



P.O. BOX 42  
OCEANO, CA 93475

September 20, 2021

To: Kevin Pierce, CA State Parks; John Waddell, SLO County Public Works; D4 Supervisor, Lynn Compton

RE: Parking on Pier Avenue in Oceano

Dear Agencies and Officials,

We at the Oceano Advisory Council are reaching out to you once again, to begin the process of re-imagining Pier Avenue, due to the impending closure of vehicular beach access. If you recall, we originally contacted you with our concerns and comments back at the end of 2020. Oceano is now a few short months away from having Pier Avenue shut to vehicular beach access and it is imperative decisions get made and implemented during this crucial period.

**San Luis Obispo County:**

There has been ongoing concern about the severe lack of adequate parking on Pier Avenue, and in particular handicap-accessible parking. Currently there is but one designated handicapped parking spot in the entire area of Pier Avenue and the area colloquially called "The Strand". You wrote that Pier Ave is not a candidate for accessible parking. This is true as long as Pier Ave is managed as a corridor to the ODSVRA, but we know that time is rapidly drawing close. We would like Pier Avenue to be redone as a complete street with sidewalks, parking, and bike lanes.

You wrote that there are currently two accessible parking spots being installed on Air Park Drive. We believe that Air Park Drive is too far away for disabled individuals to access the beach. Section 11B-502 of the ADA requires that parking spaces be located on the shortest accessible route to the accessible entrance.

Why isn't there a sidewalk on the north side of Pier Avenue between Old Juan's Cantina and the campground's entrance? Whose responsibility would that be?

Another point of concern pertains to alternate modes of transportation: 1) the need for a revamped and realistic mass transit option connecting Oceano/Halcyon to the rest of the county and making that transportation useful within Oceano/Halcyon. 2) The lack of bicycle

racks along Pier Ave and throughout that area. These two concerns are key to helping reduce the vehicular traffic on Pier Avenue. We must be proactive and anticipatory on these very vital issues. The residents of Oceano do not deserve to be grid-locked in their own town when all stakeholders can address these concerns ahead of the beach access closure.

**California State Parks:**

We originally wrote you and expressed concern over the amount of sand being dragged off the beach and onto our county-maintained roads, causing the residents to bear the financial burden of having that sand removed completely. Please give us an updated schedule of sand removal operations on Pier Avenue. To facilitate sand removal, valuable parking spaces are now being restricted on Pier Avenue even when sand removal is not actually happening. We strongly suggest that those spaces be restricted only during the specific times and days of sand removal to maximize public parking.

We asked that you dedicate some of your Nature Center parking to public parking for pedestrian users of the beach. You said you will consider this request. Thank you. Can you please inform us of your considerations and resolutions?

State Parks has an obligation towards all its patrons, not just to beach drivers and Nature Center visitors. It does not appear that State Parks has ever considered beach pedestrians as its patrons because there are no accommodations for them. State Parks has so far catered only to vehicular activities and their participants. Changes are necessary to allow non-vehicular access to Oceano beach and dunes.

We asked for a roll-out or beach friendly path from the parking lot to the wet sand and accessible parking spots closer to the beach. You wrote these are good recommendations which you will consider. Thank you. Please follow up on this. When will you inform us of your considerations and resolutions?

Thank you all for your cooperation. Let this be the beginning of a fruitful conversation in the interest of our community and, in the long run, of our county. We look forward to hearing from you within the next two weeks from the date of this letter.

Respectfully,



Allene Villa/ Chair  
Oceano Advisory Council





P.O. BOX 42  
OCEANO, CA 93475

September 20, 2021

Re: Oceano Advisory Council Funding  
To: Supervisor Lynn Compton, SLO County District 4  
Supervisor Debbie Arnold, SLO County District 5  
Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg, SLO County District 3  
Supervisor Bruce Gibson, SLO County, District 2  
Supervisor John Peschong, SLO County District 1

Dear Supervisor,

Thank you for the opportunity to reach out to you on behalf of the Oceano Advisory Council. As you are aware, on multiple recent occasions the Oceano Advisory Council has requested funding from District Four Supervisor Lynn Compton to no avail.

Based on the County's own resolution of Advisory Council protocol, we know that each Supervisor is responsible for overseeing the funding of his or her individual advisory councils unless the amount exceeds \$1500. Our original (and revised) requests have exceeded that amount and our supervisor has chosen not to put the budget request on the Board's agenda. As a result, we find ourselves in the awkward position of asking you to consider your own district's discretionary funding to help Oceano in this time of need.

Your board voted to create a second, completely unprecedented and duplicate advisory board in Oceano and this is where the Oceano Advisory Council now finds itself - penniless while facing local vital needs and services. When the majority of your board voted for a second Advisory Council in Oceano they created a situation where County funding would be required for both local groups. At this point, based on feedback from Supervisor Compton's office, it appears that the Oceano Advisory Council will not be receiving funding- while it appears that the new Vitality Advisory Council will be. We find this to be unfair and discriminatory. County Advisory Councils were never intended to fund themselves or solicit public donations for their operations--but that is the situation into which we have been forced.

