

6-23-20 City Council Budget meeting – public testimony by Lance Schulte

People for Ponto submitted 130-pages of public testimony on 6/2/20, would like to submit the following public input to both the 6/23/20 City Budget Meeting and the City proposed Draft Local Coastal Program Amendment – and with reference to a proposed change the land use of Planning Area F from its Existing Non-Residential Reserve land use to City proposed low-coastal priority high-density residential and general commercial land uses. Contrary to what was said by 2 Council members the City’s LCP policy covering Planning Area F is not a Citywide LCP policy, but is specific to the Sammis/Poinsettia Shores LCP area, and the policy’s scope and regulatory authority is limited by the boundaries of the Sammis/Poinsettia Shores LCP area.

The Planning Area F Ponto Coastal Park is critical to the long-term economic vitality and sustainability of South Carlsbad’s neighborhoods and extensive Visitor Industry; and Carlsbad’s 1st and 3rd highest revenue sources.

Beyond Ponto there is an additional and separate Citywide Coastal Recreation requirement related to CA Coastal Commission concerns about Carlsbad’s proposed LUP land use changes and proposed Local Coastal Program Amendment (LCPA) adequately providing for a Citywide ‘buildout’ need for Coastal Recreation land.

It is not clear if ‘buildout’ is a set and final amount of City and State population and development or if ‘buildout’ represents accommodating an endless amount of future population and development in Carlsbad and the State of California. If ‘Buildout’ is an endless future amount of population growth and development, then how is the City planning to provide a commensurate endless amount of City Parks and Open Space? How is an endless amount of Coastal Recreation provided to accommodate endless amount of City and Statewide growth?

Until these questions can be authoritatively answered by the City and State of California the preservation and acquisition of vacant Coastal land should be a City priority. Because once land is developed it will never be available for Park and Coastal Recreation use. Continual population and development growth without corresponding Park and Open Space growth will lead to a gradual but eventual undermining of the quality of life for Carlsbad and California, and our Carlsbad economy. It is for these and other important reasons People for Ponto ask the City to budget for the purchase of Planning Area F for Coastal Recreation and City Park needs – needs that City has documented exist now, and needs that will only grow more critical and important in the future.

Thank you, People for Ponto love Carlsbad and our California Coast. We hope you love Carlsbad also and you take responsibility as a steward of our California Coast.