



OCTOBER 2010

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CITY FINANCIALS

Our Mayor has done a good job deceiving the public about the City's budget and infrastructure maintenance. The most generic City service is streets maintenance, and it is a bellwether of the budget.

So, how are we doing?

Not very well, thank you. For years the City claimed they were funding street overlay projects based on a structured schedule which was designed to keep our streets from decaying. Once streets decay too far they must be torn up and rebuilt. So, it is rather important that our streets be maintained adequately and on time.

Three years ago I started asking City Hall to show me the report with the structured schedule. It is illegal to deny access to the document. Only after a great deal of effort did I get a copy. The motivation for hiding the document was immediately apparent: the City had been lying about its on-going use of a structured schedule. The report was long out of date and completely useless.

Soon after that revelation, the City hired a consultant to inventory street conditions and design a new maintenance schedule. This report was contractually due by August 2009. We now know the City received reports dated March 2010, which were labeled FINAL, and that the City sent no further comments to the consultants who were paid for producing a final report.

The new report says the City has been massively under funding street maintenance. The City has accumulated \$18 million in deferred maintenance. To keep current, and catch up with overdue repairs, it will require \$9 million per year over the next five years.

Please know that, according to the budget approved by the Council four months ago, the City's crown project, the Hall Park (Phase I) is officially underfunded by \$10 million.

Translation: we ain't got enough money.

Is that good enough motivation to keep the streets reports secret? The City delayed the release of both the Hall park EIR and the citywide traffic study for years. To some people, political manipulation is apparently more important than public access and progressing on the projects.

The new and embarrassing streets report was released at the end of September 2010 only under the specter of an open government lawsuit. The general counsel for the open government organization, Calaware, reviewed the matter and concluded that the City was violating the State Constitution. The only option was taking the matter to a judge after the Mayor wouldn't even respond to requests to have the matter reconciled.

I suspect the streets report was being artificially delayed so it wouldn't have to be factored into the summer budget discussions. The only parties served by keeping the document secret are those who don't want the public to know the truth.

Please read the full story of all the troubles with the streets report, and find more details on the financial implications on the Encinitas Taxpayers Association website encinitastaxpayers.org

A related issue... How the City has filled its reserves with borrowed money can also be found at ETA's site encinitastaxpayers.org
~Kevin Cummins

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GOOD THINGS TO DO...

Two businesses conveniently located at the NE corner of Encinitas Boulevard and Quail Gardens Drive are well worth a visit. The first is the venerable Sunshine Gardens. The other is the Elizabethan Desserts bakery.

[Sunshine Gardens](#) is a family owned nursery operating in the same basic location for close to 40 years. Sunshine continues to be an excellent choice for seasonal vegetable starts, amendments, as well as native and exotic drought-tolerant ornamentals.

[Elizabethan Desserts](#) is located in the red roofed building in the corner of Sunshine's parking lot. American baked goods, made from scratch with real ingredients, style, and love.

Get out there and enjoy our community!

COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Here is a list of the four candidates running for the two seats on the Encinitas City Council.

Candidate	their web site
Teresa Barth	barthforencinitas.com
Dan Dalager	dandalager.com
Kristin Gaspar	kristingasparforcouncil.com
Tony Kranz	tonykranz.com

CANDIDATE FORUMS

We apologize to the Cardiff Town Council for not getting this listing in time for their date.

[Olivenhain Town Council](#)—Wednesday, October 6, 2010 6 pm at the Olivenhain Meeting Hall.

Nuevo Encinitas—Thursday, October 7, 2010 6:30 pm at the Grauer School, 1500 South El Camino Real.

Leucadia Town Council—Tuesday, October 12, 2010 6 pm in the Community Room of the Encinitas library.

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UNION TRIBUNE

VS. REALITY PT III

For a fresh example of the *UT Editorial Board's* lack of honor, one needs to look no further than their recent glowing endorsement of candidate Kristin Gaspar for City Council. If running a California city in the 21st century wasn't such a serious issue, their's might be a funny joke. But things are serious and their editorial endorsement is but a perversion.

