



Jim Evert, *Mayor*
Tim Brown, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Robert "Bob" Baker, *Councilmember*
Jim Dahl, *Councilmember*
Lori Donchak, *Councilmember*

George Scarborough, *City Manager*

Office of Mayor and City Councilmembers

Phone: (949) 361-8322 Fax: (949) 361-8283

E-mail: CityCouncil@san-clemente.org

February 29, 2012

The Honorable Ken Calvert
U.S. House of Representatives
4160 Temescal Canyon Rd., Suite 214
Corona, CA 92883

***Via Facsimile: (951) 784-5225
(202) 225-2004***

Dear Congressman Calvert:

Thank you for your many years of loyal support to the San Clemente community. You have successfully championed our projects and secured funds for amenities of tremendous value to our residents, including water reclamation, shore protection, road improvements, coastal trail construction, and the T-Street overpass rehabilitation project. These projects have benefitted our local economy through the creation of jobs and the improvement of our aging infrastructure.

We are sensitive to the demands on your time and appreciate the time you have set aside to meet with us on Tuesday, March 13th. We look forward to conveying the opportunities and challenges we face in San Clemente to advance projects of public benefit. We have detailed these priorities in a fact sheet included within this letter. While we understand that Congress has a moratorium on earmarks that include funding for local infrastructure projects, we know that support for our projects is still available as grants through the federal agencies. As we pursue this path, we respectfully request your support in seeking funding for these much-needed priorities.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you and your staff on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. at the City's Community Development Building located at 910 Calle Negocio, 2nd Floor in San Clemente. An agenda for our meeting is included; however, if you would like additional information prior to your visit, please call me at (949) 361-8322. Once again, on behalf of the citizens of San Clemente and my elected colleagues, thank you for serving as our voice in Congress.

Sincerely,

Jim Evert, Mayor

cc: City Council



AGENDA

Congressman Ken Calvert Annual Visit to San Clemente

March 13, 2012

9:30 a.m.

**Community Development Department, 2nd Floor
910 Calle Negocio, San Clemente, California 92673**

1. Introductions
2. San Clemente Beach Restoration & Sand Replenishment Design Phase
3. Safety / Quiet Zone Improvements and Project Update
4. Avenida La Pata Extension Project
5. San Clemente Recycled Water Storage and Treatment Expansion Project
6. South Orange Coastal Ocean Desalination Project
7. Courtney's SandCastle Universally Accessible Playground – Phase II
8. Public Comment

**The City of San Clemente, CA
Fiscal Year 2013 Federal Priorities**

February 2012



**City of San Clemente
Fiscal Year 2013 Federal Priorities
~Fact Sheet -**

San Clemente Beach Restoration & Sand Replenishment Design Phase

The City of San Clemente has suffered a severe loss of beach sand in recent years that has resulted in the loss of recreational beach space, damage and threat to facilities, and has increased the risk of injury to the public due to the exposure of underlying hard structures and/or rocks.

As the result of sand loss, San Clemente obtained the support of the United States Government to conduct a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study. The purpose of the Feasibility Study is to investigate the causes of the erosion along San Clemente's coastline and to evaluate and recommend alternatives to correct the problem. The study has been underway since 2001, and is now being completed. The City Council supported the recommended 50-foot beach nourishment plan, and the Corps completed its Washington level review briefing and public review of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and final feasibility study report. The Coastal Commission issued its Consistency Determination in December 2011 and the Corps staff is now finalizing the Chief of Engineers report, which is anticipated to be transmitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) in July 2012, and then on to Congress in August 2012 for authorization in the next Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

The next step would be to commence the Preconstruction, Engineering and Design (PED) phase, which is estimated at \$1 million. We ask for your assistance in getting this project authorized in WRDA 2012 so the PED phase can begin. State grant funding assistance has already been reserved for the City, and the City expects to provide its local cost share for the PED phase. Therefore, we ask your assistance in securing \$500,000 in the Corps FY2013 budget to allow PED to begin.

