

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#19

Tuesday,
May 18, 2021

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CLERK OF THE BOARD

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From:
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: FW: Item 19 - Letter of Support
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:48:38 PM
Attachments: [Letter - Board of Supervisors Item 19 - City of Del Mar - CINA - 5-18-21.pdf](#)

From: Clement Brown <cbrown@delmar.ca.us>
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:47 PM
Subject: Item 19 - Letter of Support

Hi Andrew,

Please find attached a letter of support for Item 19 on the Board's agenda tomorrow regarding the Camino del Mar Bridge Replacement Project.

Would you please share this letter with the Board of Supervisors? Also, two of our Councilmembers plan to speak in support at tomorrow's meeting.

Thanks so much,
Clem



CITY OF DEL MAR

May 17, 2021

San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Item 19 - Support for Funding for Camino Del Mar Bridge Replacement Project as a District 3 Community Investment

Dear Board of Supervisors:

The City of Del Mar (City) strongly supports District 3 Supervisor Lawson-Remer's recommendation for a \$3.5 million appropriation to support the Camino Del Mar Bridge Replacement project being brought forward for your consideration at your meeting on May 18, 2021 as part of the Capital Improvements Needs Assessment and Community Investment item. This appropriation will provide critical, timely funds that are simply lacking due to severe financial revenue shortfalls as a result of COVID.

The Camino Del Mar Bridge (Bridge) spans the San Dieguito River just south of Via de la Valle and east of the County Fairgrounds. It is a critically important piece of infrastructure for the entire region. Under normal traffic loads, it serves North County commuters every day along Highway 101, as well as District 3 residents and businesses, and visitors to the North County beaches. Approximately 4.6 million vehicles cross the bridge each year. This Bridge provides a critical link in the region's roadway network, serving the many commuters and tourists that travel up and down the Coast Highway 101 or who use this route as an alternative to Interstate 5.

The Bridge was built in 1932, and has been identified by Caltrans as structurally deficient and beyond its planned life span. Due to its poor condition, its replacement is eligible for 88.5% reimbursement from the Federal Highway Bridge Program. The remaining 11.5% of the replacement cost is the responsibility of the City of Del Mar. With a total price tag of nearly \$48 million, and with COVID impacts to tourism and City revenues – the foundation of Del Mar's budget – Del Mar simply cannot afford the remaining 11.5% of the project's cost, amounting to more than \$5.5 million, in addition to the \$150,000 spent by the City to date. Del Mar is the smallest city in the county and has responsibility to maintain five major bridges, including three on Highway 101.

The City of Del Mar has been catastrophically impacted financially from the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, the City has experienced a \$7.3 million loss in revenue, which represents 21% of our annual budget. Sales tax revenues for 2020 were down by upwards of 60%. With a predicted slow economic recovery, the City's coffers will remain

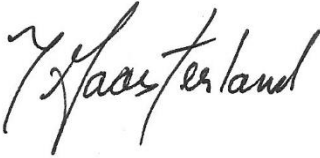
significantly impacted for the next several fiscal years. The City does not have the available financial resources required to fund this critical capital project, which while important to Del Mar, in fact serves residents from throughout the region.

Delaying the project is not an option. Caltrans has evaluated and delineated the structural deficiencies. Making sure the bridge replacement happens on time, as planned, in spite of the major City revenue shortfalls due to COVID, is imperative.

On behalf of the City of Del Mar, I express deep thanks to Supervisor Lawson-Remer for recognizing the importance of making sure this project happens. The bridge replacement is a community investment, and a specific, critical need for District 3. When completed, the new Bridge will add bike lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the structure and will reduce impacts to the environmentally fragile San Dieguito River and adjacent Lagoon.

Again, the City of Del Mar strongly supports the recommended \$3.5 million allocation for the Camino Del Mar Bridge Replacement. Thank you for valuing and investing in this regionally important project for the benefit of the entire San Diego County community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Terry Gaasterland". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry Gaasterland
Mayor

cc: Board of Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer (District 3)
Del Mar City Council
Ashley Jones, Interim City Manager