island immediately south of Clayton's Beach Bar and Grill and immediately north of the Tiki Condominium complex. The site is currently undeveloped with an existing concrete retaining wall on site. The site has no structures and the proposed improvements, with the exception of a deck and walkover, are located landward of the existing retaining wall. There are no dunes or dune vegetation on the site landward of the existing retaining wall.

The proposed development includes a hotel and swimming pool, both landward of the existing retaining wall, and will therefore have will no impact of existing dunes or the erosion rate. The proposed deck and walkover, as described below are located seaward of the existing retaining wall. These improvements will impact dunes and dune vegetation and the proposal includes a dune mitigation area of 8,100 square feet, 8,100 native dune plants, and a total mitigation dune volume of 2,080 cubic yards.

MITIGATION DUNE DETAILS

- Dune base width: 68 feet
- Dune base length: 140 feet
- Dune base elevation: +5 feet NGVD
- Dune crest elevation: +14 feet NGVD
- Dune crest width: 10 feet
- Mitigation dune volume: 2,080 cubic yards
 - Retention of existing volume: 1,420 cubic yards
 - Dune mitigation volume: 660 cubic yards

DUNE IMPACT AND MITIGATION

- Vegetation disturbance: 6,990 square feet
- Dune volume impact: no sand volume will be removed from the beach/dune system
- Dune mitigation area: 8,100 square feet
- Native dune plants installed: 8,100
- Enhanced dune volume to provide dune elevation of +14' NGVD: 660 cubic yards

Retaining Wall

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: July 11, 2016

NAME & TITLE: Patrick Barrineau, Shoreline Director

ITEM

Discussion and possible action on beach plastics by interested citizens (Gluntz & Robey).

ITEM BACKGROUND

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____
Approved by Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____

Comments:

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

Plastic Straws Ban on South Padre Island

Articles in Support:

Cities that have banned plastic straws:

Tampa Bay, FL <http://www.tampabay.com/news/localgovernment/treasure-island-moves-to-ban-plastic-straws-from-beach/2254495>

Miami Beach, FL <http://www.miaminewtimes.com/news/miami-beach-has-banned-plastic-straws-6547654>

Vancouver, Canada http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2016/04/07/tofino-straws_n_9636354.html

Child in Cape Coral, Florida advocates to ban plastic straws and use alternatives.

<http://www.news-press.com/story/news/local/cape-coral/2016/06/27/child-pursues-plastic-pollution-problem/86426150/>

<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/plastic-straws-and-the-environment/>

Advocacy Organizations

<http://thelastplasticstraw.org/>

<http://saveourshores.org/what-we-do/ban-plastic-straws/>

Alternatives to plastic straws

<http://www.iustartifacts.net/paperstraws.html>

<http://thelastplasticstraw.org/resources/>

You Are What You Eat With: Why Saying Yes to Plastic Straws is a Big NO for the Planet

Madison Montgomery

September 26, 2014

Described as an “obesity epidemic,” the booming growth of overweight peoples worldwide has caused an upward trend in those with diabetes, heart disease, strokes, and even certain kinds of cancer. To help combat this recent trend, the saying “You are what you eat!” has become a popular slogan that is used to help give a simple to understand (though incredibly vague) idea of what is healthy for the average person to consume. Though it is important for us to focus on destroying this epidemic and the life-threatening diseases it can cause, there is another unhealthy addiction that we as humans tend to overlook, and it can also be observed in the comfort of our favorite restaurants.

Each day, humans produce and utilize 500,000,000 straws and...

Wait. Are we talking about a straw addiction here? Yes, and in response to that follow up question, "who cares?!" In short, you should!

Straws (along with other plastics) are super destructive when discarded into the environment. Seeing as how most people tend to see straws as a simple way to avoid "germs" on restaurant glasses (Really guys? You'll eat off of previously used plates, spoons, and forks, but glasses are the main priority?), straws are often left to float on the surface of the ocean where they slowly degrade into a toxic mess or are consumed by confused organisms.

In the last 25 years, over 6 million straws and stirrers were removed from beaches during annual cleaning events. Add this to the minefield of plastics that are swept away from ocean shores by wave action or other forms of water runoff, and you're looking at the destruction of planet earth's seas.

Perhaps it's time to realize that HOW we eat (or drink, for that matter) is just as important as WHAT we eat. Here are four things that each of us should remember before we accept our waiter or waitress' offer to use straws.

You Are What You Eat With: Why Saying Yes to Plastic Straws is a Big NO for the Planet

1. Straws Rank in the Top 10 for Marine Debris

Constituting more than 90 percent of all trash floating in the world's oceans, plastic products, in general, are considered to be the most detrimental man-made item in the oceans. When ranking all plastic products, straws never fail to make it onto the Ocean Conservancy's top 10 most collected items at beach cleanups. In fact, the 2014 list ranked straws as the number five most popular found item behind bottle caps, wrappers, and cigarette butts.

What's sad about this fact is that while items such as plastic bags can be used over and over again (though most people don't seem to utilize this fact...), straws are a one-time-use product. Mainly found in restaurants, straws can't be washed as they can easily melt and leak toxic chemicals onto other dishes. Why even bother to use something if it can only be used once?