The beaches of San Clemente are a pristine natural resource that support a thriving economy and provide a protective buffer to one of the most heavily traveled rail lines in the country, the Los Angeles to San Diego corridor. Erosion of the protective beaches in San Clemente has caused much of the study area to contain little, if any, beach, particularly during the winter season. Storm induced waves have become a serious threat over the past several years to City facilities, area rail lines, commercial properties, infrastructure, and coastal residencies. Due to your successful efforts in the past we were able to get the feasibility study accomplished and we hope you are able to secure authorization and funding so that we can continue this effort to preserve our coastline.

WRDA 2013 Request: The City of San Clemente respectfully requests your support for including PED and construction authorization of the City of San Clemente Beach Restoration & Sand Replenishment Design project in the Water Resources Development Act.

FY 2013 Request: The City of San Clemente respectfully requests support for \$500,000 in Federal funding for the Pre-construction, Engineering and Design (PED) phase of the City of San Clemente Beach Restoration & Sand Replenishment Design project.

City of San Clemente Safety / Quiet Zone Improvements Project

The City of San Clemente is committed to the creation of a Safety/Quiet Zone along San Clemente's coast. Nearly 46 trains travel along this stretch of San Clemente daily and more trips are planned. In an attempt to calm train noise along the beach, the City committed funding to the creation of a Quiet Zone. A Quiet Zone is a designated section of a railroad line that includes one or more consecutive public at-grade crossings, in which trains are prohibited from sounding their horns. Within a Quiet Zone, train engineers would only sound their horns if they see someone on the tracks. Meanwhile, the San Clemente Coastal Trail added 5 new legal at-grade crossings, providing definitive and safer crossings for pedestrians. After four summers of experience, the 2.3 mile trail is working as intended, providing safer access along the coast and to and from the beach. It's a potentially dangerous interface – one of America's busiest rail corridors along a beach that draws 2.7 million visitors annually.

The application process for a Quiet Zone involved a technical and diagnostic assessment of the corridor to determine additional safety improvements. Through its Quiet Zone working group, OCTA worked closely with the City of San Clemente, and 9 other cities in Orange County to develop solutions to train noise. This involved the preparation of the City's Quiet Zone application for submission to the California Public Utilities Commission and the Federal Railroad Administration. The diagnostic team was extensively involved in reviewing the access points, taking measurements and recommending safety improvements. Their completed report is anticipated this spring.

For the pedestrian crossings that qualify, OCTA will fund 88% of the total cost of the safety improvements, while the City is responsible for the remaining 12%. So far, OCTA approved 3 crossings for safety upgrades in San Clemente and work on these projects began in May 2011. On December 21, 2011 a Quiet Zone was officially established for the North Beach area at the pedestrian crossing at the end of Avenida Estacion, and at the vehicular crossing at Send De La Playa next to the North Beach Metrolink Station. The remaining pedestrian and vehicular crossings are being improved with supplemental safety measures with the intention to pursue a Quiet Zone designation for the entire City. Our efforts have entailed a multi-pronged strategy that includes administrative approaches with the FRA and CPUC; legislative approaches with the federal and state governments; and evaluating infrastructure improvements. Additionally, the City is currently pursuing an Audible Warning System (AWS) as a feasible solution to reducing train horn noise and lessening the environmental impact the train horns have on residents, beach goes and trail users.

We will continue to work on obtaining approval for safety additions to the 7 remaining pedestrian crossings and seek your help in obtaining funding to help with this effort. The next phase which excludes the above completed projects totals \$3.9 million with the City's share at \$468,000 and OCTA's share at \$3.432 million.

FY 2013 Request: The City of San Clemente respectfully requests support for \$468,000 in federal funding for the City of San Clemente Safety/Quiet Zone Improvements Project.

