



June 22, 2020

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Ventura County Board of Supervisors  
800 S. Victoria Avenue, L#1860  
Ventura, California 93009

Subject: Board of Supervisors Meeting Agenda for June 23, 2020 - Consent Item #17: Approval of, and Authorization for the Harbor Director to Execute a Consultant Services Agreement for Visioning and Planning Services for Channel Islands Harbor with Sargent Town Planning in a Not to Exceed Amount of \$99,000.

We understand the desire to have visioning and planning meetings for Channel Islands Harbor. However, this effort would be more appropriate and productive if done within the process of updating the Public Works Plan as the public has requested and the Coastal Commission has recommended. This visioning and planning effort would be worthwhile if it would result in an open and transparent process of a Request for Proposal that allows a range of developers to participate in such efforts. It appears self-serving to do this type of effort after exclusivity has been awarded, particularly since the premiere areas open for development are with a single developer of apartments. Visioning and planning should occur BEFORE awards of exclusivity to ensure the results of this visioning and planning can and will be executed.

This request is even more suspect as previously, the Harbor Department has claimed inadequate funds to support fireworks at the harbor, inadequate funds to do maintenance of the facilities at Fisherman's Wharf, inadequate funds to maintain all the harbor parks. This along with the request to reduce rents for lessees and concessionaires (which we strongly support), makes one wonder how suddenly there is \$99,000 available from the Harbor Capital Projects Fund.

We want to have public input in the development plan for the harbor, but we want them done within a public process that is transparent. We want any visioning to result in a plan that the County can be held accountable to execute, that can only be done with the updating of the Public Works Plan. Apparently, the funds and time to start doing this is now possible.

If the Harbor Department continues to pursue amendments to the Public Works Plan, harbor development could take much more time as projects will still need to be consistent with Oxnard's Local Coastal Plan and the Coastal Act. But once an updated Public Works Plan is approved, development can proceed smoothly.

We ask the Board not to approve the \$99,000 and the hiring of the Consultant unless it is to update the Public Works Plan.

Best regards,

Rene Aiu on behalf of the Harbor & Beach Community Alliance