



**NOVEMBER 2007**

# Do you want more?

- TRAFFIC
- PARKS & OPEN SPACE
- VOICE IN PLANNING ISSUES
- OFFICE SPACE/COMMERCIAL IN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS
- TRUST IN OUR CITY REPRESENTATIVES

## CHOICE OR INEVITABILITY?

Each and every day, every one of us makes choices. Regardless of our position in life, we process countless sets of information, compare that information to our experiences, and then use the results of that process to move through our lives, choice after choice.

We, the citizens of the City of Encinitas, have elected more than 20 years of representatives to our City Council. Collectively, we have made choices to vote for every one of them. Collectively, we have hired and paid the salaries of all of our Representatives and Staff. We have paid for the hired consultants.

Look at the path we have traveled these past two decades. Now, visualize the continuation of that path to see where we are headed. Listen to where the experts are saying we will be in another twenty years. Listen to these experts claim we have no choice but to keep building more and larger developments. Listen to the very same experts proclaim that we don't have enough water or energy for even the current population. Watch our Governor spend tax-payer money to encourage more people and more companies to move to an infrastructure-stressed California.

Take note of the actions of those who are supposed to be representing our hopes, dreams, and desires. Here in Encinitas, when it is noted that our representatives may be acting against the will of the people, they tell us they have no choice. Listen to the variety of hoodwinkers who resort to crying NIMBY at anyone who has a vision for something other than an overdeveloped Encinitas.

Two current examples of City Representatives and Staff members disingenuous disregard for the will of the majority are centered in Cardiff: the plans for the park at the Hall property and the first draft of the Cardiff Specific Plan.

If you take an honest view at the processes leading up to the current status of these two projects, it is undeniable that the majority input from the residents of the City of Encinitas was devalued. While it is hard to know what is really going on, it would appear that the will of the majority of residents was non-productive to achieving some preordained goal.

Specifically on the subject of a park at the Hall property, the overwhelming majority of citywide resident input was for a passive, neighborhood, community park. The vision shared by the majority was not for a regional, organized-sports complex. Now significant energies are being expended, by the proponents of a park-for-rent complex, to characterize those of us who believe in a functional representative democracy as selfish NIMBYS.

The Cardiff Specific Plan deals with an area which is already one of the most densely developed and parking-challenged areas of the City. The overwhelming majority of citywide input specifically called for measures which would maintain the density and small beach town feel and scale of the area. The majority of input was to encourage minor changes which would make the area more pedestrian friendly. To be excluded from the plan were any and all development strategies which would serve to increase density and vehicular traffic. The vision of the residents was not represented in the draft plan. Indeed, by design, the first draft

plan actively seeks to recast Cardiff as a nascent Urban-Beach Downtown.

We encourage everyone to develop their navigational skills and realize we are headed for an undesirable future, fast. Our elected representatives want us to trust that the Commissions, Staff, and Council, are doing all they can to represent the will of the residents. But, for some variety of reasons, they are very quick and more than willing to say they can do nothing to change the troubled path we are on.

Our Representatives, City Staff, appointed Commissions, and the chain of hired experts seem to be acting as if an over-crowded, over-developed future for Encinitas and the San Diego region is inevitable. They claim there is nothing which can be done to put Encinitas on a path which would allow future generations to enjoy the visions the vast majority of the residents have for a vibrant, peaceful, and productive Encinitas.

In short, we are being told by our employees that they have made the choice to comply with the forces of over-development. They do have other choices. There are ALWAYS other choices.

Most notably, they fail to understand that the choices are ours to make. On whole, our employees are not making good choices on our behalf. They certainly are not leading us in a healthy and sustainable direction.

If they value their jobs, perhaps they should choose to start paying attention to the guidance of their employers.

*—the editors*



## NOVEMBER 2007

### PROJECT UPDATES

**1. Circulation Study:** When will Jerome Stocks explain the delays?!

**2. Brown property, Cardiff, Case # 05-184:** This is a General Plan Amendment request to go from RR1 to R5. On 7 Nov 2007, the Council received a draft development agreement and heard a short presentation from Scott Brown requesting that said agreement be processed concurrently with the General Plan rezone request. Mayor Bond reminded all present that Council was required to receive the agreement but would not respond to, nor discuss this issue at that time. They would listen to all speakers present. Over thirty speakers spoke. One in support of the draft agreement and the remaining were strongly opposed for myriad reasons to both the rezone request and to the draft agreement being processed concurrently.

