



Public Comments
City Council Meeting
October 21, 2020

Email aclausen07@hotmail.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # Agenda Item 8 - Demolition request Hacinenda de Vega

Subject Read Out Loud Oppose Demolition

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Alexa Clausen

Escondido Resident False

Street Address 2030 Ridgecrest Place

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92029

Comments I wish to oppose the issuing of a demolition permit for the Paxton adobe. I authored a brief history of this building in 2014 for the annual Escondido Adobe Home Tour. In April, I submitted my research to City Planning to provide the historical context of this property and to demonstrate that the Paxton adobe meets all of the City Criterion for recognition as a local historic landmark. This adobe and property has been in commercial use by small business owners for the majority of its existence as it evolved from a residence to a family operated nursery owned a landscape designer, and of course, it was a famous Mexican restaurant for many decades. This adobe building is a historic landmark. Within its wall our Escondido community hosted endless meetings, family gatherings of cultural and social importance and where many generations of Escondido families created memories and those who came to Escondido for this same experience did the same. After World War 2, construction of residential neighborhoods were in demand and Escondido was no exception. Citrus grower and land developer, L.R. Green developed the Las Palmas neighborhood with the caveat that all homes were to be built from adobe. The Paxton adobe was its first residence and the cornerstone for the adobe construction revival in Escondido. Decades of its ownership are rooted in Escondido's rich Latino history -- which is very under-represented in Escondido's Historic Preservation efforts. The adobe is associated with a skilled adobe mason, Abel Sanchez and his family because they built this structure. The commercial development of the adobe expanded significantly when Pat Brillo Osorio, a well- established multi-generation Latino restaurateur made this location his showcase for the best of Mexican cuisine. Years later, even more popular restaurant was developed by Ben and Esperanza Cueva who purchased the Pat Brillo location. The Cueva family's Los Amigos restaurant became famous for cultural, social and family events by connecting the experience of outdoor/patio dining ambiance with the larger Escondido community. In the process it became an institution on South Escondido Blvd. The preservation of the adobe will symbolize our community's respect for its heritage --which it deserves as the cornerstone of South Escondido Blvds neighborhood and as a beloved community gathering place. Permits should be based on the understanding of Escondido's unique history that entices people to it as a City of Choice. Strong identity with a sense of place grows a City of Choice, and not the demolition of a beloved historic landmark. Thank you.

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 162.201.148.230

Email bsolley@bapsrestaurant.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 8

Subject Support of building Townhomes

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Brad Solley

Escondido Resident False

Street Address 2680 S. Escondido Blvd.

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92025

Comments Please read our email out loud in support of Agenda number 8. We (BAPS! Restaurant) are definitely in agreement for the tear down of the old building and the building of townhomes. Homeless activity as well as heroin users in the neighborhood are at a high, and I know many of them hide out in that lot. We find needles in our parking lot so frequently that I've ordered a Sharps containers for my staff's safety as I don't want one that was thrown away, to tear through a trash bag and accidentally stab them! The old building that's supposedly a Historic building, used to be a home, but was gutted and converted into a commercial kitchen. It's falling apart and serves no function as is, nor do I believe it's something that anyone would ever want to tour/see around for an extended period in the future. It's construction is nothing remarkable, and condemning it would likely be the best course of action. We want to beautify Southern Escondido, and to do that, we need to bring in new quality homes, clean up the existing homes and push out the drug use that's plaguing our community. The hotel next to us is in the process of trying to push out the drug users as well, and last I checked, have plans to convert to a Best Western. Currently, police visit this hotel multiple times per day, as there is quite a bit of criminal activity in this area. Thanks! Brad Solley BAPS! Restaurant www.BAPSrestaurant.com 949-393-2723

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=50f07621-baf0-488e-9f5d-0a047eaa315b>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 174.65.117.32

Email ahayes.SOHOSanDiego@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 8

Subject Read Out Loud - 2608 S. Escondido Blvd

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Bruce Coons, Save Our Heritage Organisation

Escondido Resident False

Street Address 2476 San Diego Avenue

City San Diego

State CA

Zip 92110

Comments Monday, October 19, 2020 City of Escondido Mayor McNamera and City Council 201 North Broadway Escondido, CA 92025-2798 Re: October 21st agenda, Item 8. 2608 S. Escondido Blvd. Mayor McNamera and Councilmembers, After reviewing the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), the Historic Structure Assessment for 2608 South Escondido Boulevard, various staff reports, and commenting at both the July Historic Resources Commission and September Planning Commission meetings, Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO) continues to find the Paxton Adobe a unique and significant resource, which is intact and eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) under Criteria 1, 2 and 3 as well as the City of Escondido under all seven criteria. Additionally, rather than making any decisions now, SOHO recommends sending this back to the HPC for another discussion and vote, which will hopefully result in more Commissioner participation. SOHO continues to assert an MND does not meet the City of Escondido's legal requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared to strategize ways to preserve the adobe structure as well as devise appropriate mitigation for such a significant resource. Potentially subject to a legal challenge by SOHO, the Paxton Adobe warrants more than HABS documentation and salvaging of materials. SOHO maintains that Findings 1 and 2 have not been made because the City's historical inventory would be diminished through loss of the Paxton Adobe and not all feasible alternatives have been evaluated. Finding 1 is not met because the Paxton Adobe is a KEY link in the continuity of adobe house construction for the southwestern United States as well as a model home and office for the Longview Acres Estates subdivision. The staff report does not appear to understand the contextual significance of this specific resource with regard to its various periods of significance, evolutions of use, and association with significant people to Escondido's history. Other adobe resources cannot tell the story of the Paxton adobe because it is unique within the larger historical context and significant beyond its period of construction and style. The second Finding has also not been met

