



City Council Meeting
Public Comments
January 12, 2022

Submitted on Monday, January 10, 2022 - 11:37pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email camillarang@yahoo.com

Council Meeting Date 01/12.2022

Item # General Public Comment

Subject NCTD Jan 20 vote

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Camilla Rang

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

Dear Escondido City Council,

I am a very concerned California citizen. On Jan 20, NCTD will vote on whether they should forego the Coastal Act and go after sole decision-making power over the bluff and beach of Del Mar and, against the rules of the Coastal Act and the wishes of Del Mar, install a 1.7 mile long ecologically and geologically destructive fence. This is not only about Del Mar. This is about NCTD not ever having to go through California Coastal Commission again, whose mission it is to protect our coastline, therefore the Coastal Act. If NCTD never again has to negotiate with any city on whose land the NCTD has laid their tracks, there will be no more protection of public access, no more environmental or geological reports. There will be no more negotiations about height or placement of fences, nor construction. They will get free reins and I can guarantee that your town will be next. Please advise your NCTD board member to vote No on Jan 20. NCTD should have to follow the same rules as everyone else and go through the California Coastal Commission for constructions.

On Jan 10, 2022, I sent you an email where I have attached the bullying and truth-twisting letter from NCTD to Del Mar where they said they will proceed with their decision to fence Del Mar. I also attached the very concerned letter that the California Coastal Commission sent to SANDAG in regards to NCTD's action, pleading with them to stand up for the Coastal Act as co-applicants to the fencing grant that NCTD is relying on. I hope you have had the opportunity to read them both. This is a very urgent matter for our whole region.

In my letter yesterday, I also attached a graph that shows where on the 1.7 mile bluff stretch the accidents happen and where a fence is needed. Not along the whole bluff.

The coastal act needs to be followed with an Environmental Impact Report and an independent geological report.

Please, advise your NCTD board member to vote No on Jan 20 for the sake of all of California and to protect the Coastal Act! Don't be the ones approving NCTD to become the dictators of our coast.

Sincerely, Camilla Rang 159 10th Street, Del Mar, CA 92014

Cell: 858 353 1948

Submitted on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 - 1:12pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email cadyarts@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 1-12-22

Item # Oral Comment- no agenda item

Subject NCTD plan to fence off the Del Mar Bluff

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Drew Cady

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

Dear City Council Members of Escondido: NCTD's determination to move forward with full height fencing along the entire railway on the Del Mar bluff, is being falsely presented as an issue of pedestrian safety, when in fact it is abundantly clear that this is being forced upon Del Mar for one purpose only: NCTD intends to double the number of trains/day and increase their speed by 20 miles per hour. Those of us who live nearby, have witnessed a tremendous acceleration in bluff erosion in these past few years, with several major bluff collapses. Though SANDAG has done periodic work to try to protect the train line from this erosion, no amount of armouring of the bluff is going to insure that a train won't fall in these next two decades. And the destruction of natural habitat, left in the wake of this work has been abysmal. It is unthinkable that NCTD is systematically shutting off coastal access to one community after another while simultaneously coercing these cities to accept liability for any accident or other issue that occurs on this train line, in exchange for a lower more aesthetically pleasing barricade. This bullying tactic, of eliminating all local voice of the City of Del Mar and openly defying the very mission of the California Coastal Commission is a dangerous precedent and I implore you to reject this fencing plan on the Del Mar Bluff. Look at the real facts here: the vast majority of accidents and fatalities have occurred within 2/10ths of a mile of the one regulated surface crossing at Coast Boulevard. That is where additional safeguards need to be created, including a better barricade at the car cross and fencing on either side of the track leading away from this crossing along that portion of the bluff. Why has NCTD ignored all of the scientific evidence that clearly shows that fencing will further weaken the bluff? It is also clear that seawalls along the beach will disrupt the natural replenishment of sand and lead to further bluff erosion without a beach to buffer sea rise.

