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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Doheny Interpretive Association Opposes Ban on Beach Fires

(Dana Point, CA – April 3, 2013) The Doheny State Beach Interpretive Association vehemently opposes the South Coast Air Quality Management District's proposed removal of beach fire rings and ban on outdoor fires on Orange County and Los Angeles beaches. Further, DSBIA questions the motives and logic of the California Coastal Commission that was about to deny the request by wealthy Newport Beach homeowners, and instead passed the issue over to the SC-AQMD. "This is a decision with statewide implications; if it passes here, it could spread up and down the state," stated Bill Brooks, President of DSBIA, "It's an attempt to steal away the historical and cultural traditions of families and friends gathering around a beach fire for warmth, cooking a meal, and camaraderie. Walk through Doheny State Beach, or drive by the south day-use area on PCH nearly any evening and you'll see families and friends gathered together around a fire."

California State Parks Orange Coast District Superintendent Brian Ketterer (Doheny is in the Orange Coast parks district) spoke against the ban at an AQMD public consultation hearing held in Diamond Bar on March 28th. "Recreational open fires bond friendships," said Ketterer. "It promotes positive mental health. There's a balance between air quality and quality of life."

DSBIA Board Officer and spokesperson, Ed Neely stated, "This appears to be a move by a small cadre of wealthy beach property owners in a well-heeled area of the county to deny the pleasures of a beach fire to the wide socio-economic sweep of the general public. It's a 'Not In My Back Yard' attitude when their back yard is public property and the activity they oppose is steeped in cultural tradition. Beach fires have been held along our coast for decades before these people moved into the area, but now they want the rules changed to benefit their wishes. Imagine visiting or camping in any of our parks and being prohibited from having a campfire, even a barbecue."

DSBIA urges its members, supporters and friends to contact the South Coast Air Quality Management District at 21865 Copley Dr., Diamond Bar, CA 91765 to state their opposition to the ban. Further, contact your city, county and state representatives asking for their vocal opposition to the beach fire ban. Lastly, use your on-line search engine to find and sign the "Keep the Fire Rings Petition" opposing the ban on beach fires and fire rings.

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