

Letter to the Editor:

Building Heights

Boaters for Dana Point Harbor

Many people think that some of the buildings down in the harbor are already 60' tall, in fact at one of the recent Harbor Association meetings OC Dana Point Harbor (department) Director Brad Gross told the participants that Harpoon Henrys and Coffee Importers is already 45 or 47' tall.

Zoning for the harbor dates back to the creation of the harbor and limits building heights to 35'. It is not clear how the Harpoon Henrys building was built in excess of this but it only comes in at 39'. From the waterfront the building seems imposing. That is probably why most people feel it is already 45, 47 or 60' tall, but it isn't. However, buildings could be built up to 60' high if the County is successful with their commercial expansion plans. OC DPH is trying to jam past the City Council and the Coastal Commission Commissioners language that would essentially work around the Commissions efforts to keep the building heights consistent with the surrounding community. The current zoning in the surrounding area is 26-31' for residential, 35' for commercial and 40' for the town center which has not yet been started.

The hearing for this important community issue is next Monday in the City Hall Chambers. Additional information can be found at www.boaters4dph.com. In the absence of citizen involvement the County of Orange will dictate what the character or your community is; you better get used to looking around tall buildings.