

*"I heard the news today, oh boy..." (Lennon/McCartney)*

## Letter from the City Manager

As most of you already know, the Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA) is exploring alignments to extend the 241 toll road which will, in almost all cases, adversely impact San Clemente. Since 2016, your City Council has adopted resolutions and submitted numerous statements of opposition to the toll road extension. Since that time, the City has filed multiple lawsuits against the TCA, most recently when the TCA refused to release public documents after the City submitted a Public Records Act (PRA) request.

On Monday, March 11, 2019, *the Los Angeles Times* posted a story titled *"While you sit in traffic, these tollway consultants charge the public \$185 an hour for reading news"* (<https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-toll-road-consultants-20190311-story.html>). This story highlights billing records of the TCA, including the following:

- Katie Pringle, a TCA consultant billed 28 hours in a single day;

- Venture Strategic, who has a \$1.8 Million annual contract with the TCA, received \$230,000 for more than 1,300 hours spent reading "emails of news from transportation stories; evaluate reporter perspectives" at up to \$185 an hour;

- LAB, another consultant, billed the TCA more than \$3,000 every month to compile news stories at \$90 an hour;

- TCA spent \$380,000 in one year for two micro-sites and small social media pages; and

- Venture Strategic received a \$21,000 a month flat fee retainer and then billed \$100 to \$185 an hour to complete the same tasks that are covered under the flat fee arrangement, effectively double-dipping on public funds.

In all, the TCA has spent over \$15,700,000 on consultants over the past few years. Due to the egregious and inappropriate spending outlined in the *LA Times* article, Councilmembers Dan Bane and Laura Ferguson, who are Directors on the TCA Board, introduced motions to put a freeze on consultant contracts and hire an independent third-party auditor to review the consultant agreements at yesterday's TCA Board meeting in Irvine. Instead of allowing an independent third-party review the over \$10,000,000 in consultant invoices for the past four years, the TCA Board of Directors announced its referral to an Ad Hoc Contracts Committee, which met that afternoon.

I am deeply saddened by the TCA's choices at the March 14th meeting. Instead of opting for an open and transparent conversation about the facts, they chose to default to meeting in secret through an ad hoc committee that they say is not subject to the Brown Act, and therefore not open to the public. In addition, the Board has said they will revisit the issue at their next meeting in April. In the meantime, while the contracts go on status quo, consultants will be paid some \$750,000 before the next meeting of the board.

The City will continue to work diligently to protect our community and all others who are affected by the irresponsible decisions of the TCA Board.

If you have any questions, please email me at [Makshanoffj@san-clemente.org](mailto:Makshanoffj@san-clemente.org) or call my office at 949.361.8322. Also, I encourage you to sign up for the TCA's email updates about the 241 Toll Road [241update@thetollroads.com](mailto:241update@thetollroads.com)

All the best,

*James*



## City Council Meeting for March 19, 2019

The next City Council meeting will be held on March 19th at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers located at 100 Avenida Presidio

We have a light agenda that is being brought to City Council at their next meeting. Here are a few items on the agenda that may be of interest.

### **Special Presentations**

*Toll Road Update*

*PierPride Foundation– Replacement of Educations Signs on the San Clemente Municipal Pier*

### **Consent Calendar**

*Item I –Contract Agreement-Lease & Operating Agreement for Use of the Ole Hanson Beach Club*

This Amendment provides the tenant with exclusive use of the Ole Hanson Beach Club exterior lawn area on week-ends.

*Item J– Sports Partnership Agreement (Silver Partnership)- San Clemente Youth Rugby*  
Provides Silver Partnership for a one-year period.

To view the March 19th meeting agenda in its entirety, please visit our city website at [san-clemente.org](http://san-clemente.org)

## Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Workshop

The LTFP is intended to serve as a tool, providing Council and the public with the insight required to address issues impacting the City's financial condition. The LTFP consists of a complete financial plan and an Issue Paper section which provides supporting documents used in developing a strategic plan after a thorough analysis of all issues that impact the City's financial condition. This year's workshop was held on March 11th. To read this year's LTFP document go to our city [website](#). I have included a link to view the workshop on the City's [YouTube](#) channel

Below is a compilation of the directions provided by Council at the LTFP workshop. Please note that Council approved all staff recommendations. The below is limited to specific requests offered by Council during the meeting.

- Staff is to provide Council with a feasibility assessment (including cost estimates) associated with preserving some or all of the trees on Del Mar.
- Staff is to assess the feasibility/cost impact of phasing the Del Mar Electrical Services and Street Tree Rehabilitation project.
- Staff is to assess the possibility of running conduit to avoid the Del Mar tree boxes.
- Council noted the importance of continual high-level service from Cox Communications, which has a franchise agreement with the City. City Manager Makshanoff agreed to review the subject franchise agreement to determine whether it contains renewal provisions and report the results of his research to Council.
- Council requested that Staff investigate the possibility of utilizing audio functionality in addition to security cameras at City facilities.
- Councilmember Ferguson agreed to research software systems to assist the City in responding to public records requests and to report back to Council with the potential cost as well as information about the system's ability to capture responsive public records and emails.
- Council requested that Staff research private parking enforcement options.
- Council requested that the new Chief of Police Services research potential recruiting programs to help attract applicants to fill positions.
- Council requested that Staff investigate opportunities for filling vacant positions (e.g., Community Services Officer positions) with an eye toward creative budgeting possibilities.

City Council will hold the Budget Workshop on May 22nd.

## Junior Lifeguard Program

Join the Fun-Learn Ocean Safety. Our San Clemente Junior Lifeguard Program has announced it will open up its summer registration for all sessions on April 24, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

If you are a first time participant to our Junior Lifeguard Program, you must pass a swim test to be eligible to register. Swim tests are conducted at the San Clemente Aquatics Center. A passing swim test is four laps (100 yards) under 2:00 minutes.

Testing will take place on the following dates

Saturdays 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

March 23, March 30, April 6, April 13, April 20

Summer Swim Test Dates 10:30-11:30 a.m.

June 12 & July 18

Sundays 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m

March 31, April 7, April 14

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You must bring the following to the swim test: Proof of age & Proof of residency (Non-residents will be charged the non-resident fees)

Signup for the swim test at [www.san-clemente.org/jg](http://www.san-clemente.org/jg)

For more information  
Contact 949-361-8361  
[www.san-clemente.org/jg](http://www.san-clemente.org/jg)

