

Carey Casciola

From: Anne Julian [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 11:47 AM
To: carey@oceanocsd.org
Subject: Public Comment

I urge you to join other local communities in displaying the Pride Flag. Let us also be an inclusive community.

Sent from my iPad=

Carey Casciola

From: Connie Winstead [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 6:51 PM
To: carey@oceanocsd.org
Subject: Please fly the flag to represent gay folks.

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

Carey Casciola

From: Mariam Alikhan [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 11:42 PM
To: carey@oceanocsd.org
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT for Special Meeting

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to thank you for taking the time to put a flag policy and a proclamation policy on your agenda, and for taking the time to have a special meeting to discuss this important issue. I urge you to amend the proposed flag policy to allow your district to fly the pride flag and/or other flags that are supported by a majority or a supermajority of your members. If you are unable to agree to fly the pride flag in Oceano, then I would urge that you issue a proclamation recognizing Pride Month in Oceano. While at first glance the proposed policy regarding proclamations may seem to prohibit such actions, I would say a Pride Proclamation is well supported. The policy supports addressing issues relating to the active powers of the district. Certainly, seeing and recognizing ALL of those that you govern is an active and important part of the Oceano Community Services District.

I know this issue may seem beyond the scope of your duties, but you are the leaders of our community. I drive by the CSD office daily when taking my son to school Oceano Elementary. You and that office are at the heart of the community. The tone you set will be followed. It sounds like most, if not all, board members are supportive of their LGBTQ friends and neighbors. This is merely an opportunity to show that support in an official way. I thank you in advance for doing so. I would also request that if you cannot fly the pride flag or issue a proclamation in your official role, that, as the leaders of Oceano, you work with local businesses and with the private park in Oceano to fly the flag.

Thank you so much for your consideration,
Mariam Shah, AG Mesa Resident

Carey Casciola

From: Virginia Roof [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2021 8:12 PM
To: carey@oceanocsd.org
Subject: Public Comment for 6/28 meeting

Dear Oceano Community Services District members,

It has come to my attention that this special meeting was planned to discuss raising a flag or writing a proclamation, in response to community members asking the OCSD to fly the Pride flag.

As a proud resident of South County for the past 20 years, I strongly urge you take a stand for inclusivity alongside neighboring cities, Grover Beach and Arroyo Grande.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Virginia Roof

Carey Casciola

From: GALA CC [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 11:22 AM
To: carey@oceanocsd.org
Cc: Doug Heumann
Subject: Public Comment - Pride Flag

Greetings from the Gala Pride and Diversity Center!

I am making public comment in support of Oceano CSD raising the Pride flag during Pride month which is in June each year.

The LGBTQ+ community suffers from higher rates of physical and mental illness - including depression and anxiety - than the general population, due to discrimination and prejudice.

According to the California Healthy Kids Survey, given in public schools to 7th, 9th and 11th graders, almost 60% of transgender youth in San Luis Obispo County seriously considered suicide in the previous 12 months, and that was before COVID-19!

An affirming symbol, such as a Pride flag, being raised by an official government entity, is a huge protective factor to the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ individuals. Seeing the flag, and knowing that a community welcomes and supports folks of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions is vital to the kind of community connection I believe Oceano wants to foster.

So please consider raising the Pride flag as a sign of solidarity and affirmation for the LGBTQ+ folks who live in your district!

Sincerely,
Michelle Call
Executive Director

--

[The Gala Pride and Diversity Center](#)



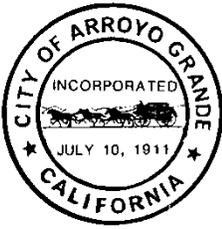
LGBTQ+ Organization in San Luis Obispo, California

Address: [1060 Palm St, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401](#)

Phone: [\(805\) 541-4252](#)

Fax [805-545-7968](#)

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this email. Please notify the sender immediately if you have received this email by mistake and delete this email from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.



MEMORANDUM

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: WHITNEY MCDONALD, CITY MANAGER

BY: TIMOTHY CARMEL, CITY ATTORNEY

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CITY FLAG DISPLAY POLICY AND AUTHORIZING THE DISPLAY OF THE LGBTQ+ PRIDE FLAG AT CITY HALL DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE, 2021

DATE: MAY 25, 2021

SUMMARY OF ACTION:

The proposed Flag Display Policy sets forth the procedures and standards for the display of flags at City facilities, including the display of commemorative flags at City Hall and Heritage Square Park. Contingent upon City Council's adoption of the Flag Display Policy, staff is also recommending that the City Council authorize the display of the LGBTQ+ Pride Flag ("Pride Flag") at City Hall during the Month of June, 2021 in recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

There is no financial impact and minimal impact on personnel resources related to having a City Flag Display Policy or authorizing the display of the Pride Flag.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution adopting the Flag Display Policy and also authorize the display of the Pride Flag at City Hall during the month of June, 2021 in accordance with the proposed Policy. It is also recommended that the Council discuss and consider authorizing the display of the Pride Flag during the month of June, 2021, at Heritage Square Park, where the first Five Cities Pride Celebration occurred in 2019.