According to the Editorial Board, Gaspar is energetic and community minded—certainly good attributes. But in Gaspar we have a person who has rarely, if ever, attended a City Council meeting to participate in our local democracy—which speaks volumes.

On what she would do if elected, she has made but one position perfectly clear: she will ignore the “fringe” and “minority” “special interest groups” who she characterizes as being the force unilaterally preventing the City from building the Park on the Hall Property.

Gaspar offers no cogent discussion on City issues. Instead, she chooses to blame a boogie man for the City's gross mismanagement of our infrastructure and financial health. Gaspar has made her leadership style clear by ignoring what is actually going on, here in our city. She articulates an eager willingness to ignore the processes of democracy. Perhaps her sources of “news” and the rules of democracy are as honest and interested in reality as is the UT Editorial Board.

That the Editorial Board has endorsed Gaspar is not really surprising. Theirs is a long history of endorsing anti-democracy candidates such as Dalager, Stocks, Guerin, and Cunningham. With Gaspar on the ballot they have someone to endorse who, seemingly, will be as blindly willing to do the wrong things to achieve a goal as is our friend Dan and his peers.

~with help from your neighbors

GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Leucadia Town Council Board members Kathleen Lees and Rachele Collier are representing Leucadia on the General Plan Update Committee. This is their report.

The City hired MIG, a consulting firm from Berkeley, to take us through the process. Phase 1, which was ‘visioning’ the future of Encinitas, has been completed. The initial report can be viewed at encinitas2035.info

The next step is to hear back from MIG about our options to accomplish the vision.

As part of the ‘visioning process’, workshops were held in each of our five communities, in addition to a city-wide workshop for all residents. The Leucadia Town Council was pleased, and not at all surprised, that our fellow citizens share the same concerns about our future.

Many of the issues LTC consistently promotes are the very issues being addressed in the General Plan Update. These issues include how, as a city, we can maintain the small town character of each of our individual communities, prevent over-development which creates more problems than benefits, solve traffic problems caused by lack of adequate attention by the City to the problems of over-development, and create a better intracommunity transportation infrastructure for pedestrians, bike riders and skateboarders. Most citizens seek to protect our natural environment, follow the Urban Tree Policy, establish more dog parks and community vegetable gardens, and, most of all, to preserve the unique communities and quality of life we now enjoy.

Do not miss the city-wide workshop scheduled for Tuesday, November 16th, at the Community Center, 6 pm. The MIG folks, City Staff, and the General Plan Update Committee members will be asking for your input.

TIME TO ACT...



Caltrans has extended the deadline for the public comment period on the I-5 expansion. We still need to provide feedback soon.

The first step is to understand who needs our feedback. The next step is understanding what sort of feedback has the greatest impact.

Caltrans bases the need for additional transportation infrastructure on the input from local and regional governments. While Caltrans does have their own experts evaluating traffic, they rely heavily on regional bodies, such as SANDAG, to fully study and make recommendations for a region's future transportation directions.

So, while it is Caltrans who is acting as the primary receptor for feedback on the project, it is SANDAG who is at the wheel, wanting us to drive with them toward the mega-freeway.

When submitting public comments on state issues, asking questions which may expose flawed logic or reveal intent, can be more effective than making a statement of opinion.

E.g...

1. Why does I-5 need more lanes in North County than I-405 has through LA and Orange County?
2. Emphasizing environmental issues seems to be a driving marketing force in your proposal. Why then are you advocating adding toll lanes for cars with single occupants, regardless of their emission profile?
3. How can you justify encouraging the doubling of vehicular traffic on I-5 when the levels of micro-particulate pollution in surrounding neighborhoods, created by the existing freeway, currently reaches or exceeds the recognized levels of safety?
4. Given state laws and the direct link between the volume of freeway vehicular traffic and carbon emissions, how do you justify encouraging doubling the vehicular traffic on I-5?
5. In context of state and local rules regarding preservation of view corridors, how do you justify the use of 40 foot high sound attenuation walls to keep radiated noise below legal levels in the neighborhoods?

Route your questions to SANDAG and Caltrans.