City Clerk:

I have attached correspondence that I would like to be made part of the public record on the referenced item, and I would like the text appended below to be read at the meeting.

Best regards,
Steve Linke

NARRATIVE:

I am concerned that this $220,000 contract amendment changes the underlying project from a pure repair of the beach area into a hybrid project that includes capital improvements to Carlsbad Boulevard, which may be subject to different funding and other rules, and which will impact mobility-related levels of service that should be reviewed by the Traffic and Mobility Commission.

I also am concerned that the CIP currently seems to include a “patchwork” of sometimes overlapping projects on the Carlsbad Boulevard corridor, which may benefit from more coordinated planning and review. For example, the Traffic and Mobility Commission recently reviewed three other beach access projects totaling about $10 million that connect to the project currently under consideration, but those have not yet been presented to the City Council.

And I believe the “Carlsbad Boulevard Realignment” project has funded over $1.5 million of studies of projects along the length of the street, but it is not clear what these studies have shown. I encourage the City Council to carefully consider the implications of the currently proposed amendment, and to have the Traffic and Mobility Commission globally review projects in this corridor instead, rather than going forward in a piecemeal fashion.

CAUTION: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.
April 20, 2020

Re: 4/21/2020 City Council Agenda Item #3 (Amendment to Engineering Services Agreement with GHD for Beach Access Repairs)

Mayor and City Council:

Summary

I am concerned that this $220,000 amendment changes the underlying project from a pure repair into a hybrid that includes capital improvements, which will impact mobility-related levels of service and may be subject to different funding and other rules. I also am concerned that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) currently seems to include a “patchwork” of sometimes overlapping projects on the Carlsbad Boulevard corridor, which may benefit from more coordinated planning and review. I encourage the City Council to carefully consider the implications of this amendment and to have the Traffic & Mobility Commission (T&MC) globally review projects in this corridor, rather than going forward in a piecemeal fashion.

Additional information

The original agreement was for services for “…the permitting and design of the necessary repairs to the sidewalk, beach access stairways, and seawall along the west side of Carlsbad Boulevard between Pine Avenue and Tamarack Avenue…[to] maintain this beachfront section…” (funded by CIP Project 3896 with a total budget of $5,811,750 derived from the General Fund--$1,612,750 from the Infrastructure Repair Fund and $4,199,000 from the General Capital Construction fund). The proposed amendment adds the widening of the sidewalk on the west side of Carlsbad Boulevard, achieved by removing sections of the street’s raised median and shifting and restriping the vehicle and bicycle lanes, as well as replacing the current metal beam guardrail with traffic-rated bollards, at an unknown cost.

At their 2/3/2020 meeting, the T&MC reviewed three other projects related to beach access in this same area. Two of the projects were to improve the existing ramps, which connect the sidewalks described above, at an estimated cost of $2,800,000 each (CIP Project 6065 includes $2,875,000 from the General Fund for these). The third project was to create a tunnel under Carlsbad Boulevard to allow direct access from the Agua Hedionda Lagoon trail at an estimated cost of $3,000,000 (CIP Project 4063 includes $3,276,000 from the General Fund for that). These have not yet been presented to the City Council.

Also, I believe the “Carlsbad Blvd Realignment” project (CIP Project 6031) has funded over $1.5 million of studies along the length of the street, beginning about eight years ago. I suggest that it would be appropriate for the T&MC to review these studies and make recommendations to the City Council.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Steve Linke
Carlsbad, CA