City of San Clemente Avenida La Pata Extension Project

The completion of Avenida La Pata from San Clemente to San Juan Capistrano has been part of Orange County's master plan of arterial highways since 1963. The County has conducted preliminary alignment and environmental studies for the proposed project that would extend the existing portion of Avenida La Pata south of Ortega highway roughly 2 miles to connect with the section of Avenida La Pata in San Clemente. This project would help provide a better link between the City of San Juan Capistrano and the City of San Clemente. The proposed project also includes the Camino Del Rio quarter-mile extension to the future La Pata Avenue from where it ends, just east of Camino De Los Mares. Both plans are proposed as four-lane roadways. The proposed project will traverse parts of San Clemente, the unincorporated areas of the County and is also adjacent to San Juan Capistrano.

Roadway improvements on Avenida La Pata would improve traffic circulation in San Clemente and in the region since a portion of the road falls outside of the City's jurisdiction. The proposed improvements will also minimize environmental impacts on the area's high quality of life, while providing an alternate to Interstate 5 for north-southbound traffic. This route is vital not only to daily commutes, but to create a secondary evacuation route to the I-5 freeway in case of an emergency at the San Onofre nuclear plant. Even in the event of a major vehicle collision or hazardous spill on the freeway (which brings traffic to a standstill) there currently is not a practical alternative traffic route for motorists. Today, the I-5 freeway is the only major transportation route and designated emergency evacuation route out of town, making redundancy in transportation routes critical to accommodate the safety and security of our public.

The County of Orange is the lead agency for this project, and last August certified the State environmental documents (CEQA) for the project. And, in September 2011 the County approved a contract for the preparation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environment documentation for the project, which is necessary to make the project eligible for federal funding. NEPA certification is anticipated by the end of 2012. Construction could start as early as 2013 if funding is available. The estimated construction cost is \$77.4 million, and the total project cost is estimated at about \$90 million (includes design, environmental, etc.).

HR 7 American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act Request: The City of San Clemente thanks you for your support for including language in the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act in support of funding for Emergency Evacuation Routes. We respectfully request that you work with your colleagues to ensure this language remains in the bill through the amendment and conference processes.

FY 2013 Request: The City of San Clemente respectfully requests support for \$9 million in federal funding for the City of San Clemente Avenida La Pata Extension Project.

San Clemente Recycled Water Storage and Treatment Expansion Project

The City has a long history of providing recycled water to the Municipal Golf Course since the 1950's. In 1991, utilizing local funds only, the City completed a major expansion of its wastewater treatment and water reclamation plant at a cost of over \$40 million. The project proposes to expand existing facilities and construct new facilities to serve the City's Recycled Water System.

The current capacity is 2.2 million gallons per day (MGD) and service was expanded to Bella Collina Towne and Golf Club, formally (Pacific Golf Course), and the Water Reclamation Plant. Due to grant funding opportunities, the City's Recycled Water Master Plan was updated and approved by the City Council in 2007, and which planned for an expansion of the recycled water system to 4.4 MGD. In addition to plant expansion, the City plans to: a) convert a 2 million-gallon potable water reservoir to recycled water; b) install a smaller 200,000 gallon water reservoir to allow for proper operation of the water system; c) construct 9 miles of transmission pipelines; and d) install a pressure reducing station and a pump station. The expanded system will serve approximately 115 service connections consisting of 25 customers.

The project provides benefits to the City's water system by reducing dependency on imported water by approximately 8%. Customers using recycled water benefit during drought periods by having uninterrupted recycled water use. Other benefits include offsetting potential new demand charges imposed by Metropolitan Water District and lowering the City's overall imported water demand which will help the City meet State mandated water reductions by 2020 as defined in Senate Bill 7.

The total project cost is estimated at \$22 million. The City is currently awaiting final State Revolving Fund Loan approval. We anticipate construction will begin this summer and will require 1.5 to 2 years to complete. Once construction is complete, it will take up to 3 years to convert the target accounts from potable to recycled water service.

FY 2013 Request: The City of San Clemente respectfully requests \$2.5 million in federal funding support for the San Clemente Recycled Water Storage and Treatment Expansion Project.