because there are options other than demolition. Further, stating the Paxton adobe cannot be seismically retrofitted is misguided because stabilized adobe resources are inherently stable as well as simple and cost effective to retrofit. SOHO continues to encourage obtaining an opinion from respected expert, Tony Court. SOHO finds the Paxton adobe at 2608 South Escondido Blvd. to be a unique and significant resource that is eligible for the CRHR under Criteria 1, 2, and 3 at the local and state levels. This cultural link represents the continuity of building adobe houses throughout the decades within the entire southwestern region. SOHO recommends sending this resource back to the HPC for a second discussion and vote, to enable more Commissioner participation in order to inform a decision by the Council. A MND does NOT meet the City's legal requirement under CEQA and SOHO contends Findings 1 and 2 have not been met. Challengeable under CEQA, SOHO asserts an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared for the Paxton adobe, which must include alternatives to preserve the full adobe building. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, Bruce Coons Executive Director Save Our Heritage Organisation

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=603aa35d-4ed1-42f9-a2e8-c7462b9ddd4e>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment-form.aspx>

From IP Address: 68.111.220.144

Email carolcornelius33@gmail.com

Meeting type City Council

Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Item # 8.

Subject Historic Adobe Demolition

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Carol Cornelius

Escondido Resident True

Street Address 1615 Dichoso Drive

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92025

Comments I oppose demolition of adobe structure (former home/restaurant) on South Escondido Blvd. I oppose construction of condominiums at this site. THIS IS A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESERVE A HISTORIC SITE. This 74 year old adobe structure and grounds represents a part of our city history, represents an important era and style of building which should not be lost. We have a chance to preserve a post World War II style of building, adobe, unique to our region. This site has many advantages. It is charming from the street, with a beautiful entry way. It has a spacious back patio/grounds with many possibilities, to accommodate gatherings, as an event venue, for civic and/or private occasions. It can accommodate daytime and evening activities. It is a place for people of all ages to appreciate what an adobe building is, from inside and outside. It could be similar to Rancho Buena Vista in Vista, although smaller building, which is beautiful. PLEASE DO NOT DENY THE PEOPLE OF ESCONDIDO this chance to preserve and develop this site with so much potential. Carol Cornelius An Escondido Native and lifelong resident

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5324&pageid=3185&rid=80a203c6-d80b-4b87-9c15-06f16e2c8747>

Email carolrea@aol.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 8

Subject 2608 S. Escondido Blvd.

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Carol Rea

Escondido Resident True

Street Address 420 E. 7th Ave.

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92025

Comments This is a very significant structure in multiple ways and its demolition will be a great loss to the city. At the Planning Commission, the most often made comments expressed by the commissioners were as follows along with my answers: If the building is so historically significant, why wasn't it on the local register or on any survey? Please remember that this property was honored by the City Council during Historic Preservation Month just five years ago, in 2015. In Escondido, a building must have the approval of the owner in order to be placed on the local register. If the owner doesn't apply, it's not likely to happen. Many owners think that only century-old buildings qualify and don't think of their buildings are "special enough" – even though buildings only need to be 50 years old and not even that old in some cases. Surveys are expensive and can be time-consuming. The city hasn't done a survey in about 30 years and we are way overdue. It's very likely that the Paxton House would have been included, had we kept up with the need for new surveys. Why did the HPC only vote 2-2 to deny the demolition permit? As you know, I'm the chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission. On the day that the demo permit was on the agenda, two of our commissioners were not able to attend and I recused myself because I had responded to the multiple errors in the developer's Mitigated Negative Declaration last April. I have no doubt that the vote would have been significantly greater in opposition to the demolition permit had all commissioners been involved in the discussion and voted. The buildings are dilapidated and too much has changed over time; it would be too expensive to repair. These were excuses presented by the developer. I personally walked through the property in February and I saw that the buildings were in surprisingly good condition. Unfortunately, the owner/developer hasn't adequately protected the property from vagrants, so there has been some recent damage, something preservationists call "demolition by neglect." It's true that the Paxton model home for the Longview Acres development has evolved over time to become a well-loved Mexican restaurant, but according to Preservation principles, that's all part of its history as the kitchen addition and most of the minor modifications to the exterior to convert it to a restaurant occurred more than 50 years ago. That said, I believe that a compromise is possible by removing the large kitchen to reduce the footprint of the building to allow more room for residential units. The developer is saying that it would cost \$1 million or more to restore the adobe but that's simply not true. I have yet to see a detailed written estimate – or

any written estimate - and I don't believe any recognized professional with significant experience in adobe construction was ever consulted. Besides, saving the building would mean eliminating the expense of demolition and having an already built community space for the surrounding apartments. The Weir Brothers office at Veterans Village up the street is a prime example of incorporating a historic building into a new development as was the oldest gas station on Escondido Boulevard, preserved as a community room for the adjacent Las Ventanas Apartments in 2008. The Hacienda de Vega/Paxton House is also a key representation of our Hispanic built heritage that is constantly dwindling – Ismael Sanchez was the tremendously talented mason and adobe construction responsible for the Paxton House construction. Its conversion to a popular Mexican restaurant in 1962 and transfer to the well-respected Cueva family ten years later was significant at the time. Its style relates to the Mexican hacienda. A modest home built in the forties by the Borjas family with early roots in Escondido was recently bulldozed for a parking lot – at a time when we are concerned about having adequate low-income housing. We can't allow this to keep happening. Please save the Paxton House for future generations.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=04120cff-58c5-4620-8738-6e67034e5574>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 205.142.110.3

