

Acosta for Council 2020
Statement Supporting Ponto Coastal Park

The community dream of a Ponto Coastal Park needs to be a reality.

Carlsbad families need this park. We know parks are good for our environment and addressing the adverse effects of climate change. Parks also lead to better air quality and numerous health benefits. They reduce crime, encourage family friendly recreation, and provide critical outdoor space. We need to protect, preserve, and support open spaces and parks.

For years, it has been clear there is a 30-acre park deficit in Carlsbad, and specifically a 6.6-acre park deficit in the coastal Southwest quadrant of Carlsbad where Ponto is located.

Rather than tackling the heart of the matter head on, Carlsbad politicians have side-stepped the issue, inviting out-of-town developers to consider building dense luxury homes on this land and ignoring the fact that this land was intended to be “non-residential reserve” land. Campaign contributions from developers have outweighed what is best for our neighborhoods and families. That is unacceptable.

It is a disservice to the families of South Carlsbad-- not to mention a planning mistake-- for the city to count a portion of Veteran’s Park, in the Northwest area of the city, as satisfying our local park deficit. Parks should be within the communities they serve, so families can walk or bike to them, without having to drive.

Time and again, Carlsbad residents have asserted that we value our small town feel, beach community character, and connectedness – all of which would be supported by a community park at Ponto.

This vacant land is up for sale, and there is debate about whether it can be developed into a dense housing development of mostly unaffordable luxury homes.

Rather than give more of our precious coastline away, we need to preserve this unique land. Let us protect our beautiful Carlsbad coast from overdevelopment, fight climate change, and provide services for our families. Join me in supporting a Ponto Coastal Park.