BACKGROUND:

At a recent City Council meeting, Council Member Barneich requested that the City Council consider acknowledging Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) Pride Month, and authorize the display of the commemorative Pride Flag, which is a LGBTQ+ community rainbow flag at City Hall for the month of June. Mayor Ray Russom concurred in this request. Because the City does not have a flag display policy, this item is being presented for consideration of such a policy, and if approved, also authorize the display of the commemorative Pride Flag during the month of June.

CITY COUNCIL

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CITY FLAG DISPLAY POLICY AND AUTHORIZING THE DISPLAY OF THE PRIDE FLAG AT CITY HALL DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE, 2021

MAY 25, 2021

PAGE 2

According to the Library of Congress, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month (“LGBTQ+ Pride Month”) is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York City. The Stonewall riots were a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. In the United States, the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as “Gay Pride Day,” although the actual day was flexible. Eventually, in major cities across the nation, “Gay Pride Day” grew to encompass a month-long series of events. Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts. Memorials are also held for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:

City Hall has two flag poles and the City of Arroyo Grande has historically displayed the United States Flag, the California State Flag, and the Arroyo Grande City Flag. The United States Flag is also displayed at other City facilities such as the Recreation Services Building at Elm Street Park and at the Corporate Yard. The Police Station also has three flag poles that can be used to display flags. However, the City does not have a Council-adopted policy regarding the display of such flags or the display of commemorative flags, such as the Pride Flag.

Staff has prepared a draft City Flag Display Policy relating to the display of flags and a resolution for its adoption for Council’s consideration. The draft Flag Display Policy outlines the procedures and standards for the display of flags at City facilities, including the display of commemorative flags at City Hall and Heritage Square Park. As set forth in the proposed policy, commemorative flags may be displayed only after being authorized by the City Council and as an expression of the City’s official sentiments. Upon City Council authorization of the display of a commemorative flag, the City would display it at City Hall and/or Heritage Square Park during the designated period.

Contingent upon City Council adoption of the Resolution adopting the Flag Display Policy, staff recommends that the City Council also consider authorizing the display of the Pride Flag in accordance with the proposed Policy.

The City’s flagpoles are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public. Rather, the City’s flagpoles are to be used exclusively by the City, where the City Council may display a commemorative flag as a form of government expression. The City will not display a commemorative flag based on a request from a third party, nor will the City use its flagpoles to sponsor the expression of a third party. Instead, the policy states that such flag, as an expression of the City’s official sentiments, must be requested by a member of the City Council itself.

CITY COUNCIL

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A CITY FLAG DISPLAY POLICY AND AUTHORIZING THE DISPLAY OF THE PRIDE FLAG AT CITY HALL DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE, 2021

MAY 25, 2021

PAGE 3

The Government Speech Doctrine, defined by the United States Supreme Court, establishes that a government organization, such as the City of Arroyo Grande, may advance its own expression without requiring viewpoint neutrality when the government itself is the speaker, so long as its expression does not show religious preference or encourage a certain vote in an election. Therefore, the City could take action, based on the proposed Policy, to display a commemorative flag as a form of government expression, so long as the commemorative flag does not show religious preference or encourage a certain vote in an election. Consequently, if the City Council authorizes display of a commemorative flag, the display of the commemorative flag would be an exercise of government expression, where the City is the speaker (i.e., government speech).

ALTERNATIVES:

The following alternatives are provided for the Council's consideration:

1. Adopt the Resolution, adopting the City of Arroyo Grande Flag Display Policy, and also authorize the display of the Pride Flag during the month of June.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution or authorize display of the Pride Flag; or
3. Provide other direction to staff.