Email mickcalarco@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 8

Subject Read outloud

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Dominic (Mick) Calarco

Escondido Resident True

Street Address 9528 Sage Hill Way

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92026

Comments Dear Mayor and Escondido City Councilmembers: My name is Mick Calarco. I am a 53-year Escondido resident. My father, Ross Calarco, was a 38-year employee of the City of Escondido. I love my city, and I am passionate about historic preservation. The Council has the opportunity to take action tonight – to do something important and meaningful – to preserve a unique and irreplaceable piece of Escondido history. I am emailing today to implore the City Council to reject the request to demolish the Paxton adobe located at 2608 S. Escondido Blvd (item 8 on your agenda). I have devoted much of my adult life to education and historic preservation - specifically the conservation of all types earthen architecture - including adobe. I have spent the past 18 years working for the City of Carlsbad Parks & Recreation Department, managing Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park - an 1880s - 1930s adobe structure and National Historic Landmark. Before that, I worked with the City of San Diego, National Park Service and the Getty Conservation Institute to develop and implement a conservation plan for the North Wing of the San Diego Presidio. I have a MA in Historic Preservation from Goucher College, and my thesis focused on post-WWII modern adobe preservation in Southern California. I have seen and visited the Paxton adobe many times in my life - both as a child dining at Los Amigos, and as a professional and academic surveying adobe homes in that community. I can tell you, without reservation or hesitation, that the Paxton adobe is significant and worthy of preservation. Please do not allow developers to demolish this piece of unique architecture and Escondido history. As you know, adobes are disappearing at an alarming rate, and in California, few (if any) people are building with adobe any longer due to restrictive building codes and overwhelming costs. This makes preservation of the Paxton adobe even more important. Encourage the developer to go back to the drawing board and reconsider their plans - there must be way to incorporate preservation and new development. I speak from personal and professional experience - adobe construction preservation is realistic and possible. There are several architects and contractors in the region that specialize in this technology. I know you are familiar with all

the reasons why the Paxton adobe is significant. If the Council needs to be reminded, I encourage them to revisit Alexa Clauson's, "Response to the Historic Structure Assessment for the Paxton Adobe, Located at 2608 So. Escondido Blvd." It is a well-researched and written report that strategically and purposefully articulates all the reasons for making the decision to preserve - not to demolish. This report should make the Council's vote to deny the request clear. Thank you for your consideration . . . I know these are tough decisions to make, but I trust that you will do what is right and make the decision to deny the demolition request. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions, or if I may be of any assistance to the Council. Sincerely, Mick Calarco

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=c0fafa5e-8939-4f17-b28b-be52ac1c6bc4>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 76.172.79.129

Email dzech@cdccommercial.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 8

Subject 2608 S Escondido Blvd

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Don Scott Zech

Escondido Resident False

Street Address 11440 W Bernardo Ct, Suite 300

City San Diego

State ca

Zip 92127

Comments Like many long time Escondidians, I ate at the restaurant site when it was Los Amigos and of course later when it was Hacienda De Vega. What you might not have known is that I worked for years to help the Vega family to buy the property. I also did their 2nd and third locations in Carlsbad and Encinitas / Rancho Santa Fe. Unfortunately, we were never able to come to terms with the owners of the Escondido site. Additionally, the building is tiny and ALL of the seating was outside. Although during COVID that may be an advantage, it certainly was not ideal for a year around restaurant in normal times. Additionally, the kitchen and building had many problems and code deficiencies. I bring this up because I think it is important to understand that saving the building or putting another restaurant back into the property is a near impossibility. This project is an opportunity to continue with the city's vision along South Escondido Boulevard in addition to providing much-needed family housing. Additionally, the project has a nice design that gives a little tip of the hat to the Hacienda style of architecture which I think is a vast improvement of many of the projects in the neighborhood. Don Zech

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=57ebe285-4bd8-47c9-b7f7-1fd32b9512f8>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 98.176.91.102

Email erik@zedelmayer.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # Agenda item #8

Subject Read Aloud

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Erik and Christine Zedelmayer

Escondido Resident True

Street Address 2655 LAS PALMAS AVE

City ESCONDIDO

State United States

Zip 92025

Comments We are family that has a view of the subject site for over 15 years. We need our local government to stand up for preservation of historical sites, maintain a consistent feel to the neighborhood, and not be manipulated by corporations strictly out to increase their profit with a high density project, then move on to the next project with no long term commitment to the community. This is rural community, and the two existing condominium sites look completely out of place adjacent to one acre lot adobes on the backside. I would encourage the council to actually drive the backside of this community, where many local residents come to walk daily on the Las Palmas and Verda Ave loop. Please reduce the density on this next project, and require the builder to integrate and maintain the historical site into their plan, just as we do with our neighboring historic adobe homes. There was not even an appearance of the purchaser trying utilize the facility as a new restaurant, and long before Covid19 surfaced. As our community stewards, please preserve our local history, and require architectural choices that blend in with the local neighborhood. This is not downtown Escondido and the 3 story buildings are completely out-of-place here. Thank you to the council to support our community and historical sites instead of a builder solely out to maximize profit.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=730a55b2-f4d2-49bf-a300-954409193151>

SUBJECT: 2608 S Escondido Blvd former Hacienda de Vega Cafe.

