

# **Public Comments** **on Items Not on Posted Agenda**

Written Comments Received By 12pm on 02/26/2024



*February 26, 2024*

*City Council Meeting*

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**From:** Coffey, Sarah  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 11:52 AM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** FW: Public comment not on agenda

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**From:** Chris Redfield [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 11:15 AM  
**To:** \_City Council <citycouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Woodhouse, Kevin <kwoodhouse@pacifica.gov>; Coffey, Sarah <scoffey@pacifica.gov>; rmueller@smcgov.org  
**Subject:** Public comment not on agenda

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

Portola statue theft 2/26/2024

Good morning. As a Pacifican, I would like to know if there is any new information on the whereabouts of the public property that was surreptitiously removed in January. What Caltrans did, not at the behest of Pacificans or really anyone else proportionally, was remove a learning, acknowledging and teaching experience for anyone willing to take interest. This was done by a public agency, not by public vote, input or demand. Caltrans on bureaucratic levels that are hard to fathom, took it upon themselves to determine what and how the public should learn about early California coastal history. Their determination was, by all accounts based on a biased report by two individuals and a non resident, free for all on line poll. Their actions were shameful. I was struck the other day when I read a placard on a newly opened Bay trail. On that was a depiction of Portola and his men led by native Aramai guides. It, educationally, goes on to state that 1769 "has become memorialized as the year of discovery of SF Bay by land by the first Europeans, namely the Spanish Captain Juan Gaspar de Portola and his expedition party". As many of you know, the National Park Service (yup that's the Federal Government) designated, acknowledged and dedicated Sweeney Ridge as the location of the sighting. It is now known as the Ohlone-Portola Heritage Site and is registered as a National Historic Landmark. Those two examples drive home the point that Caltrans owes the public and Pacifica not only an apology, but the return of stolen property to the benefit of all. It should be returned to its original location and enhanced with educational information, not erasure, so that thousands may learn and know honest history and not be left with the nothingness of history removed. It is stunning that this opportunity was taken away by detached bureaucrats not based on policy but politics. As always, thank you for the time.

Chris Redfield  
Park Pacifica

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