The current Oceano Advisory Council has been working diligently on several incredibly important issues facing Oceano/Halcyon and without the funding to maintain open meetings, bilingual communication, community involvement, etc, these endeavors are harder to pursue and punish the residents of our great community. Transparency and community-based action is key for Oceano right now – from curbs/gutters/sidewalks, a concrete plan for the revitalization of Pier Avenue when it closes to beach access in a few short months, all the way to vacation rental regulation – Oceano has important needs and issues to address. Withholding funding for such basic provisions like open meetings (Zoom), printing (flyers at local businesses), web hosting (for public awareness) keeps Oceano in the disadvantaged state it constantly attempts to overcome. Please help us in this endeavor.

We respectfully request a \$500 disbursement from your district's discretionary funds to help Oceano. We cannot thank you enough, in anticipation of your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allene Villa', written in a cursive style.

Allene Villa  
Oceano Advisory Council Chair

Attachments

# **ATTACHMENT 1 – REVISED BUDGET REQUEST SUBMITTED JULY 14, 2021**

## **Proposed Budget Oceano Advisory Council Fiscal Year 2021/2022 RE-SUBMITTED: 07-14-2021**

P.O. Box Rental \$212 (prepaid annual expense, already incurred)

Zoom contract \$300 (prepaid annual expense, already incurred)

Website hosting \$320 (prepaid annual expense)

New Website creation \$500 (already paid – one-time expense)

Website maintenance \$300 (training, upkeep, bilingual capability, etc)

Additional storage capacity for electronic records \$50

Ink, paper, office supplies, postage \$100

Community posters and flyers \$350 (this includes Community Beautification Award program)

**Total \$2,132**

# ATTACHMENT 2 – REVISED BUDGET REQUEST BREAKDOWN & EXPLANATION OF EXPENSES SUBMITTED JULY 14, 2021

Dear Supervisors,

07/14/2021

Please find attached the revised Oceano Advisory Council's request for funding. This resubmitted page is to supersede the previously submitted expense document. **All the other documents originally submitted still stand.**

This revision/information is based on two factors:

- 1) Supervisor Compton expressed disinterest in funding a survey of the Oceano/Halcyon community, so that was removed.
- 2) To further explain the needs for these necessary expenditures.

\* The PO Box rate is set by the post office itself. We have switched to the smallest box possible and have minimized the expense in every way available.

\* The Zoom contract is an annual amount, which we paid at the start of the year. Supervisor Compton relayed to me that she believed this expense to be "high". In researching advisory councils, our cost of \$300 is actually lower than what the Avila AC and the SCAC (Nipomo AC) requested compensation for (and only a total of 4 AC's even submitted budgets with that line item). One "pivot" lesson the country has learned during this pandemic is that we, collectively, CAN be more accessible to anyone who cannot attend meetings in person. We believe that our government, and our community, depend on hearing from all involved, and online access has been a major factor in being as inclusive as technologically possible. Zoom allows that to happen. While the pandemic may be over, even current Supervisors are continuing to use Zoom for meeting with constituents, which shows the value of using it, to be inclusive to all.

\* Our website has moved into a considerably more "professional" approach and again, any way which enhances inclusion of ALL community members is a benefit - a website is that very tool. The creation of our new website was a one-time expense and the council members will be doing training in order to keep "contract" maintenance at a bare minimum.

\* Oceano does still suffer from a "digital divide" and thus ALL community outreach methods need to be utilized, hence the reason for flyers and promotional materials to distribute in conjunction with the social

media/website maintenance we are responsible for. Given that we are on the precipice of redistricting the OCSD and the County Supervisor districts as well as having our advisory council move towards an "election"

**ATTACHMENT 2 – REVISED BUDGET  
REQUEST BREAKDOWN & EXPLANATION  
OF EXPENSES  
SUBMITTED JULY 14, 2021**

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process for membership AND the impacts the Oceano and Halcyon residents face with the major changes happening on Pier Ave, etc., we know this "grassroots" level of information dissemination is as vital as any online presence.

Historically, the Oceano Advisory Council has received the absolute least amount of funding, over the last 5-year look-back period, then any other CAC. Operating on a shoe-string budget is what originally helped foster this lack of community awareness. Refusing to have a modern website, information not being available in Spanish, meetings not being open and transparent - all detriments to the community AND to the Supervisor of our district. This push to finally modernize is long-overdue and sorely needed in Oceano/Halcyon. We collectively hope you want the same for our community, by approving this budget funding request.

We respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors finally puts this request on their agenda, for discussion and voting. Please let me know when to expect this item to be addressed by the BOS.

Sincerely,

April Dury

Treasurer

Oceano Advisory Council