QUALIFICATIONS: Submitted herewith is my professional opinion about the demolition of the subject. My qualifications include but are not limited to PhD in Urban Planning and Real Estate, MBA Housing & Real Estate.; Assoc Prof, Urban Planning U of Virginia including teaching classes in Preservation & Development, former Assoc Prof Real Estate San Diego State, former Lecturer U of San Diego in Real Estate, former consultant to Fannie Mae, San Diego County, Brevard County Loudoun County, Shell Oil, US Navy, former developer, former Realtor & appraiser, former environmental impact analyst at Caltrans, former owner of both a resort and a vessel on the Fed Register of Historic Places. Resident of City of Escondido.

I opine that my qualifications match or exceed those of the consultant hired by the developer, except that I do not charge for my services in this matter.

RECOMMENDATION: You are advised against granting a permit to demolish the subject improvement.

ANALYSIS: CONSULTANTS ERRORS & OMISSIONS Subject is a significant irreplaceable historic and cultural resource in our city. The studies that the applicant had prepared by a consultant are substantially in error. The primary adobe structure is the seminal structure that pioneered the building of historic homes in South Escondido. The original structure stands undamaged. The small annex appended to it does not in any way diminish the ability of the subject to display the design and building art that was the seminal & earliest harbinger of the Weir brothers nationally recognized adobe building programs to come in later years. There is no historic adobe or any other type of historic structure on the Escondido register that has not experienced some degree of modification or adaptation over the long years of existence. The developer's consultant is therefore seriously in error to opine that a 50+ year old minor modification and adaptive reuse disqualifies a structure as a historic resource.

The developer's consultant made a grave error in reporting that the subject would require financially infeasible repair and modifications in order to operate further. That is absolutely inaccurate. The State of California Historic Building Code would permit the subject to operate as it has as well as far into the future. My personal physical onsite inspection of the subject disclosed no structural deficiencies. In my opinion it would meet the seismic requirements for a historical structure: something that the developer's consultant does not consider or mention. He only uses metrics of current code.

A PLANNING MODEL FOR CURRENT TIMES As a historical artifact and planning model the Hacienda adobe presents as a unique resource in our city and in much of north San Diego County. It refers to open air marketplaces in many Hispanic countries. Its architecture, open air seating and the only known continuously financially viable outdoor cafe operating for decades in Escondido. The reason the cafe ceased operations is that the long term operators were evicted to promote and construct the proposed condo development. The cafe owner has relocated between Encinitas and Rancho Santa Fe: Escondido's loss.

As a land use planning model in these days of virus: every single guest seat is and always has been outdoors in all kinds of weather and the cafe has been financially viable for years before Covid-19.

CULTURAL RESOURCE The subject is a cultural resource with its adobe courtyard and architecture referring to Old Mexico and having been along with the probability of continuing as a constant venue for weddings and other functions of and for Escondido residents and groups. Its continuation also presents

a significant and impressive dining resource for the burgeoning condo population increase along S Escondido Avenue.

LANDMARK QUALITIES The final element to consider is the significance of the subject as a landmark. Center City Parkway runs directly in front of the subject and is at that point a major point of ingress and departure from the City as it blends into the 15 freeway within 1,000 lineal feet of its entrance/exit. the subject and its period architecture is visible from this face of the city - its most southerly entrance/exit to our boundaries.

CONCLUSION: A historical marker is not an adequate replacement for a very important part of Escondido History and its face to the public. It should not be vaporized in the rush to address our housing issues. There is no good reason to permit the destruction of the subject improvement and lose its significant public/cultural profile, landmark quality on its heavily traveled and visible location along with its deep historical significance. Escondido should not mortgage its soul in that manner.

Respectfully submitted

Errol Cowan, PhD

OFFER: Should the Council opt to reject the subject application or defer approval thereof I would be pleased to render further analysis or research and consulting pro bono regarding any matter referred to in this above missive under the city's direction.

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment-form.aspx>

From IP Address: 99.110.161.60

Email gaylepowers@sbcglobal.net

Meeting type City Council

Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Planning Case # 8.

Subject demolition of historic home

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name gayle powers

Escondido Resident False

Street Address 428 Encino Court

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92025

Comments The value of a historic land mark such as the home on the site can never be quantified or expressed in a dollar amount. It is priceless and can never be replaced and is such an important part of Escondido's history and culture. The preservation of the home could add so much to the condo project and be preserved in such a way incorporating a green space within the complex with some of the structure to remain considering it as public art. This could be a win win for all if the developer is willing to be compromise and Escondido City Council recognizes through their actions and vote no to destroy the building. Appears a workable design knowing the entire structure may not be saved but enough to enhance the overall project.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5324&pageid=3185&rid=2d13c642-29fe-4f64-ab20-ad6f22ca609b>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 73.176.52.46

Email spannjimmie@yahoo.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 8

Subject read out loud

Position In Favor

First and Last Name James Spann

Escondido Resident True

Street Address 2848 Oak Hill Drive

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92027

Comments As one of the two Historic Preservation commissioners in favor of the demolition of the property in question, I would like to express my unchanged opinion that the building is in extremely depressed condition. The property is an attractive nuisance and is currently a homeless camp further degrading its condition. While I am committed to saving our Historic resources, there is a point where we have to consider the cost - not only to restore, but on the ultimate use to the property. The proposed project is one of the best I have seen in my time on the Planning Commission, I attended the scoping meeting held in the Mitchell Room and I was impressed with its moderate density, overall aesthetics and the commemorative wall to be constructed of reclaimed materials from the site. I urge your approval of the project and any necessary permits to allow it to move forward. Thank You, James Spann Historic Preservation Commission