You Are What You Eat With: Why Saying Yes to Plastic Straws is a Big NO for the Planet

2. Petroleum Plastics Last Forever

So plastic is pretty destructive, but what exactly is so bad about it?

Well, since we're focusing on straws here, let's talk about what these plastic drinking devices are made of. Straws consist of the petroleum bi-product polypropylene, which is essentially the same stuff that fuels our cars. (And we put that in our mouths? Ew!) This bi-product does not easily degrade naturally in the environment, and ends up floating across the oceans until it is consumed by some aquatic organism.

According to the Plastic Pollution Coalition, "Every bit of plastic that has ever been created still exists, including the small amount that has been incinerated and has become toxic particulate matter."

In 2012, over 32 million tons of plastic were discarded with most of it ending up in our oceans. These plastics were then either consumed by aquatic organisms or sucked up into oceanic gyres where human waste products accumulate and float as make-shift islands ... forever. When plastics, such as straws, do begin to degrade, they release harmful toxins that can pollute aquatic ecosystems and ultimately destroy the environment.

You Are What You Eat With: Why Saying Yes to Plastic Straws is a Big NO for the PlanetBandWithBlog.com

3. Straws are Easily Swept Up Into Gyres

In oceanography, the term “gyre” refers to any large, circular ocean current caused by the combination of the planet’s rotation and Earth’s wind pattern. The circular movement of gyres draws in debris that, eventually, becomes trapped. As more and more debris accumulates, garbage patches form and – seeing as how most oceanic trash is composed of plastics – float forever. You thought Sharknado was terrifying, well the Strawnado is worse.

The most notable garbage patch in the ocean’s today is the Great Pacific Ocean Garbage Patch, which is estimated to be roughly the size of continent. The patch contains about 100 million tons of debris with about 80 percent of that debris originating from products that are used in land-based activities. This indefinitely includes straws used for drinking. When concentrated in such large quantities, the trash collected in the vortex can only break down partially. Once these objects do begin to break down, they leach toxins into the ocean, contaminating marine food chains. With mercury poisoning already soiling your beloved fish, how would you feel if you knew that plastics are now pleasuring your taste buds?

You Are What You Eat With: Why Saying Yes to Plastic Straws is a Big NO for the PlanetNOAA

4. Straws and Other Plastics Can Kill Marine Life

Over 1,000,000 seabirds fall victim to plastic consumption annually. In fact, the viral image of the stomach contents of an albatross chick shows the sad and painful result of human errors when it comes to properly disposing (and reusing) items made of plastic. Small straws (such as the ones that accompany juice packets) are often what cause the deaths of sea birds as they can easily be picked up, maneuvered, and swallowed. These straws can then block the airway of birds and cause them to choke.

Birds are not the only victims of plastic consumption. In the North Pacific alone, about 12,000 to 24,000 tons of plastics end up in the digestive systems of fish. While this directly impacts the health of fish, the consumption of plastic products is then transferred into the food chain where animals such as whales, dolphins, and seals are affected. Worldwide, about 100,000 marine mammals unintentionally consume plastic products each year.

Turtles have been observed eating twice as much plastic as they did 25 years ago. Plastic items can easily block a marine reptile’s stomach or even puncture their intestinal walls which ultimately leads to starvation as the digestive system is unable to gain proper nutrients. Furthermore, toxins that are released by partially digested plastics can disrupt an animal’s reproductive system. This has been observed in sea turtles, and since most sea turtles are considered to be endangered, this spells bad news for future populations.

You Are What You Eat With: Why Saying Yes to Plastic Straws is a Big NO for the PlanetEcoWatch
How to Combat Straws

The easiest way to eliminate the quantity of straws in the oceans is to simply stop using single-use plastics.

You might be thinking, “But restaurants will continue to buy straws in bulk. What good will my rejection do?”

Considering the fact that more and more restaurants are using more environmentally-friendly products such as plates, cups, and straws, your refusal to use petroleum based straws can actually do an awful lot!

If you simply can't put down your bendy straws at home, then try using alternative products. Almost all grocery stores will carry some brand of straw that are washing-machine safe and reusable. Other companies also use bamboo, glass, metal, and even plant-based materials to create their products.

To take your commitment to ditching the straw one step further, take the online pledge to do so through The Ocean Conservancy's Take the Last Straw Challenge. The pledge aims to persuade the public to reduce and, eventually, cease their utilization of straws as they go out to eat. Do your part, and show us that you've had the last straw with plastic pollution!

Together, we can take action and #CrushPlastic once and for all for the sake of marine life – and importantly, us.

**CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
SHORELINE TASK FORCE
AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

MEETING DATE: July 11, 2016

NAME & TITLE: Patrick Barrineau, Shoreline Director

ITEM

Discussion and possible action on new public bathroom plan for public beach access. (Nixon)

ITEM BACKGROUND

BUDGET/FINANCIAL SUMMARY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOAL

LEGAL REVIEW

Sent to Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____
Approved by Legal: YES: _____ NO: _____

Comments:

RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS







