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ECOLOGISTICS WELCOMES THE OCEANO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

0 Stacey Hunt Uncategorized



The Ecologistics board is pleased to announce the acceptance of the Oceano Economic Development Council as one of its fiscally sponsored organizations. The Council is an outgrowth of an initiative begun by **Nick Alter** while volunteering as a community development advisor to the Oceano Beach Community Association. “Oceano residents are struggling to establish a semblance of livability, job creation and prosperity in their town,” says Alter. “Oceano has the highest rate of joblessness in the County.” The Council’s mission is to revitalize Oceano as a beach community with a thriving economy while

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conserving the area's cultural and historical significance as well as its essential character

Says Ecologistics' CEO, Stacey Hunt, "Our mission is to create a resilient and healthy community for the residents of the California Central Coast that is environmentally and economically sustainable. We can't think of a better fit for this mission than OEDC."

The Council's ultimate goal is to identify and explore possibilities for Oceano's equitable economic development and growth and, depending on the wishes of the community's residents, obtain approval from the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors on Oceano's redevelopment as a beach community. The organization is still building its website but in the meantime you can contact Nick Alter at (805) 458-1169; nickalter@mindspring.com or Charles Varni at (805) 459-6698; charles@varni.org.

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From: Jimmy Paulding <jpaulding@co.slo.ca.us>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 9:54 PM
To: nickalter_mindspring.com <nickalter@mindspring.com>
Cc: James Sofranko <jsofranko@co.slo.ca.us>; Bob Zdenek <robert.zdenek@verizon.net>; Allene Villa <allenevilla@yahoo.com>; Bonnie Ernst <bonnie@pacificcoastpro.com>; Erica Ruvalcaba-Heredla <erica@cfsslo.org>; John Day <johnd@pshhc.org>; Liliana Vega <live@ucdavis.edu>; Lynne Schlenker <melodramalady@gmail.com>; Robyn Harris <candrinslo@gmail.com>; wsiembie_calpoly.edu <wsiembie@calpoly.edu>; Chuck Davison <chuck@slocal.com>; Chuck Stevenson <chsdesign1@yahoo.com>; Dan Sutton <dan@pove.net>; Eva Ulz <evaulz@gmail.com>; gobluemariam@yahoo.com <gobluemariam@yahoo.com>; Jim and Katty Richardson <Jim@MobiDITTO.com>; Kenneth Triguero <kennethtr@pshhc.org>; Tom O'Malley <tomomalley@portolainn.com>
Subject: Re: [EXT]RE: Community of Oceano Unification Compact

Good evening Nick et al.,

I appreciate your and your council's thorough and comprehensive response. In sum, I find the response helpful to understand the OEDC's thinking, and I find the edits to the compact reasonable.

We've talked about my concerns around the feasibility of redeveloping the airport: 1) not supported by the Board of Supervisors (on Tuesday the Board voted 5-0 to implement our 5-year Capital Improvement Plan, which includes the airport capital improvements), 2) not supported by the FAA (I've attached their letter), 3) the flood plain presents major challenges which have been underscored by the current AG creek levee situation.

I appreciate you and your council's big picture thinking and don't want to foreclose possibilities. I just think that we have bigger fish to fry and lower hanging fruit to grab as you put it. Let's get to work on those things first. It seems we agree.

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for Oceano -- a wonderful community who has for far too long been overlooked. I really look forward to working together to DO GOOD for the people and place that is OCEANO.

In terms of process and next steps, the OAC is working up some suggested revisions to the compact. VACO wanted to schedule another meeting to discuss due to their concerns. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg and I are working on our ad hoc committee to develop recommendations for improving advisory councils county-wide.

After I've made progress on these efforts, let's meet to discuss.

Other updates:

Annexation

I want to loop you and your council in on a very early conversation that is taking place. There is an idea out there that a study should be commissioned to evaluate the potential for Oceano to be annexed by the City of Grover Beach. This discussion was prompted due to Oceano's inability to pay for fire service (the OSCD has initiated LAFCO proceedings to divest from fire service responsibility). The central question is -- given its financial problems -- whether Oceano would be better served receiving city services (police, fire, public works, water/sewer, parks/recreation, and community development) as opposed to the limited services that the Oceano Community Services District and the County are able to provide. Other very important questions include whether it could retain its name and unique identity much like the community of Shell Beach did after it was annexed by the City of Pismo Beach, and whether gaining seats on the Grover Beach City Council would address representation problems that have been underscored by the recent challenges surrounding *advisory-only* community advisory councils. As the supervisor representing Oceano, I'm certainly not opposed to studying possibilities -- right now, I'm just trying to understand if there is even any interest in studying the possibility with city, county, and CSD representatives. The process would require a number of steps with many decision-makers and many important opportunities for community engagement in the process.