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=917260ff-9a7f-4eec-ad80-8e6a3714ae8b>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 72.169.96.139

Email mariaweirwerth@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 8

Subject Paxton Historic Adobe Demolition

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Maria Weir Werth

Escondido Resident False

Street Address 785 Tucker Road, Suite G, PMB 272

City Tehachapi

State CA

Zip 93561

Comments READ OUT LOUD: Dear Escondido City Council Members: When I saw the green tarp around the old Paxton adobe home my heart sank. I had a feeling then that the City was planning on tearing the building down. I called the City and was told that was not part of the plan. It's hard to believe that your planning department would be considering this move during a time of a massive world crisis. But what perfect time to get an unpopular thing passed when most people are more worried about staying alive than preserving the City's history. I grew up in Escondido and my father, Larry Weir, and uncle, Jack Weir, started building adobe homes in 1952 under the company name of Weir Brothers. I am very honored that the city chose to preserve one of my family's adobe homes just up the street from this proposed demolition. What is hard to believe is that the house on the chopping block is older and may be one of the oldest adobe homes in the City of Escondido among those which are from the era of mid-century adobe construction revival. I did not see that addressed in the study that was presented and it would seem an important part of this "assessment." The Historic Structure Assessment did mention that the Paxton home was built as a model home for adobe homes in the area. The house was an inspiration to builders and architects and the beginning of that adobe building era. That was one of the reasons my family came to Escondido. How can the authors justify that there is no historical significance when its existence produced a modified Spanish revival building style that spread throughout the city and into the surrounding areas including Poway, Encinitas, Rancho Santa Fe, Pala Mesa and beyond. I spent time in the Fall of 2018 in Escondido researching a book on my father's work in adobe construction. Initially, I was going to write a book on adobe construction in general but found so much history in just my father and uncle's work that I had to narrow the focus on their work. Adobe construction is a specialized trade and very few people are left to keep the legacy alive. That alone should make you take a second look at this project. That home or parts of it should be kept intact to preserve the history that is slipping away. After reading through the report used to substantiate your plans, it became obvious to me that the

authors have no adobe building expertise. The closest thing to adobe knowledge is a 2013 study for the Los Peñasquitos Adobe Drainage Project. Did that project include an assessment of the condition of its structure? In addressing the conclusion - that due to the lack of rebar the building is unstable - then every building built before the 1950's in the State of California (and beyond) would need to be torn down because they are unstable. In those days it is my understanding that the builders did use horizontal rebar every four courses or so when building adobe walls. They also used a twelve inch or more concrete bond beam across the top of the walls for added stability. The issue is vertical steel which didn't come into law until the 1970's. Have you ever tried remodeling an adobe home with sixteen-inch-thick walls? These buildings can take an enormous amount of shaking and have done quite well in earthquakes. In the 1952 Tehachapi Earthquake, Portland Concrete presented a fraudulent study to the State of California. They claimed that every adobe failed in that earthquake. They thought adobe was going to take over as a building medium and attempted to get it outlawed even back then. My father and uncle flew up to Tehachapi to determine the extent of the damage and found the buildings that failed were the downtown red brick facades. The adobe buildings were in good condition, with little damage. The brothers presented their findings to the State and Portland Concrete did not show up to defend their unsubstantiated claims. Your study showed that the Paxton home met 4 out of 7 Criterion and yet summarize with a mention about how expensive it would be to preserve the City's history. I wish to repeat the question: did the authors consult an adobe expert? Adobe is not comparable to other traditional building methods. Was an adobe architect or contractor consulted? In my many contacts and research of adobes, the oldest to the more recent adobes dating through California history have been stabilized or restored with the guidance of licensed and professional adobe constructions experts. Escondido should embrace its adobe history instead of wanting to demolish one of the oldest adobe buildings in the city. It may be the oldest from the adobe revival era during the middle of the last century. Has that been determined? Escondido could be known as a destination weekend getaway that would welcome people who are interested in adobe architecture. A driving tour of adobe homes should be made available for those interested in this work. Due to the changes in building codes, adobe homes are no longer built. There may be no adobe manufacturing brickyards left in California. You would have to travel to another state or country to see anyone building with adobe. I urge you not to tear down Escondido's historical home. Adobe homes are so precious and no longer built. They are beautiful and significant. The adobe is an amazingly well insulated structure. They have an insulation factor that surpasses most building materials. The homes are warm in the winter and cool in the summer. If you ever lived in an adobe home like I have or spent time inside of one, you would have a change of heart. Yours truly, Maria A. Weir Werth Former resident of Escondido From 1953 – 1969 (1538 So. Escondido Blvd. and Windsong Lane)

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=cfa4b66b-af55-47ad-851f-5d23b83bd607>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 174.64.239.214

Email escondidolodgeca@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 8

Subject 2608 South Escondido Blvd

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Ritesh Patel

Escondido Resident True

Street Address 2650 S Escondido Blvd

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92025

Comments I represent the Escondido Lodge at 2650 S. Escondido Boulevard immediately adjacent to and bordering two sides of the proposed Project. I want to offer this letter of support for the Project for the upcoming City Council Hearing for the Project. The Project represents an important investment in this long neglected site. Since the restaurant was closed several years ago, the site has been subject to vandalism and, although fenced, break-ins. A new multi-family project at this location will add significant value to the properties surrounding this area of South Escondido Boulevard in addition to providing much-needed housing offerings in the south end of town. As our property sits immediately south and east of the project site, we are enthusiastic about the new Project and firmly believe it will benefit and enhance our property and the surrounding area.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=c6f1bede-6b5f-434f-82a7-fd6ff0a35221>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment-form.aspx>

