

## ***THIS WEEK IN YOUR GRUNION:***

- *Police Commander To Retire / P. 3*
- *Selleck Development Delayed / P. 5*
- *Opera Stages World Premiere / P. 11*
- *Jewels Of The Night Set / P. 14*

# AZETTE

VOL. 20 NO. 24 JUNE 12, 1997

## ***CORPS STUDY GOES FORWARD***

# **New Options Studied For Peninsula Beach**

**By Harry Saltzgaver**  
Executive Editor

Residents of the Peninsula were disappointed to hear that Rep. Steve Kuykendall's bill to bring Subsidence Fund money to Long Beach would not get a hearing this year.

But they were downright dismayed to find out that the bill deals only with the Naples seawalls and not erosion of the Peninsula beach, according to Brig Knauer, president of the Alamos Bay Beach Preservation Group (ABBPG). After literally years of trying to work through the city bureaucracy, it may be time for the Peninsula to try another approach, Knauer said.

"We've been trying to work with the city," Knauer said.

"Last September, we met with (Third District Councilman Doug) Drummond to be sure we were part of AB 16. In April, we asked for a meeting with Kuykendall to explain that this is a community issue, and that we be included. We were assured we would have a say, but that has not happened.

"Now it may be time to go past the city. We're looking at trying to generate interest from groups like the Sierra Club (because the Peninsula is a grunion spawning ground), and may go directly to the State Lands Commission. We need to do something."

In the past three years, the city has spent about \$500,000 moving sand to the Peninsula to

*(Continued on Page 29)*

June 12, 1997

## Peninsula

(Continued from Page 1)

rebuild the beach. But waves continue to cause erosion, and Knauer said the group now is seeking \$3 million to \$5 million to create a "perched" beach — an artificial reef of sand about 1,000 feet off shore, with sand fill between the reef and the shore.

One area moving forward is an Army Corps of Engineers study begun in 1995 after being sponsored by Congressman Steve Horn. A preliminary study has proven positive, and the Corps is moving ahead with a full-blown study to decide whether the federal government should be involved in mitigating the beach erosion. Darrell Buxton, Corps study manager in the Los Angeles District, said a feasibility study has been authorized, and now awaits a commitment from Long Beach to pay for half of the 18-month study — about \$500,000.

That money will be part of the next budget request from the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department, director Ralph Cryder said.

"I have to go forward with the Corps in hopes of finding a solution," Cryder said. "We can't just sit back and hope that Kuykendall or someone at the state will find the money."

Kuykendall's bill was designed to use money paid to the Subsidence Fund by oil companies to repair damage caused by land sinking after oil drilling. Both Naples and the Peninsula have experienced subsidence, but state officials said the sinking stopped before 1971, when the fund was formed.

the fund was formed.

That bill was pulled from committee hearings last month, when it appeared use of the money would require a way to pay the fund back. Last week, legislative aide Andrea Graham said the bill would be reworked for the next legislative session and that Kuykendall planned to find alternative sources of money. None of the discussions addressed the Peninsula beach erosion.

Money for the Corps study, if approved by the City Council, would not be available until Oct. 1. That means it would not be complete until mid-1999, Buxton said. Even if the study shows the federal government should rebuild the beach, the project still would have to be approved by Congress.

• • • • •