



Raymond Dussault

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To the Hermosa Beach Planning Commission: Seven or eight years ago, Hermosa Beach, prompted by the Planning Commission, instituted a no alcohol intensification policy. While this ordinance was well-intentioned and has helped prevent Hermosa from becoming the French Quarter of the South Bay, it has also been misused as a roadblock against businesses. This includes the H2O Hotel application, which has faced inappropriate rejection, as well as being an excuse to shut down patio dining and initiate the widely criticized Late Night Alcohol Ordinance. While avoiding new nightclub uses in Hermosa has its benefits, it is equally important to support responsible, locally-owned businesses like those on the Pier and Hermosa Avenue, including new proposals like H2O and the Formula One Racing business. Recently, the Planning Commission has adopted a more open-minded approach that aligns with the original intent, enhances the community’s reputation, and brings value to Hermosa. Approving this amendment will benefit both the hotel and the wider community. In addition, the Formula One business is a unique and exciting use that is unlikely to lead to any issues. H2O has been a boon to the community and operated without issues. Other boutique hotels in the area operate lobby lounge areas without restrictions on guest status. Allowing H2O Hotel the same flexibility ensures fair competition and aligns with local business practices. I wholeheartedly support the applications of H2O and the Formula One Racing business. I look forward to seeing the Planning Commissioners continue to enhance the reputation of Hermosa by recommending approval of both CUP modification requests.