From IP Address: 76.167.174.244

Email chirosurf@sbcglobal.net

Meeting type City Council

Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Item # 8

Subject Historic Paxton Adobe

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Thomas Stuebe

Escondido Resident True

Street Address 2740 Las Palmas Avenue

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92025

Comments The Historic Paxton Adobe served as the model home for the development of Longview Acres of adobe homes. I have lived in one of the Longview Acres adobes since 1995. The adobe homes in this development qualify for the Mills Act - "qualified properties include residential properties listed on the local, state or national historic register." It is not consistent with the historic register and the Mills Act when the adobe homes of Longview Acres qualify for the Mills Act yet the 1948 Paxton Adobe built as the model home for the development is on the chopping block. The Historic Paxton Adobe served the Escondido community for decades as the Hacienda Nursery, then the Adobe Hacienda Mexican Restaurant, Los Amigos Restaurant, and ultimately as Hacienda de Vega. The Historic Paxton Adobe is historic for many reasons including it's adobe construction and as a meeting place for the Escondido community for 7+ decades. Please retain a piece of Escondido's history. Not every square inch of Escondido needs to be covered in residential developments. History and open space is important for a healthy community.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5324&pageid=3185&rid=ad35065c-6a15-43b3-9dff-9e4532acf529>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 99.169.164.118

Email vincentrossi@sbcglobal.net

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 8

Subject Hacienda de Vega-Read Out Loud

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Vincent Rossi

Escondido Resident False

Street Address 17452 Plaza Cerado, Unit 73

City San Diego

State CA

Zip 92128

Comments To the members of the Escondido City Council: I'm a resident of the city of San Diego, but I'm also a freelance journalist and researcher with a special interest in history. In pursuing my work I have visited museums and historical societies throughout San Diego County. It was through my contacts at the Escondido History Center that I learned back in April of the city of Escondido's proposal to allow demolition of the former Hacienda de Vega restaurant for the 2608 South Escondido Boulevard Project. I immediately wrote a letter to City Manager Paul urging the city to find an alternative to this demolition. I now urge the City Council to pursue a way to save this historic property. I've written four books on San Diego County history and among my subjects have been historic properties including the Escondido Hotel, the Escondido Carnegie Library and the Escondido Creamery. These were all structures which were part of the city's life and historical memory but which are all now gone. I don't believe your city should lose any more historic structures if it can be helped. I've also read the report on the Hacienda submitted to the city by Alexa Clausen, a former historian for the California State Parks Department, current volunteer with the Escondido History Center and a longtime researcher into adobe home construction in the region. That report clearly demonstrates that the property is deserving of historic landmark status. I urge the city to reconsider its decision and save this significant example of your community's history. Sincerely, Vincent N. Rossi The San Diego History Seeker
www.sandiegohistoryseeker.com

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=f6690341-2080-4433-8766-40d10b2e872d>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment-form.aspx>

From IP Address: 98.184.194.127

Email winghram@therlco.com

Meeting type City Council

Meeting Date 10/13/2020

Planning Case # 8

Subject Read Out Loud - Support

Position In Favor

First and Last Name William Inghram

Escondido Resident False

Street Address 27 Vasto Street,

City Rancho Mission Viejo

State CA

Zip 92694

Comments As a development professional with extensive experience in Northern San Diego - I've tracked this project for some time and would like to support the project. It's not without its challenges, but I believe the project will provide much-needed housing and spur development on the North Side of town. Creating jobs and economic growth we all know is vital during these uncertain times.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5324&pageid=3185&rid=6187dadcf2e87-404e-b3e9-86e410cd87a4>

October 21, 2020

Mayor McNamara and Escondido City Council,

City Council Agenda #9, Development Impact Fees in Escondido, October 21, 2020

Escondido Chamber of Citizens considers it extremely disappointing and unfortunate that the City of Escondido determined it was necessary to withdraw the previous Staff Recommendation for Option 1, for the Adjustment to Development Impact Fees in Escondido which would have established fees to fully offset costs, (as described in Staff Report dated September 23, 2020).

While it is understandable that the Building Industry Association (BIA) correspondence presented a legal challenge that requires the City to perform more extensive nexus analysis to substantiate the more comprehensive fee increase, board members from Escondido Chamber of Citizens observe the need for an updated nexus study was readily foreseeable so it is surprising that this additional analysis was not previously done automatically. It is notable that the proposed fee increase that is now limited to the annual 2% formula makes it more difficult for the City to accelerate collection of revenue necessary to stabilize the City's extreme revenue deficit.

ECOC board members are encouraged to see information on the Staff Report, Page 2 to indicate that staff still plans adjusting fees to achieve full cost recovery from new development impact on municipal services and facilities that will help ensure that the needs of existing residents are prioritized and impacts to the City's General Fund are minimized. We understand the City is currently soliciting consultant bids for performing this fee analysis, and expects the City Council consideration of updated Development Impact Fees in spring 2021. If there are departures from this schedule forecast, or unexpected delays we would appreciate being informed in advance.

Thank you for consideration.