ADVANTAGES:

Adoption of the Flag Display Policy will clarify practices to be followed for the display of flags on City property, and also provide a procedure for the display of commemorative flags, as may be authorized by the City Council, as an expression of the City Council's official sentiments. Authorizing display of the Pride Flag in recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month will commemorate an important social movement and demonstrate the City's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

DISADVANTAGES:

No disadvantages have been identified by adoption of a City Flag Display Policy.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

The adoption of a Flag Policy is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) which is the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment and CEQA does not apply where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND COMMENTS:

The Agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

**CITY COUNCIL
DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION
ESTABLISHING A CITY FLAG DISPLAY POLICY AND AUTHORIZING THE DISPLAY
OF THE PRIDE FLAG AT CITY HALL DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE, 2021
MAY 25, 2021
PAGE 4**

Attachment:

1. Proposed Policy

**CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE POLICY ON
DISPLAY OF FLAGS**

I. Purpose

- A. The Arroyo Grande City Council desires to establish clear guidelines regarding:
1. The outdoor display of the United States Flag, the California State Flag, and the City of Arroyo Grande Flag at City facilities or City-owned or City-maintained flagpoles; and
 2. The outdoor display of commemorative flags at the Arroyo Grande City Hall and Heritage Square Park.
- B. In adopting this Policy, the City Council desires to reflect the dignity of the flags flown on flagpoles or displayed at City-owned or City-maintained facilities, as well as the role of the Arroyo Grande City Hall as an inclusive gathering location and local symbol of government and democracy.
- C. In adopting this Policy, the City Council declares that flagpoles owned or maintained by the City of Arroyo Grande are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public, but rather as a non-public forum for the display of the United States, State of California, City of Arroyo Grande, and any commemorative flag authorized by the City Council as an expression of the City Council's official sentiments (government speech).

II. Policy

- A. Conformance with Federal and State Regulations. Flags shall be displayed in accordance with Federal and State statutes and regulations, including, but not limited to, United States Code, Title 4, Chapter 1 and California Government Code section 430 et seq., and this Policy.
1. Per California Government Code section 431(a), the Flag of the United States and the Flag of the State of California shall be prominently displayed upon or in front of public buildings of the City.
 2. Per California Government Code section 434.7, any Flag of the United States or Flag of California that the City purchases must be made in the United States.
 3. The United States Flag may only be flown at half-staff in accordance with the guidelines set forth at <https://www.usa.gov/flag>. The State of California Flag shall be flown at half-staff if the United States Flag is flown at half-staff or on order of the Governor.
- B. City Facilities other than the Arroyo Grande City Hall. At facilities that the City owns or maintains (other than facilities maintained by other governmental entities), there may be one flagpole where the United States Flag shall be flown and the State of California flag may be flown as described in Section II.

C. Arroyo Grande City Hall.

1. There shall be flagpoles at the Arroyo Grande City Hall to fly the following flags in the manner described below: Flag of the United States, Flag of the State of California, Flag of the City of Arroyo Grande, and any approved commemorative flag.
2. The City of Arroyo Grande Flag shall fly at half-staff if either the United States or California Flag is at half-staff. The Mayor may order the City of Arroyo Grande Flag to fly at half-staff at the death of a current or former City Council Member or current City staff member or a historically significant member of the community.
3. Commemorative Flag.
 - a. As expression of the City's official government speech, the City Council may authorize the display of a commemorative flag to fly at the Arroyo Grande City Hall and the Heritage Square Park flagpoles only.
 - b. The City Council shall only consider a request to display a commemorative flag if the request is made by a member of the Arroyo Grande City Council and another City Council member agrees to place the discussion to authorize such display on the agenda for a regular or special City Council meeting. Requests to fly a commemorative flag by members of the public will not be considered.
 - c. At a noticed and agendized City Council meeting, a majority of Council Members must agree to display the commemorative flag.
 - d. Commemorative flags shall be displayed for a period of time that is reasonable or customary for the subject that is to be commemorated, but no longer than thirty (30) consecutive days.
 - e. Commemorative flags must be either purchased by the City or temporarily donated for the City's use and must be clean, without holes and tears, and be made of an all-weather fabric. Commemorative flags must be the same size or smaller than the United States and California flags that are flown. The City will not be responsible for the condition of the commemorative flag once flown.
 - f. If any other flag is flown at half-staff, the commemorative flag will also be flown at half-staff.
 - g. A "commemorative flag" as defined in this Policy shall mean a flag that identifies with a specific historical event, cause, nation or group of people that the City Council choses to honor or commemorate consistent with the City's mission and priorities. The following are not allowed as Commemorative Flags and will not be considered by the City Council:

- i. Flags of a particular religious movement or creed to avoid the appearance of City government endorsing religion or a particular religious movement or creed;
- ii. Flags of a political party to avoid the appearance of City government endorsing a political party; and
- iii. Flags advocating a certain outcome in an election.

