

**Acosta for Council 2020 Questionnaire Responses**  
**People for Ponto**  
**8/30/20**

1.

- a. Yes, I greatly value and respect public input, and while not yet elected, I have already begun to work closely with the community on creating the Ponto Coastal Park. I have attended multiple in-person and virtual meetings and visited the site multiple times, and I remain in close communication with People for Ponto leaders and Ponto residents. I have posted my official position in support of the Ponto Coastal Park publicly on social media and through my networks. I discuss the Ponto Coastal Park with Carlsbad residents regularly and recently (on 8/13) hosted a virtual event to discuss the park with all of District 4. I will continue to work with our neighbors to ensure the city respects public input, and I support the creation of the Ponto Coastal Park.
- b. Yes, I will represent the community's input and well-documented efforts to create the Ponto Coastal Park. As Councilmember, I will champion our community and our needs, including our need for a park in this area.
- c. Yes, I will make a motion to direct the city staff to partner with our local community group People for Ponto and our public to advance the Ponto Coastal Park.

2.

- a. Yes, I believe it is important for the city to acknowledge its staff has made planning mistakes and be transparent and honest about how it will work with the public to address and correct those mistakes. When elected, I will work with the city council to ensure staff fully and publicly disclose past mistakes and to work to address and correct those mistakes.
- b. As Councilmember, I will make a motion to direct the city staff to retain the designation of "Non-residential Reserve" until a new citizen-based Ponto planning process is complete.
- c. As Councilmember, I will make a motion to direct the city staff to incorporate citizen input from District 4 and the neighboring communities to the land proposed as Ponto Coastal Park, including the San Pacifico Community and neighboring District 3 communities.
- d. As Councilmember, I will make a motion to direct the city staff to deny the Shopoff development application which was withdrawn via Quit Claim and has been inactive since 2019.
- e. See 2b.
- f. I believe this land should remain non-residential reserve land and it should be the location of our new Ponto Coastal Park. It is unacceptable for our city leaders to allow the wishes of developers to outweigh what is right for our community and our residents.

3.
  - a. I believe land use density changes should be carefully considered and reflect the character of the surrounding communities. I do not think it is appropriate to increase density by almost 500% while simultaneously increasing height limits in this area.
  - b. I believe it is essential that before we make land use changes, our city must engage the public and invite and encourage public input on the changes. Public input is valuable!
  - c. As Councilmember, I will make a motion to direct the city staff to inform and engage the communities impacted by the city's proposed land use changes.
4.
  - a. The Growth Management Open Space Standard is very important and Carlsbad residents have said time and again that we highly prioritize our open space and the natural environment. It is an essential part of our [Community Vision](#). As an environmentalist – endorsed by both Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters – open space and parks are very important to me. We need to protect, preserve, and support open spaces and parks.
  - b. We must follow our own Growth Management ordinance and correct any deficiencies such as the one at Ponto.
  - c. Yes, I believe local Ponto residents should be invited to work with our city to resolve the deficit in open space in Ponto.
  - d. Yes, as Councilmember, I will make a motion to direct the city staff to suspend development and changes at Ponto until the acknowledged planning mistakes and the park deficit are resolved.
  - e. I believe the city's LCP land use plan changes in the Ponto area should be suspended until the current lawsuit has been decided, unless there are legal requirements of which I am not yet aware.
5.
  - a. I believe our city must uphold its stated intention to purchase and create a park for the Ponto community, and not spend the collected park-in-lieu fees elsewhere.
  - b. See 5a.
6.
  - a. I believe our city should re-visit the concept of park planning in Carlsbad and come up with a strategy for equitable park placement throughout the city. 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.
  - b. I believe parks should be within the communities they serve, so families can walk or bike to them, without having to drive. I believe we should include this goal in our park planning process (above) and incorporate it into our Climate Action Plan.
  - c. See 6a.
7.
  - a. As Councilmember, I will make a motion to direct the city staff to discuss purchasing the proposed park site with the current landowner.

- b. I know the city's municipal golf course cost [more than \\$70 million](#) for land and construction.
- c. I do not believe \$75 million for the Promenade is a good use of Carlsbad taxpayer funds.
- d. I believe purchasing 11 acres for a public park is a better use of Carlsbad taxpayer funds.
- e. I believe a new city park with coastal views and access would be a great benefit to the city and to the community and would be ideal for hosting events.