Escondido Chamber of Citizens, Board Members

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 68.111.208.197

Email danielle.polson.dp@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 10

Subject Read Out Loud

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Danielle Polson

Escondido Resident True

Street Address 830 W Lincoln Ave #159

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92026

Comments I strongly support campaign contribution limits. These are such small elections, it would easy for a company to give enough money to win favor with a few candidates. Please do the sensible thing and vote FOR these limits. I also encourage you to limit campaign contributions to persons and entities with a financial interest in front of the City Council within a year of that decision. Ask yourself this and sit with your answer: Am I here to be a representative of the people who live in Escondido? Or has my opinion be influenced or bought by special interests? What do the people of Escondido need now and for the future? Thank you for your time.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=c2e0fe74-a6b3-4911-af06-f40ea5e92e38>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 98.176.119.165

Email earthlover@sbcglobal.net

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 10

Subject Please read out loud

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Laura Hunter

Escondido Resident False

Street Address 744 QUIET HILLS FARM RD

City ESCONDIDO

State CA

Zip 92029

Comments Sierra Club North County Group's Political Committee supports the reductions in the campaign limits for Mayor and Council races. The limits are still quite high, but significantly lower than before so we support them. However, we also request the Council add limitations on those with financial interests before the city as part of this ordinance. As we have stated in our previous letters, we strongly support campaign dollar and time limitations for persons with decisions in front of the City Council. San Marcos has a working policy (Section 2.16.070) that can be used as a model. As our city moves in a more positive and visionary direction, our decisions must be as 'clean' as possible, meaning the public needs to have confidence in them. This will come with strict limitations on financial beneficiaries of these decisions and not allow undue influence. We have a very clear example of how this policy would benefit our decision-making. We have previously raised our concern over candidates Joe Garcia, Mike Morasco, and Tina Inscoe who have received \$4,300 each in campaign donations from Solana Beach-based Safari Highlands LLC, the proposers of Harvest Hills. This is a disastrous project for our region and, should these candidates serve on the Planning Commission or the city council, they will be, in our view, compromised. The city must work in reducing these kinds of conflicts and such a policy would be a step in the right direction. Thank you for your consideration.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=418f64a3-23ae-4e8b-a4f9-41a7282dd501>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 75.80.132.65

Email pjheatherington@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # #10

Subject Please read out loud Campaign Financing Restrictions

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Pamela Heatherington

Escondido Resident False

Street Address 16973 Hierba Dr

City San Diego

State CA

Zip 92128

Comments Although I don't reside in Escondido our community borders Escondido. Reduction in campaign limits for the Mayor and Councilmembers is forward thinking and much needed. This is extremely important when those with financial interests come before this governing body. Limitations work and bring more citizens to the table when they realize money doesn't speak louder than their voices. Undue influence is not healthy in a democracy. Thank you for your time.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=b270a036-131a-46dd-b9b8-cae3cc341f54>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 70.167.15.162

Email rickpaul01@yahoo.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # #10

Subject Campaign Contribution Limits

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Rick Paul

Escondido Resident True

Street Address 1637 E Valley Pkwy #144

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92027

Comments Current Business Item 10 – To be read aloud Dear Mayor and City Council, I would like to bring your attention to page 5 of the staff report. I quote: As written, the ordinance limitations apply to all “persons” which is defined as: an individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, business trust, company, corporation, association, committee, labor union, Political Action Committee, Independent Committee and any other organization or group of persons acting in concert. And: As defined, a “person” does not include a Political Party Committee thereby allowing a state or county central committee of a qualifying organization which meets the requirements for recognition as a political party pursuant to California Elections Code exempt from the restriction. I point this out because it appears to be contradictory. If the definition of a “persons” includes “any other organization or group of persons acting in concert” then of course a “political party committee” would meet the definition of “persons”. Respectfully Rick Paul

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=f6ac040c-f51b-4341-89d5-2c783387ec43>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 98.176.94.115

Email vinhan@protonmail.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 10

Subject Adoption of Ordinance Reducing Campaign Contribution Limits for Mayor and Councilmembers and Related Campaign Control Amendments

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Vinh An Le

Escondido Resident True

Street Address 2135 E Valley Pkwy Unit 86

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92027

Comments I'm a resident of Escondido District 3 and I ask the city council to vote for lowering the maximum personal campaign contributions to \$1,000 for city council candidates and \$1,700 for mayor or city treasurer candidates. Thank you for your time and consideration.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=4b6f9c3c-8112-4aa3-b518-ddf7f0ced5d8>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 76.240.96.27

Email penndiehl@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 10

Subject Read Out Loud Reduce Or Eliminate Corporate Campaign Contributions

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Penn Warner Diehl

Escondido Resident True

Street Address 22078 Gallop Way

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92029

Comments I believe it is in the best interest of the residents of Escondido that corporations or individuals representing corporate interests be restricted from contributing thousands of dollars to candidates for city council or mayor. I believe politics is best when candidates are funded by average people. For example, Safari Highland LLC has donated \$4,300 to Mike Morasco, Tina Inscoc, and Joe Garcia, who could each potentially decide on approval of the Harvest Hills development. Political decisions should be made on the merits of its outcome for constituents, NOT based on the prospect of corporate financial aid in a re-election campaign.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=f72d5efe-4fc3-4d3b-9efb-f3960c8b10ac>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 68.111.208.197

Email danielle.polson.dp@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 13

Subject Read Out Loud

Position No Position

First and Last Name Danielle Polson

Escondido Resident True

Street Address 830 W Lincoln Ave #159

City EScondido

State CA

Zip 92026

Comments I strongly support more community oversight of the Police Department! The people are affected when you mess up, so the people need a way to make you fix it.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=8fa55d21-49b5-4af7-8586-c8933d1e4188>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 68.8.234.103