III. Procedures

- A. No other flag shall be placed above the United States Flag and no other flag shall be larger than the United States Flag. Other flags may be flown at the same height and in the same size, in accordance with this Policy. Where both the United State Flag and the California State Flags are flown, they shall be of the same size.
- B. Flags should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously. The United States Flag should be hoisted first and lowered last.
- C. Flags shall be displayed during operating hours on all days on which the City is open for business, and on national and State holidays. Flags may be displayed twenty-four (24) hours a day as long as they are illuminated during darkness.
- D. Flags shall not be displayed during inclement weather, unless all-weather flags are used and are illuminated during darkness.
- E. When flags are displayed on a single pole, the order from top to bottom shall be: the United States Flag, the California State Flag, and, if displayed, the City of Arroyo Grande Flag.
- F. When the flags are flown from adjacent flag poles, the United States Flag shall be flown at the highest point of honor, which is the furthest point to the left from the standpoint of the observer ("the flag's right").
- G. When a flag is displayed at half-staff, it shall first be hoisted to the peak for a moment and then lowered to half-staff position. Before being lowered at the end of the day or when taken down, the flags shall again be hoisted to the peak for a moment and then fully lowered.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

RESOLUTION NO. 21-4

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ISLA VISTA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT RECOGNIZING JUNE 2021 LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

WHEREAS, Isla Vista is home to a vibrant and diverse Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) community with a rich history; and

WHEREAS, each June, the LGBTQ+ community celebrates Pride Month, a time of joy, reflection, and activism; and

WHEREAS, between June 28th and July 3rd, 1969, a group LGBTQ+ people fought back against violent and discriminatory policing in an event that has been coined the “Stonewall Uprising,” the catalyst for the movement for LGBTQ+ rights and inclusion; and,

WHEREAS, a Gay Liberation Front office was established at 900 Embarcadero Del Mar in the year that followed the Stonewall Uprising and a lesbian group began to meet at the Isla Vista Women’s Center shortly thereafter at 6504 Pardall Road; and

WHEREAS, a Daily Nexus opinion piece in December of 1970 said: “You’re going to start seeing us, more and more of us; like the freedom riders in the Deep South. Gay brothers and sisters, we will be expressing love and friendship in our own way (...) We are not ashamed, but proud of our sexuality; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has since released a memo of information collected on LGBTQ activists in Isla Vista during this time, showing the high risks that local activists were taking by coming out of the shadows and standing together; and

WHEREAS, in the decades that followed, student activists at UCSB and in the campus community convened multiple organizations and efforts to fight for protections for LGBTQ+ people, build community, confront the AIDS epidemic, raise awareness about diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, and more; and

WHEREAS, throughout the early-2000s, many activists participated in “queer-bombing” activities, where large groups of LGBTQ+ community members showed up at public establishments to show solidarity and strength in numbers; and

WHEREAS, the local LGBTQ+ community has fought for marriage equality, including by campaigning against Prop 8, which was unfortunately approved by a majority of voters in Santa Barbara County and throughout the state, banning same-sex marriages in California between late-2008 and mid-2013; and

WHEREAS, the local LGBTQ+ community has also shined a spotlight on the needs of transgender and gender non-conforming people, especially transgender and

gender-nonconforming people of color; and

WHEREAS, while the LGBTQ+ community has experienced great strides over the past few years, the majority of Isla Vista LGBTQ+ residents grew up during a time of much less acceptance and tolerance for LGBTQ+ people; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ young people face higher rates of mental health issues and homelessness, and many people still experience different forms of harassment or discrimination; and

WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ people have served in numerous leadership roles in our community, including as part of: the Isla Vista Community Council, UCSB Associated Students, Isla Vista Recreation and Park District, and Isla Vista Community Services District, and have shaped our community through arts, culture, scholarship, and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, there have been many fun nighttime activities hosted by LGBTQ organizations over the years, creating spaces in Isla Vista for people to be themselves ; and

WHEREAS, Isla Vista is a destination for many LGBTQ+ people who are pursuing their higher education, and there is a lot of potential for making Isla Vista an even better place for LGBTQ+ people to live; and

WHEREAS, the Isla Vista Community Services District is proud of our local LGBTQ+ community and is a committed ally in the movement for greater LGBTQ+ equity and inclusion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Isla Vista Community Services District Board of Directors declares June 2021 to be LGBTQ+ Pride Month; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board is committed to ensuring that all public services provided by the District are accessible and affirming of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities; and

FINALLY, IT IS RESOLVED that all community members are encouraged to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month and be good allies to our LGBTQ+ neighbors.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Isla Vista Community Services District at a special meeting held on the 11th day of May 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSENT: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ATTEST:

JONATHAN ABBOD, General Manager
ISLA VISTA COMMUNITY SERVICES
DISTRICT