

# Survey: Captivans Say No To \$24.3m Plan To Bury Cables

by Anne Mitchell

The Captiva Civic Association surveyed all property owners on Captiva regarding the proposed burying of powerlines and cable lines on the island.

Of the 1,133 total property owners surveyed, more than 50 percent responded, "a remarkable response," according to Paul Garvey, the association's executive director.

Only about 12 percent of the 1,133 property owners indicated that they would approve such a plan.

Garvey said Lee County staff has indicated that 67 percent of all property owners would have to approve the plan in a petition process before a taxing plan could go to the county for approval. Under state law, Garvey noted, non-responders are counted as "no" votes in the petition process for a new taxing arrangement.

The project construction and design costs of \$16,498,724 were made available by Lee County staff, based on current construction estimates prepared by Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) and Comcast Cable. Project management and 10-year financing costs were also provided by Lee County government.

Garvey said the combined total estimated project costs of \$24,311,097 would be apportioned among all Captiva property owners based on taxable value.

Primary concerns expressed by responders were cost, and the uncertainty that burying these utilities would actually improve storm protection on a barrier island such as Captiva where above ground transformers would be subject to flooding. Also, several respondents from South Seas Resort expressed concern that they would be required to pay part of the cost, even though existing overhead lines at South Seas would remain above ground.

Survey results have been separately calculated into four zones; Blind Pass to the first "S" Curve; between "S" Curves; The Village, and South Seas. The results are well below the required 67 percent for every zone, with South Seas property owners being the least interested with only 4.8 percent approving the plan,

according to Garvey.

Results of the survey have been transmitted to Lee County as well as the utilities involved. Survey findings have also been provided to the Captiva Community Panel, the group promoting this project, and will be posted on the CCA Website: [www.captivacivicaassociation.com](http://www.captivacivicaassociation.com).

## CAPTIVA CIVIC ASSOCIATION SHOW OF INTEREST SURVEY SUMMARY OF RESULTS

### Survey Question:

Based on the available facts presented, if the (\$24,311.097) project costs were roughly equal to those known today, would you vote to support a new tax for all Captiva property owners to underground certain overhead electric powerlines and TV cable lines on Captiva? YES or NO

June 15, 2007

Category	SURVEYS MAILED OUT		SURVEYS RETURNED		PROPERTY OWNERS Supporting New Tax		RESPONDENTS INDICATING "YES"		RESPONDENTS INDICATING "NO"	
	Number	% of Total Property Owners <small>(Note 1)</small>	Number	% of Total Prop. Owners by Zone <small>(Note 2)</small>	Number	% of Total Prop. Owners by Zone <small>(Note 3)</small>	Number	% of Total Respondents by Zone	Number	% of Total Respondents by Zone
<b>All Respondents - All Zones</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>50.2%</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>12.3%</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>24.4%</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>75.6%</b>
<b>ZONE 1</b> Blind Pass Bridge to 1st "S" Curve	141	12.4%	72	51.1%	22	15.6%	22	30.6%	50	69.4%
<b>ZONE 2</b> Between "S" Curves	90	7.9%	55	61.1%	26	28.9%	26	47.3%	29	52.7%
<b>ZONE 3</b> Village	318	28.1%	160	50.3%	63	19.8%	63	39.4%	97	60.6%
<b>ZONE 4</b> South Seas Resort	584	51.5%	282	48.3%	28	4.8%	28	9.9%	254	90.1%

**Captiva Civic Association, Inc.**

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**Notes:**

1. The CCA mailed survey info packets to all property owners May 9, 2007, requesting responses back by June 8th. For more information, go to: [www.CaptivaCivicAssociation.com](http://www.CaptivaCivicAssociation.com)
2. All %s as a % of total property owners responding per zone (one survey response return postcard provided for each Tax STRAP Parcel)
3. All %s as a % of responses per zone. Lee County staff indicates that 67% of ALL property owners would have to approve the plan in order to propose official Lee County approval of the (\$24,311,097) underground project taxing arrangement of the Captiva Community Panel. Per state statutes, non-responders are considered as "NO" votes.