Email joe@ecinstitute.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 13

Subject Read Out Loud

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Joe Houde

Escondido Resident False

Street Address 1245 Palomar Place #27

City Vista 92084

State California

Zip 92084

Comments #13 I would like to thank Deputy Mayor Martinez for bringing this important issue to the Council and the public. The recommendation of the Grand Jury for a Citizen Review Board is a good one and I support it. Our city, as great as it is, has a past that we must acknowledge and atone for if we are ever to move forward to build our visionary city of the future. Inclusiveness, trust in government including public safety officials, and transparency are all part of what we need to heal our city from the divisive leadership of the past. This could be accomplished in a number of ways. I note that San Diego has developed a Climate Equity Index and an Equity Committee. Creation of a commission or Task force around these issues would be a great step for residents of Escondido. It would show that, while we own our past, we intend to be inclusive going forward. Our country and our city are in need of deep healing. Let's do all we can to promote equity and justice.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=944156ad-4487-46dc-a058-ab31c610e7a2>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 98.176.119.165

Email earthlover@sbcglobal.net

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 13

Subject Please read out loud

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Laura Hunter

Escondido Resident False

Street Address 744 QUIET HILLS FARM RD

City ESCONDIDO

State CA

Zip 92029

Comments I would like to thank Deputy Mayor Martinez for bringing this important issue to the Council and the public. The recommendation of the Grand Jury for a Citizen Review Board is a good one and I support it. Our city, as great as it is, has a past that we must acknowledge and atone for if we are ever to move forward to build our visionary city of the future. Inclusiveness, trust in government including public safety officials, and transparency are all part of what we need to heal our city from the divisive leadership of the past. This could be accomplished in a number of ways. I note that Temecula has a Race, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Commission. Creation of a commission or Task force around these issues would be a great and healing step for residents of Escondido. It would show that, while we own our past, we intend to be different going forward.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=4b73d053-1ae7-45ad-92f8-28b68ba87b26>

From IP Address: 76.240.96.27

Email penndiehl@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 13

Subject Read out Loud Support Citizen Oversight Board

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Penn Diehl

Escondido Resident True

Street Address 22078 Gallop Way

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92029

Comments In light of the repeated history of police violence in this country, I agree with the recommendation of the Grand Jury that Escondido and every law enforcement agency in the county should establish an independent law enforcement review board. Potential members should be vetted for connections to law enforcement before their admission to the board. I believe board members deserve compensation for their time. A wage of \$15 per hour or slightly higher would be a fair level of compensation if attempting to balance a fair wage with drawing those who wish to serve the community and promote fair justice.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=710b7488-0f2a-4518-bcf4-626e622717d1>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>

From IP Address: 98.176.94.115

Email vinhan@protonmail.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # 13

Subject Discussion of 2015/2016 San Diego County Grand Jury Report on Citizen Oversight of Police Conduct

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Vinh An Le

Escondido Resident True

Street Address 2135 E Valley Pkwy Unit 86

City Escondido

State CA

Zip 92027

Comments As a resident of Escondido District 3, I support the Grand Jury's recommendation and ask the city council to vote to establish citizen review boards to investigate complaints against law enforcement officers. Thank you for your time and consideration.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=441e22e0-0a23-47ea-bc2e-2e21316c583c>

From Url: <https://www.escondido.org/public-comment.aspx>
From IP Address: 68.111.178.36

Email amvprado@yahoo.com

Council Meeting Date 10/21/2020

Agenda # #13

Subject Read aloud Police Oversight

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Ana Marie Velasco

Escondido Resident False

Street Address 944 Reed Terrace

City Escondido

State California

Zip 92027

Comments #13 I support the recommendation of the Grand Jury for a Citizen Review Board . Escondido must acknowledge mistakes made in the past, and move forward to build trust in government , including in our Police Officers. The movement against police brutality, or Black Lives Matter movement is not going anywhere. We must address those issues with transparency. Creation of a commission or Task force would be a great and healing step for residents of Escondido in moving forward.

A form has been submitted, click the link below to view the submission:

<https://www.escondido.org/FormWizard/ViewSubmission.aspx?mid=5168&pageid=3094&rid=df0f794d-ace4-465d-ab5d-308785ccb0ea>

Oral Communication

Good evening Mayor, City Councilmembers, City Manager Jeffrey Epp and staff, I wish to submit this public comment tonight not as a resident, but as a guest to the City of Escondido. I work for energy contractor Schneider Electric and long-time partner to the League of California League of Cities. It is likely we have crossed paths at any of the past League events.

I have a grave concern. This concern is for the integrity of our electrical distribution network and how its failure may affect Escondido. California's grid is in dire need of upgrades and struggles to maintain the current demand for power resulting in an increased risk of fires from sheer overload and what we see happening all over the state this time of the year, rolling blackouts. Critical facilities like city hall campuses, fire departments, police departments libraries, corporate yards and other facilities which serve the public good... these facilities NEED to remain fully operational in the event of a power outage. The current state of commonly used backup diesel generation is severely limited on capacity, plus, the overuse of such equipment results in significant AQMD fines.

There IS a solution. This solution deploys on-site power generating equipment, on-site energy storage and the required power management hardware to completely disconnect the facility from the grid and remain fully operational in the event of an extended grid outage of multiple days. Best of all, this solution does NOT require capital expenditure so precious capital dollars are preserved. We fund such projects through private equity and we already have a private equity partner ready to come sit down with us to have a discussion.

This new development in resiliency is game-changing. The market has not ever seen this type of disruption. The citizens of Escondido need this type of FULLL energy security and FULL energy autonomy, because the utility grid is poised for failure – the only question is when.

That said, I seek a meeting with Jeffrey Epp at the earliest convenience. My contact information follows this letter. Thank you very much for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Bout