



Surfrider Foundation San Diego County Chapter

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August 3, 2015

Mayor and City Council
City of Carlsbad
1200 Carlsbad Village Dr., Carlsbad, CA
Subject: Caruso 85/15 Initiative

Sent via email

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit, environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people, through a powerful activist network. The Surfrider Foundation has over 250,000 supporters, members, and activists and 80+ chapters in the United States. Please accept these comments on behalf of the San Diego Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation.

We are concerned about a number of the provisions included in the proposed Caruso Affiliated 85/15 initiative. Large developments like this, within the protected coastal zone, should require extra care in evaluating their potential impacts to our coastal resources. Instead of extra care, this developer is proposing to circumvent CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act), which is of great concern. CEQA has a participation mandate, as well as a substantive mandate to avoid or mitigate environmental impacts. As elected representatives of the people, it would be ill advised to preclude the transparency that CEQA provides.

Due to the proximity to the Agua Hedionda Lagoon and the ocean, this project stands to have significant environmental impacts. Those impacts should be addressed through an open public process. At the very least, this project needs to be sent to a vote of the people.

Surfrider San Diego urges you to place this initiative on the ballot. Do not rush to approve such a major coastal project without assuring the opportunity for informed decisions.

Sincerely,

Julia Chunn-Heer
Policy Manager, San Diego County Chapter

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world's oceans, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network. Founded in 1984 by a handful of visionary surfers in Malibu, California, the Surfrider Foundation now maintains over 250,000 supporters, activists and members worldwide. For an overview of the Surfrider Foundation San Diego Chapter's current campaigns, programs and initiatives go to www.surfridersd.org or contact us at info@surfridersd.org or (858) 622-9661.