

**10/9/18 AGENDA, ITEM 6a - THE GREENBELT INFILTRATION PROJECT  
SUPPLEMENTAL EMAIL FROM BARBARA SABO SUBMITTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL  
ON 10/9/18 AT 8:53 P.M.**

**From:** B Sabo <[bsabo@jsaboassoc.com](mailto:bsabo@jsaboassoc.com)>

**Date:** October 9, 2018 at 8:53:29 PM PDT

**To:** Mayor Jeff Duclos <[jduclos@hermosabch.org](mailto:jduclos@hermosabch.org)>, Mayor Pro Tem Stacey Armato <[sarmato@hermosabch.org](mailto:sarmato@hermosabch.org)>, Councilmember Mary Campbell <[mcampbell@hermosabch.org](mailto:mcampbell@hermosabch.org)>, Councilmember Hany Fangary <[hfangary@hermosabch.org](mailto:hfangary@hermosabch.org)>, Councilmember Justin Massey <[jmassey@hermosabch.org](mailto:jmassey@hermosabch.org)>

**Cc:** "Suja Lowenthal. City Manager" <[suja@hermosabch.org](mailto:suja@hermosabch.org)>

**Subject: Statement: Green Belt Infiltration Project**

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I write today on behalf of the thirty homeowners and 60 residents of Beachside Condominium HOA at 447 Herondo Street. Thank you for Council's ongoing consideration of and exploration with the concerned citizens of South Hermosa regarding the scope and placement of the Green Belt Infiltration Project.

It is refreshing to find that City Council is open to the concerns of the South Hermosa property owners whom this massive project will most adversely affect, if the current plan is pursued.

There is such a range of criticism of this project---most notably the depreciation of tens of millions of dollars worth of South Hermosa real estate and violation of the original intent of the Green Belt Park which prohibits construction. Further criticism ranges from the two or more years of daily construction disrupting the lives of citizens who live just feet away from the site; to anticipated structural subsidence due to vibrations during the construction and after (when the massive amount of storm runoff overwhelms the system); to destruction of native habitat, most notably the Torrey Pines located along this section of the Green Belt.

Please do not interpret our objections to the placement of this project as an outright objection to the intent of the project---to keep our ocean clean. Quite the contrary. Not only are we supportive of this initiative, we are willing to devote countless hours to helping Council make the right decision as to its size and placement. It is our objective to work with the Council in scaling back the size of the project so that only the percentage of Hermosa Beach's own runoff is treated within our City limits.

Having reviewed the scope and intent of this project on the City website, it is our opinion that the various cities involved in this project made an unintentional mistake in choosing to shoe horn this massive infiltration system into a densely populated area of South Hermosa simply because it is near the Herondo drain. This makes no sense for those of us in South Hermosa.

I have personally met with the residents of The Moorings whose homes are but feet away from the project currently under consideration. Because of our (Beachside's) extensive experience with the Herondo Street Flow Diversion Project, we shared the full details of the daily disruption to our lives as well as property damage which resulted from the construction. A project that was to take only two months dragged on for six months, and along with that came

mounting damage to our grounds and structure. Litigation is never desired, but we were driven to a protracted five-year investigative process and litigation. We did prevail in mediation. With that in mind, we are curious as to how the City is prepared to address litigation that will most certainly develop not only from construction-related damages but also from the unintended consequence of a water table that will inevitably fail to absorb the amount of water captured in the proposed system which will lead to liquefaction and subsidence.

I strongly urge that the Council respect the urgent requests of those most closely associated with the project and take immediate steps to divorce Hermosa from the one-size-fits-all solution currently on the table. After all, Hermosa is only contributing 10% of the run-off. Thank you in advance for working with our neighboring cities to insure that they shoulder their fair share of the solution.

Best regards,

Barbara Sabo, Secretary Beachside HOA FY 2018-19

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