

Key, Lori

From: Rene Aiu <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2021 5:33 PM
To: LaVere, Matt; Parks, Linda; bob.supervisor.huber@ventura.org; Long, Kelly; Ramirez, Carmen
Cc: Powers, Michael; ClerkoftheBoard; alexander.nguyen@oxnard.org; Golden, Ashley
Subject: May 18, 2021 Board Meeting Agenda – Time Certain Item (10:30 am) re: Approval of Channel Islands Harbor Cooperation Agreement and Tax Sharing Agreement (note Only a Draft Agenda was available to the public - no documents were available at the time of t...
Attachments: 5-14-21 Letter to VC BOS on Cooperation Agreement.docx

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Ventura County Board of Supervisors:

Please see the attached letter asking for your approval of the Channel Islands Harbor Cooperation Agreement and the other related agreements. The letter explains our reasons for supporting the agreement and shares our hopes that the County is committed to a more transparent harbor development process that includes competitive Request for Proposals.

We look forward to working with the County and the City in making the harbor a place of great fun activities and enjoyable public walkways and bike paths along the harbor waterfront while simultaneously updating the harbor's 35 year old Public Works Plan. Updating the PWP would help to avoid the expensive and inefficient piecemeal planning process and the problems that come with it.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Rene Aiu on behalf of the Harbor & Beach Community Alliance



May 14, 2021

Matt LaVere
Linda Parks
Bob Huber
Kelly Long
Carmen Ramirez
Ventura County Board Supervisors
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, Ca. 93009

Re: May 18, 2021 Board Meeting Agenda – Time Certain Item (10:30 am) re: Approval of Channel Islands Harbor Cooperation Agreement and Tax Sharing Agreement (note Only a Draft Agenda was available to the public - no documents were available at the time of the writing of this letter)

Ventura County Supervisors:

The Harbor & Beach Community Alliance asks that the Board approves the Channel Islands Harbor Cooperation Agreement and the other related agreements.

The reason we support this agreement is: it is a positive step in moving forward the widely supported Hyatt House Hotel project AND other non-controversial future development that will prioritize and ensure:

- Public access to this rare coastal resource
- Public benefits commensurate with the value of public waterfront land
- Consistency with the California Coastal Act and the Environmental Justice Policy of the Commission which should be considered when you deal with Article 1 of the agreement in determining what is in the “best interests” of the Harbor and public.

We also ask that the County, as part of its “engagement process” for harbor development projects, establishes a transparent standard published development process that includes a competitive RFP, Request for Proposal, process that specifies the required project parameters to avoid unnecessary controversy and developer frustrations.

We commend the County’s commitment to work cooperatively with the City of Oxnard to maintain the harbor’s public areas. We understand that the City has also committed to making some important improvements to public areas. We hope that the County will also invest in making improvements to public areas as well. We are especially interested in the improvements recommended in the 2008 Channel Islands Harbor Public Areas & Design Guidelines Plan.

This plan was unanimously approved by the County Board and was, and still is, widely supported by the public. Many of the recommendations in the 2008 Plan are also in the 2021 Vision Plan. These improvements are consistent with the Coastal Act and the Environmental Justice Policy and will bring more visitors to the harbor.

The City's cooperative sharing of harbor public area maintenance costs also provides the County with a 3-5 year period to:

- Bring a key anchor activity to the harbor as specified in the County's Vision Plan
- Attract developers with projects that meet the Vision Plan's key goal: "a place of great variety of fun activities with more attractive, enjoyable, walkable, comfortable network of beautiful waterfront public space."
- Simultaneously work on updating the Harbor's Public Works Plan to avoid piecemeal development that will only delay and complicate future Harbor development and result in a more expensive and less efficient planning process as the Coastal Commission has advised the County.

We ask the Board to approve these agreements. Thank you.

Rene Aiu on behalf of the Harbor & Beach Community Alliance

cc: County Clerk of the Board