South Orange Coastal Ocean Desalination Project

The City of San Clemente is participating with the cities of San Juan Capistrano, Dana Point and Laguna Beach, and the South Coast Water District and Moulton Niguel Water District to explore construction of an ocean water desalination plant in Dana Point. The construction of ocean water desalination facilities may provide South Orange County with a new dependable water supply source that is independent of drought cycles, which will help to supplement Delta judicially-mandated cutbacks. The projected water supply of up to 25 cubic feet per second or 15 million gallons per day will significantly improve South Orange County's water supply system reliability. This project is especially important for San Clemente since it is at the south end of the regional pipeline distribution system, with only 2 pipelines providing imported water to the City from the north. There is no water available from the east or south.

A pilot plant has been constructed and is being operated for approximately 18 months. During the operation, the following is being studied: 1) water quality from a slant well in Doheny Beach, 2) effects on the San Juan Basin Aquifer, 3) corrosion analysis, 4) reverse osmosis filter testing, 5) microbial testing and 6) post treatment testing. Results from the pilot plant testing, are anticipated by summer 2012. Additional analysis is needed with regards to feasibility investigations prior to any decisions being made to move forward with full-scale design and construction phases. Remaining feasibility investigations may include: offshore geology investigation; San Juan Basin groundwater impacts; water supply reliability; and, economic analysis.

To date, the City of San Clemente has budgeted \$685,000 for participation in the pilot plant and feasibility analysis of the project. Additional funding in the amount of \$25,000 will be proposed in the City of San Clemente's FY 2013 Capital Improvement Program to cover MWDOC management and administration costs on behalf of the City. The full scale plant total project cost is estimated at \$154 million or \$207 million if iron and manganese treatment facilities are determined to be needed. Efforts include preparation of proposals for any competitive grant program that might be developed and managed through the Environmental Protection Agency, Army Corp of Engineers, Reclamation or others.

FY 2013 Request: The City of San Clemente respectfully requests support for this multi-agency South Orange Coastal Ocean Desalination Project. Combined, the partner agencies are seeking \$15 to \$20 million in federal funding support for the project to continue planning, permitting and design and construction.

Courtney's SandCastle Universally Accessible Playground - Phase II

Courtney's SandCastle is the City's only universal playground which will serve special needs children and adults and foster play and interaction with able bodied children. The first phase of this playground opened alongside the new sports park and aquatics center in San Clemente on February 25, 2012. The playground represents a 30,000 square-foot play area within the new park and is anticipated to be a regional draw for those with disabilities. Designed for both children as well as adults, this unique playground will provide space for both kids who have disabilities to play as well as a place for parents with disabilities to be able to take their able bodied kids to interact together. In addition, San Clemente's proximity to Camp Pendleton Marine Base will make this a destination for disabled veterans and their kids. Special recreational equipment will also be available to handicapped Marine veterans and other disabled adults.

Courtney's SandCastle is named for Courtney Faye Smith who has been confined to a wheelchair because of a rare muscular degenerative disease – Spinal Muscular Atrophy. When Courtney and her friends visit local parks together, she is unable to participate because of her disabilities as are some 18,000 other children in Orange County with disabilities. The Parks Foundation, the City of San Clemente, and the Junior Woman's Club came together in 2004 to build the playground, and have been continually fundraising. The City committed the land at its new sports park and \$625,000 to construct "phase one" of the playground.

A funding shortfall of \$326,000 exists to complete "phase two" of this important project. This phase consists of critical components that bring the playground full circle, consisting of a sensory garden with all sorts of different plans and features and water attractions. In the sensory garden, kids can see, smell and feel. To a child who is sightless or blind—this means a lot to them. The main water attraction proposes a floating-ball fountain composed of a large granite ball with water flowing over it that children can touch.

FY 2013 Request: The City of San Clemente respectfully requests support for \$326,000 in federal funding for the Courtney's Sand Castle Universal Playground Project.