

Candidates Answers to Question #1:

What is your position on the Beach Boulevard project? How do you feel about having an Ocean Discovery Center on the site next to a hotel?

Sue Beckmeyer:

I think the Beach Boulevard project is a critical element to anchoring the revitalization of Palmetto Avenue. A boutique hotel with retail shops and restaurants would provide income in the form of Temporary Occupancy Tax and sales tax revenue for this city, and it would provide a destination for the residents of the West Sharp Park neighborhood and the rest of Pacifica. The concept of an Ocean Discovery Center is visionary, but it would need solid financial backing to become a reality for Pacifica. Over the nearly 20 years that the concept has been discussed, there has been no significant infusion of cash to bring it to fruition. Given the City's precarious financial position, unless the group supporting the vision can raise start-up capital, I don't see it as a viable project.

Mary Bier:

As a resident of West Sharp Park, literally one block from the site, if elected I would have to recuse myself from any decisions or conversation about this project. I am in support of the Union Check Card requirement allowing the establishment of a union hotel workforce. Because the city reserves the right to amend the RFQ by addendum, I also feel that a Community Benefit Agreement assuring living wages for all workers, targeted and local hire for construction and operations jobs and community consultation on environmental issues and green building measures would make this a more equitable project. The PODC could serve the city to bring in visitors to the site, however I would be far more interested in some affordable housing units on the site next to the hotel.

Bridget Duffy:

2212 Beach Blvd. is a lovely old building that would be easy to repurpose by creating the Oceanic Discovery Center. The city owns the property and the buildings and the plans are already drawn up. It's a wonderful idea that would be an attraction, a town center, and a resource, not only economically but as an epicenter for exploring remedies for the challenges that our ocean faces.

The greenest building is the building that is already standing. It is new construction that would pose an eminent threat to the ocean in case of sea level rise. The buildings that exist there now have long since lost their toxicity.

Skyline College is building a new environmental sciences building, how ideal would it be to have a working lab right at the ocean for student studies?

Vickie Flores:

1. I am for the Beach Boulevard project and I would like it to include not only a hotel but a small shops and cafes.

2. I think having an Ocean Discovery Center on site next to a hotel is a great idea and should be included in the planning stage as a give back to the city with any hotel we will be doing business with

John Keener – Incumbent:

I'm in favor of the Beach Blvd project. It says in the RFP for the project, that if the Ocean Discovery Center is part of a hotel proposal, the council will consider it with other proposals, but that no special advantage will be given. This means the proposal will be evaluated like all the others, on the basis of how much money they will generate.

Mike O'Neill – Incumbent:

I fully support the development of the Beach Blvd site for a hotel. I am reluctant to support the Ocean discovery center as they have not supplied any evidence that it is sustainable. If it is to be built, it must not need a subsidy of any kind from the City of Pacifica including land lease or ongoing maintenance etc. There will also need to be development of a realistic business plan revenue stream etc.

Adonica Shaw-Porter:

I'm in favor of the project as long as the site that it would be built on is not an at-risk area. I would be in favor of having a Discovery Center near the hotel, as it could be an attraction to visitors and families who were visiting Pacifica.