

Carey Casciola

From: Virginia Roof [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 3, 2021 8:19 PM
To: carey@oceanocsd.org
Subject: Public comment

To the Oceano CSD members,

As a resident of South County, I am deeply disappointed that your Board did not choose to recognize Pride Month in honor of the LGBTQ+ community or fly the Pride flag as the neighboring cities of Grover Beach and Arroyo Grande have done. It is so important for the LGBTQ+ community to feel that all of the 5 Cities represent a safe and inclusive environment and your Board's immediate attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Virginia Roof

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)



To: Lynn, Compton, SLO Board of Supervisors
Bruce Gibson, SLO Board of Supervisors
John Peschong, SLO Board of Supervisors
Debbie Arnold, SLO Board of Supervisors
Dawn Ortiz-Legg, SLO Board of Supervisors

From: Allene Villa/Chair
Oceano Advisory Council

Re: Board of Supervisors Agenda Item 8

June 6, 2021

Dear Supervisors,

The Oceano Advisory Council (OAC) is requesting that item 8 on the June 8, 2021 Consent Agenda be pulled for discussion. We believe the board must discuss and deny. Our points are as follows:

1. It is unprecedented to have two advisory councils for the same community area. The establishment of an additional council is not only unnecessary but is divisive and sets a dangerous precedent. The Oceano Advisory Council is a legitimate and officially sanctioned council in existence since 1996. The establishment of another council will only serve to cause division and confusion in our community and county. Instead of resolving issues within the community, residents and those with business within the OAC's boundaries would choose the council they most agree

with and refuse to compromise or listen to differing positions or ideas. Which council would the county staff work to assist? Which advisory council would the collective Supervisors take into consideration when making important decisions in our community? It will set a dangerous precedent across our entire county and actually encourages divisiveness. A second council will also create more work for the county.

Lastly, the creation of an additional council will serve to undermine and devalue the importance of our current council, which has been performing its duties, working diligently, and finds itself in front of you solely because of one divisive political reason.

2. The Oceano Advisory Council has been very active and complied with all its duties and bylaws since its creation and continuing up to the present. It has even taken concrete steps to be more inclusive and transparent than it had been historically. We have been doing specific outreach to the business and Latino community members to meet that goal. Our town is 58% Latino and our council should reflect this reality. To date, we have not turned down any prospective council applicant. We currently have 5 council members representing a diverse makeup of gender, race, ethnicity, and even geographic coverage within our entire boundary. Currently 6 council seats are open and we welcome prospective members - especially from Latino and business sectors. The Founding members of the Vitality Advisory Council Of Oceano (VACO) have personally been invited to attend, apply and join our council.

For the purposes of transparency, inclusion, and accountability in the community all of our minutes and agendas are posted to our website and our meetings are uploaded to YouTube for public access. The Oceano Advisory Council held the first Oceano Community Services District (OCSD) Candidate Forum last year. The OAC also held a special meeting specifically relating to the Oceano Beach and Dunes on March 11th which was well attended by the business community. All minutes are forwarded to Supervisor Compton and she is consistently contacted and always invited to every one of our meetings.

3. The Oceano Advisory Council has been working hard on several projects this year:

- A) We continue to work diligently on a vacation rental ordinance for Oceano. Having this ordinance adopted will help preserve our town's character and also help preserve our community's affordable housing. It is our goal to get this approved by the BOS this year.
- B) We are creating a task force for new pedestrian access, a public plaza, and additional parking (including increasing the handicap-accessible portion) at the end of Pier Ave in preparation for the closure of Pier Ave on July 1 of 2022.
- C) Most recently we started a task force for curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. This last project is the most requested improvement our community desires and our task force will work ardently to find grants for this project.
- D) The current OAC is also actively working with Cal Poly professors and students in the City and Regional Planning Department to conduct a needs assessment for our community. This will help us best guide and advise our county on future projects. We are a council who cares deeply for our community and wants to see quality of life and infrastructure improvement for our disadvantaged community.
- E) We have a member who is concurrently working with the SLOCOG endeavor to improve all modes of transportation throughout the community, for the benefit of all.

As you can see by the VACO documents before you, none of these vital and community-based endeavors are even discussed by them as points of interest. Their only focus, as evidenced in their very own paperwork, is the off-road use of the Dunes.

4. The Vitality Advisory Council of Oceano should be rejected as a divisive, partisan, and undemocratic endeavor. Two of its founders (Marios

Pougioukas and Adam Verdin) were specifically invited to OAC meetings and also encouraged to apply to the council. They refused these overtures. Another of its founders, Linda Austin, was formerly a council member who chose to resign after the organization she represented was discovered not to be in compliance with the OAC by-law membership requirement. Unfortunately, by her own choice she would not re-apply as a member-at-large.

Furthermore, the majority of the VACO are business owners and strong supporters of OHV, with two of them not even residing within the represented district and these same business owners already benefit from Tourism Board financial support, Chamber of Commerce promotional support and federal government funding.

They are proposing to include the State Parks SVRA area and Dunes Preserve into their area of representation which is outside the purview of the district of Oceano. Their letter specifically states that they came together after the Coastal Commission March 18th decision to phase out off-roading in the next 3 years. They are clearly an interest group whose main purpose will be the economic advantage they have with the off-road businesses and supporters. They are also a much less diverse group and certainly do not represent a cross-section of our community. In reality, the CCC decision has been made and is now in the courts. It is time to focus on other areas of economic development and infrastructure improvement and their documents show these truly community-based vital issues are not their focus in the least.

5. The recognition of a duplicate council would cause additional funding or division of funding from the county for two councils to operate. The VACO application states that it anticipates funding from the county in order to proceed. However, the staff report states the county will not incur any additional expenses. Unless funding is cut off completely to the Oceano Advisory Council how is this possible? Currently, our supervisor has refused to approve the 2021-2022 budget even though we have stated we only have \$200 left in our budget and outstanding bills. Unfortunately, Supervisor Compton refuses to answer if she will soon fund the council and

stated at the May supervisors meeting it is her discretion not to fund interest groups that do not represent the community.

Reviewing the current 11 county advisory councils' financial activities over the last 4 years, three very pertinent facts stand out: A) our council rarely asks for money, B) In comparison to other councils of our size and scope we have one of the lowest total funding amounts on record and C) it is not outside the norm for a council to ask for money *after* they have depleted their current balance. Any attempt to disparage us by stating we "spend money we don't have" is denying the recent history of several other advisory councils. We look to the collective board to approve our impending funding, as is required by the BOS bylaws on the topic.

The Oceano Advisory Council takes its role in the community seriously and will continue to do so. We appreciate your attention and look forward to your denial of this redundant and special-interest council.

Sincerely,



Allene Villa/Chair
Oceano Advisory Council