

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am writing today to bring to your awareness a real threat to Solana Beach, and ask for your help in shutting it down.

As we all know, the railroad tracks must come off the bluff in Del Mar. We all agree this must happen. SANDAG has evaluated many possible routes, and released a “Notice of Preparation” with 3 Alternatives labeled A, B, and C for further study in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). All include either a bored tunnel or a cut-and-cover tunnel.

Alternative A was recently proposed by a group of Del Mar residents who do not want a tunnel in their City. **So they removed it from Del Mar and placed it in Solana Beach.** This tunnel would require lowering our railroad trench so it can eventually be deep enough to go underneath the San Dieguito Lagoon. Starting at Lomas Santa Fe, at a 2% grade, it would deepen, creating a cut-and-cover tunnel from the Belly Up, under Via de la Valle and to the Midway area in the Fairgrounds before transforming to a bored tunnel.

- Alternative A will take **7—12 years to build** during which Solana Beach will experience noise, dust, vibration, traffic disruption, increased GHG emissions and air pollution from trucks carrying away the demolished walls and dirt of our existing trench.
- It is highly doubtful passenger (Coaster and Amtrak) or freight trains will be able to operate south of Solana Beach during the 7—12 years of construction.
- In addition to demolishing the investment already made to lower the tracks in Solana Beach, it will likely destroy the south half of our Coastal Rail Trail, including Betsy Shultz’ iconic arches, and/or...
- ...it is likely that construction crews would need to take 50-feet or so of each of the properties east of the trench for construction purposes, endangering 60+ naturally occurring affordable multi-family homes on S. Cedros.
- Alternative A would also require the Via de la Valle vehicle bridge to be rebuilt.
- Stevens Creek would need to be diverted and/or pumped to prevent flooding during heavy rain storms within the FEMA designated floodplain in Solana Beach and inside the proposed tunnel.

And there’s more!

- In Alternative A, the Fair and most likely the Races will be shut down for 5—10 years as the cut-and-cover tunnel joins a bored tunnel in the

Fairgrounds at the historical location of the Ferris Wheel and other amusement rides.

- This location will be one of the staging areas for Alternative A, occupying approximately 8-10 acres of the Fairgrounds during construction.
- The soon to be built San Dieguito Railroad Bridge and Seasonal Platform at the Fairgrounds would also have to be demolished.
- While there is a Seasonal Platform in Alternative A, it's 7-stories below ground vs at grade. Just imagine train loads of people relying on elevators to get to the surface!

This comes at an extraordinary price tag!

- At \$4.14 Billion, Alternative A costs twice as much as Alternatives B (\$2.28 Billion) or C (\$1.85 Billion) without even considering the loss of the region's \$30 million investment (in 1999 dollars) of lowering the tracks in Solana Beach, the \$254 million San Dieguito Bridge and Seasonal Platform, and unknown millions for our Coastal Rail Trail and the Via de la Valle Vehicle Bridge.
- Add to this the \$237 million/year generated from the Fair that will NOT be spent and the \$680 million/year in annual activities from the Fairgrounds that will NOT be spent...times 5—10 years!
- All freight and passenger rail will be shut down, both having exponential economic impacts on the Port and our Regional and State economies.
- Finally, this route is designated by the Military as a Strategic Rail Corridor. Ceasing rail operations for construction will endanger our National Security.

SANDAG did not engage with Solana Beach on Alternative A, yet they held Workshops and Office Hours in Del Mar for many months. If not for the loud and persistent voices of some Del Mar residents, Alternative A would never have been included. Solana Beach residents and other stakeholders were not informed or consulted. This was not right! It's time for SANDAG to hear from voices outside of Del Mar!

Economic impacts are not studied in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), but they are largely known as mentioned above, and alone should eliminate Alternative A from further study.

Similarly, what is already known about the potential environmental impacts of Alternative A demonstrate their significance and again, should eliminate Alternative A from further study.

Both Alternatives B and C are more direct, shorter, and far less expensive routes that utilize less-intrusive, less-polluting bored tunnels in 90% of their configurations.

For all the reasons noted above and more, we need comments from Solana Beach residents that **oppose consideration of Alternative A due to its known costs, economic consequences to the region, and environmental impacts during construction.**

And we need your comments ASAP (see below for suggested comments).

This is a call to action.

- The 45-day scoping period for comments closes on July 19th, but the sooner the better.
- Should you wish to attend the Scoping Meeting to learn more about all 3 Alternatives and voice your comments in person, the meeting is tomorrow evening, Tuesday June 18th at 6pm at the San Diego Marriott (11966 El Camino Real near Carmel Valley Road). The group of Del Mar residents who created and have pushed for Alternative A will be there in force. It is important that our residents and businesses show up, too.

It's critical that our voices are also heard!

Written comments may be mailed to SANDAG at 401 B Street, Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101, with attention to Tim Pesce OR emailed with the subject line "SDLRR Project NOP" to LOSSANcorridor@sandag.org and please copy us in at this email address: LOSSANAalignment@cosb.org. You can also make comments at the SANDAG.org/railrealignment.

Suggested email/letter/verbal comments:

"I oppose further consideration of Alternative A. Please remove it before any further work on the EIR is done. At double the cost of the other Alternatives, the serious economic consequences to the region, and many environmental impacts to Solana Beach, Stevens Creek, the Fairgrounds and the San Dieguito Lagoon, Alternative A does not warrant the expenditure of any additional taxpayer money."

Should you have any questions, feel free to email me or call me at [REDACTED]

Best,

Lesa

Lesa Heebner, Mayor
City of Solana Beach
& 2nd Vice Chair, SANDAG Board of Directors