



KATRINA FOLEY

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FIFTH DISTRICT

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION NORTH
400 W. CIVIC CENTER DR., SIXTH FLOOR
SANTA ANA, CA 92701
(714) 834-3550
Katrina.Foley@ocgov.com

August 6, 2024

Mayor Victor Cabral
Members of the San Clemente City Council
City of San Clemente
910 Calle Negocio
San Clemente, CA 92673

Re: Oppose – San Clemente City Council Proposed Sales Tax Increase

Dear Mayor Cabral and Members of the San Clemente City Council:

I write in **opposition** to the August 6, 2024 San Clemente City Council Meeting Agenda Item 8A: Consideration of a Resolution Calling an Election in the City of San Clemente (City) to be Consolidated with the City's Next General Municipal Election on November 5, 2024, Submitting to the Electors a Ballot Measure to Establish a Three-Quarters of One Cent (0.75¢) Special Purpose Transactions and Use (Sales) Tax.

Orange County residents pay more than our fair share in taxes to the State and Federal government, with historically little advocacy to bring these monies home. The Council's proposed sales tax increase places an undue burden onto the residents of San Clemente, at a time where unprecedented government funding is available from the taxes these residents already paid. I urge this council to join County, State, and Federal partners to seek funding through existing state and federal grants, instead of through an unjust tax increase that predominantly impacts middle class families.

I encourage the City to accept my offer to collaborate with my office and our partners to finance sand replenishment efforts through robust state and federal grant programs. For example, at my request, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) applied for more than \$460 million in combined grant requests from various federal agencies for coastal rail resilience in FY 2023-2024. Anywhere from \$70 - \$145 million of these dollars will directly aid San Clemente's sand nourishment efforts at no additional cost to the City's residents.

As Orange County's Fifth District Supervisor, I represent the coastal cities of Newport Beach, Laguna Beach, Dana Point, and San Clemente – 35 miles of Orange County's coastline. To address the eroding coastline, my office spearheaded the South Orange County Regional Coastal Resilience Strategic Plan (SOCCRCRSP) and created the Coastal Resilience Collaborative. This initiative will consolidate regional efforts to save Orange County beaches, protect our critical rail infrastructure, provide a formal platform for agencies to discuss and coordinate coastal resiliency efforts, and expedite

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grant requests and necessary permits to facilitate beach restoration. Member agencies will include the County of Orange as the lead entity, as well as the Cities of San Clemente, Dana Point, Seal Beach, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, OCTA, BNSF, Metrolink, the State of California, Army Corps of Engineers, State and Federal Representatives, Save Our Beaches, Home-Owners Associations, the Acjachemen Nation, UCI, SDG&E, SONGS (SoCal Edison), and more.

To support the Coastal Resilience Collaborative, at my request, the Board of Supervisors recently approved a new Coastal Resilience Manager staff position to the Orange County Parks budget on June 11, 2024. This new staff member will manage the Coastal Resilience Collaborative and help the Collaborative identify and apply for grant funding opportunities for sand nourishment regionally, as well as help member organizations pool together limited resources to actualize larger grant awards.

On June 4, 2024, the Board of Supervisors approved a \$9.8 Million Grant Award from FEMA/CalOES for Nature-Based Shoreline Adaptation Project to complete the planning and construction of a nature-based coastal adaptation and restoration project along 1,150 feet of shoreline at Capistrano Beach and Doheny State Beach. This vital project serves as an example of collaboration between multiple levels of government to secure funding to rebuild south Orange County's beaches at no additional expense to residents.

Additionally, in summer of 2023 the County of Orange successfully brought 45,000 cubic yards of sediment from our clogged flood channels to Capistrano Beach. Through [a study](#) commissioned by the City of Dana Point, the University of California Irvine found that the sediment traveled south due to wave direction and restored critical sand banks. This sand nourishment project repeated this year and expanded to include North Beach San Clemente. The analysis, presented to my office yesterday, demonstrates the effectiveness of strategic sand placement and the need for the Collaborative to develop a steady funding source for annual sand maintenance in critical coastal erosion hot spots.

Lastly, **I oppose tax increases for our residents**. Local stewardship of our beaches and sand nourishment remains crucial to our ocean economy and the Orange County way of life, but until the Council exhausts all aforementioned funding opportunities, we must not add an additional financial strain on our taxpayers.

For these reasons listed, I write in **opposition** to the City of San Clemente tax increase ballot measure.

Respectfully Submitted,



Katrina Foley, Fifth District Supervisor