Threatening coastal cities with legal liabilities is a treacherous tactic which abandons good governance in favour of an extortion-like tactic which has no place in our democracy. PLEASE~! Vote no on fencing the Del Mar bluff! Sincerely, Drew Cady, 34 year resident of Del Mar

Submitted on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 - 4:51pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email johnkstahl@aol.com

Council Meeting Date 1/12/22

Item # General Public Commen

Subject NCTD Vote on January 20th about Del Mar fence plan

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name John K Stahl

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

I'm John Stahl and I live in Del Mar and am speaking with you today to urge you to get in the fight to save not only a regional asset, but a national treasure.

NCTD is holding a vote on January 20th to approve fencing off the entire upper bluff in Del Mar and additionally adding fencing at the track level for 1.7 miles that will eliminate beach and recreational access to the million plus visitors that come to Del Mar every year to enjoy the beach, the birds, the scenic views and the sunsets.

Using NCTD's own data, one can easily see that the issues are from Coast Blvd to 2 tenths of a mile south of that crossing. Any fencing south of there is merely bureaucratic overreach

Drilling 2,000 fence post holes that are 3 feet deep and filled with concrete will only allow more water intrusion into an already fragile bluff. This makes absolutely no common sense

The California Coastal Commission issued a letter to SANDAG dated January 5th that calls the NCTD plan disjointed and inefficient. The letter goes on to say that the NCTD plan has the potential to result in significant adverse impacts to both coastal access and recreation.

The Commission letter adds that the NCTD stabilization plan will prevent the natural erosion processes that nourish the beaches. Lastly, the letter states that the proposed improvements and/or fencing would significantly disrupt or eliminate pedestrian access on existing, informal access trails along the bluffs and down onto the beach that have been heavily used by the public for decades to traverse the blufftop, enjoy scenic coastal views and access the beach and ocean. Together, these projects could have very significant impacts to existing and historic public coastal access and recreation.

I am calling on you to influence anyone who sits on the NCTD Board and have them vote NO on this ill conceived fencing plan on January 20th.

Thank you for your time and Happy New Year

Submitted on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 - 2:43pm

Email pborchmann9@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date January 12, 2022

Item # 12

Subject COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS FOR, AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON, CHANGE TO CITY OF ESCONDIDO SANDAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPRESENTATIVE

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name patricia borchmann

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I urge City Council members to reject Agenda item 12, proposed by Council member Michael Morasco, to replace Mayor McNamara as the designated representative on SANDAG.

Based on operational experience and Mayor McNamara's familiarity with multiple layers of SANDAG authority and complex workplans, my personal observation is Mayor McNamara is uniquely qualified to continue operating in the role as SANDAG representative for Escondido. I have every reason for confidence that Mayor McNamara's continued service as SANDAG representative is a benefit to the community, and that his votes carefully consider feedback from all stakeholders in Escondido, and his actions advance wellbeing in the community, and quality of life.

I expect if an alternate Council members were appointed to replace Mayor McNamara as SANDAG representative, the disruption would cause unnecessary delays, confusion, and an unproductive interruption in continuity which could mean missing critical deadlines. There is no need for consideration at this time for replacement of the the SANDAG representative, since Mayor McNamara's performance in this role has been satisfactory. Items on SANDAG Agendas are complex, and some have been controversial. That is the reason why I support continuation of Mayor McNamra's service in this role, because he has proven himself to capably apply balanced judgment, competent leadership, and decision-making processes that apply logic, plus awareness of short and long-term consequences.

It is important to consider how a transition (if an alternate Council member is selected) would require considerable time, training, and additional SANDAG staff time required to bring a new Council member on as a new SANDAG representative, to become up-to-speed on a wide array of SANDAG projects in stages of progress. You are reminded this would all be unnecessary with Mayor McNamara's continued service. I believe it is not efficient, and would be an unproductive expenditure of time and money, that neither Escondido, nor SANDAG can afford to waste. For these reasons, I believe it is in the public interest to support Mayor McNamara's continued service as SANDAG representative. I do not consider other City Council members in Escondido to be sufficiently qualified, or more qualified than Mayor McNamara to serve as SANDAG representative, and an experienced novice could cause unexpected consequences or damage to important SANDAG strategies. .

Thank you for consideration.