Now the Browns and their associates must decide whether or not to pursue their requests. The Council must then decide whether or not to accept and act on the draft agreement, or to follow the process according to the General Plan: either a vote of the public or a supermajority of the Council to grant the upzoning request.

Let your Council know how you feel regarding this issue. For further information contact:

Primary: Laurie Tremor, ltremor@ci.encinitas.ca.us  
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**3. 825 Orpheus Avenue:** Owners Alan and Faye Tassviris hired JMD Landscaping to dispatch the beautiful Torrey pine tree on their property. The large crew started at 7 am Tues, 13 Nov 2007.

It's hard to say without knowing why the Tassviris made the choice to kill the healthy tree. Some say it was to spite the neighborhood who has stymied



the Tassviris efforts to dramatically upzone the property, first to a commercial property and then to a high-density gated residential development. Others speculate the Tassviris hoped to facilitate the sale to a potential owner who was not willing to cut down the tree and be saddled with that act when attempting to upzone. Whatever their motivation, we have all lost something valuable.

The Torrey pine is not protected within the City of Encinitas. Perhaps all mature native trees should be.

**4. Cardiff Specific Plan:** The Committee has tabled discussion on building heights and one story building incentives to gather more information. The Committee meets Tuesdays 6-8 pm in the Poinsettia Room, City Hall.

**5. GreEncinitas:** GreEncinitas is a group of Encinitas residents working to encourage the City to incorporate sustainable environmental policies into its overall planning and everyday practices. They want to work with the City and its residents to collectively manage the environmental footprint and ensure the well-being of our community for the long-term.

The environment, traffic, water efficiency, energy efficiency, quality of life in our communities—are all areas they want to improve. They guided the City to create the environmental advisory committee (EAC) as well as to create a position for an Environmental Advisory Committee Consultant. An RFP is now available for the new position and applications must be in by 21 Nov 2007.

For more information:

<http://www.greencinitas.org>

**6. Encinitas invasive-plant panel:** The City Council has chosen a subcommittee to draft policies to restrict invasive plants such as giant reed and tamarisk, which can harm fragile habitats. The subcommittee is comprised of eleven members of the community: Chuck Ades, a commercial grower of house plants; Doug Gibson, project manager and principal scientist for the Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit Invasive Species Control Plan; Katie Brown, an Encinitas Trails Coalition member; Shannon Bryant, a former environmental scientist for the federal government; Jesse Giessow, a member of Encinitas' now disbanded Blue Ribbon Environmental Committee; Jerry Louis, a master gardener and composer; Robert Nanninga, an environmental activist and former Parks and Recreation Commission member; Brad Roth, project manager for the Cottonwood Creek Conservancy; Sanford Shapiro, a master gardener and volunteer for the San Eljio Lagoon Conservancy and Quail Botanical Gardens;

Joyce Sisson, a Solana Beach resident who has mapped the locations of many invasive plants in the area using a satellite-based system; and Nan Sterman, a botanist and garden writer. The panel has met once and will meet again on 29 Nov and are scheduled to meet every Thurs.

For more of this story:

[http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2007/09/01/news/coastal/encinitas/19\\_50\\_558\\_31\\_07.txt](http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2007/09/01/news/coastal/encinitas/19_50_558_31_07.txt)

**7. Encinitas General Plan update:** Each city and county in California is required to prepare a comprehensive, long-term plan to guide its future. At a minimum, a General Plan must address land use, housing, traffic circulation, open space, conservation, noise and safety. Taken together, these elements are a statement of the *community's* values and vision for its future.

The General Plan update is scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year 2008/2009. The process is to evaluate whether the existing General Plan's goals and policies continue to reflect *community* values and determine where adjustments may be necessary to respond to changing needs and priorities.

Let's all get ready for this one: in no way does updating the General Plan dictate an increase in zoning densities.

**8. Smoking ban:** By a 5-0 vote Council directed staff to come back with an ordinance to ban smoking at our beaches, parks and trails and any outdoor dining area.

**9. Council agenda for 5 Dec:** Council discussion on the City's policy concerning notification for closed session meetings.

Please attend.

### ENCINITAS MAYOR & COUNCIL

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