

COCHET-WEINANDT

REQUEST TO COMMENT

This form will be included with the record of the meeting as a public document.

Date: MARCH 22nd 2019 Agenda Item #: 4 In Favor Opposed

Name to be called: Pierre Cochet Weinandt Representing: _____

Address (optional): Carlsbad

Phone (optional): _____ Email (optional): _____

Request to Speak: **Yes** **No**

If you do not wish to speak, you may write any comments below:

Speaking about the transportation project



Please Submit to the Clerk

March 2019

Hello, Sandag member?
or Clerk -
RE: Buena Vista Lagoon

We are writing to add our voices and perspective to the evolving crisis that involves Buena Vista Lagoon and discussion plans for restoration. This northern most lagoon in SD County, has been victim to human interference, that changed this saltwater lagoon into freshwater. The weir, built by beach owners living on the shoreline, has created a list of health hazards and has dramatically interfered with the natural flow and health of this precious gem. We are fighting for and calling on SANDAG to vote on what is right, this spring. Choose to return the Buena Vista Lagoon to a natural, diverse, wildlife and community resource.

As a volunteer nature guide at the lagoon and nature center in Oceanside, we see firsthand, the evolving decline of this sanctuary. It has been brought to the edge of extinction by those beach homeowners, who insist on keeping a weir, to give privacy to their properties. Perhaps unintended, they have created a negative affect for most of us, who live, work and play, on the east side of the lagoon, the "other side" of the train tracks.

County beach cities have, over decades, planned for, financed and coordinated dredging so that natural boundaries and tidal flows keep these precious waterways open and productive. Our lagoon, straddling Carlsbad and Oceanside, has for more than 40 years with a weir, gone into a slow, deteriorating condition. Flooding is not the only hazard created by the lack of an open channel, wildlife suffers and the bird sanctuary is diminishing. Reeds and meadow are moving in. Fish and Game has started to address growing concern over mosquitos and diseases they spread. *How can we let this happen on our watch!!*

Because of the delayed decisions, Buena Vista lagoon is being lost for all generations, serving a few wealthy homeowners. As Nature Guides, we feel our role to educate our kids and visitors is being challenged by the indecision. We serve a wider community and ask you please, make a plan, create the changes we need to see and keep this North County lagoon alive. SALTWATER HEALS NATURALLY.

Nature Guide Volunteers
Oceanside

Stephanie Krupetski

Stephanie Krupetski

Juanita Conell

Juanita Conell

Kathleen Billings

Audrey Y. Yehino

Edith Richardson

Renee Racine

It's taken years, but the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is finished and the scientific community has spoken. For the health of our community, the lagoon, and the broader environment, it is best to restore Buena Vista Lagoon to a tidal estuary. Elections are just weeks away and both officials and candidates are listening. Below are Buena Vista's position statement and a list of contacts. Your voice will make a difference.

SALTWATER ALTERNATIVE BEST FOR BUENA VISTA LAGOON ENHANCEMENT

The Buena Vista Audubon Society operates the nature center at the lagoon and supports the Saltwater Alternative over the Freshwater Alternative for enhancement of the Buena Vista Lagoon because of the following benefits.

- Maximizes overall species diversity and increases coastal saltwater wetlands, an endangered habitat.
- Best addresses the community goal of cattail reduction and mosquito abatement, a significant public health concern due to the potential mosquito transmission of West Nile virus and Zika.
- Best addresses flooding and the need for beach sand replenishment.
- Best reduces water pollution pursuant to the Clean Water Act by allowing tidal flushing and increased water circulation.
- Best meets the objectives for lagoon enhancement as set out at the start of the EIR process.
- Offers the best opportunity for enhancement project implementation through mitigation funding.

In addition, we are joined in our support for the Saltwater Alternative by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, and California Coastal Commission.

Within the next few months, the SANDAG board will schedule a meeting to decide which alternative to support. If the Freshwater Alternative is selected, private landowners will be allowed to impose their will over the interests of the public. We feel that restoring the lagoon to a saltwater estuary/marsh will be in the public interest.

ACT NOW BY CONTACTING ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

SANDAG (michelle.Posada@sandag.org or tessa.Lero@sandag.org)

Carlsbad Mayor Hall (matt.hall@carlsbadca.gov)

Oceanside Mayor Weiss (pweiss@ci.oceanside.ca.us)

Carlsbad Council (council@carlsbadca.gov)

Oceanside Council (council@ci.oceanside.ca.us)