

Public Comments

June 4, 2024 Special Meeting (Canceled)

Written Comments Received By 12pm on 06/04/2024



June 4, 2024

City Council Meeting

From: Richard Harris Jr. <richard@sfpublicgolf.org>
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 11:19 AM
To: Coffey, Sarah; Vaterlaus, Sue; Beckmeyer, Sue [REDACTED]; Bigstych, Tygarjas; Boles, Christine; Bier, Mary; _City Council
Cc: Woodhouse, Kevin; Murdock, Christian; Cervantes, Stefanie; Phil Ginsburg (phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org); Potter, Spencer (REC)
Subject: Pacifica City Council Special Meeting June 4; SF Public Golf Alliance OBJECTS to irregular rushed process
Attachments: Ltr.SFPGA.to Pac.Ci.Cil.Object.Rushed.Process.5.31.24.pdf

[CAUTION: External Email]

Pacifica City Council Special Meeting June 4; SF Public Golf Alliance OBJECTS to irregular rushed process

Pacifica City Clerk Sarah Coffey, Mayor Vaterlaus, Councilpersons, et al.
Please find attached above letter of San Francisco Public Golf Alliance OBJECTING to irregular rushed process for the calendared June 4 Special Meeting. This to request City Clerk's Office to acknowledge receipt, circulate to Council, Staff, and Planning Commissioners, and include in any meeting packet for.
Thanks and Best Regards All Around

Richard Harris
San Francisco Public Golf Alliance
826 Stanyan St.
San Francisco, CA. 94117
415-290-5718

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SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC GOLF ALLIANCE



826 Stanyan St., San Francisco, CA 94117 • 415-290-5718 • info@sfpublicgolf.org



May 31, 2024

Pacifica City Council
Mayor Susan Vaterlaus
540 Crespi Dr.
Pacifica, CA. 94044

Re: City Council Special Meeting calendared for June 4, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

OBJECTION TO RUSHED, SHORT-NOTICED SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL, CALLED ON IRREGULAR AND EXTRAORDINARILY SHORT 4-DAY PUBLIC NOTICE , AND WITHOUT PUBLISHED AGENDA OR AGENDA PACKET, APPARENTLY TO CONSIDER FINAL ADOPTION OF A HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL PACIFICA LOCAL COASTAL LAND USE PLAN THAT, AS OF COUNSEL'S MAY 23 MEETING ON THE MATTER HAD SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT UNRESOLVED ISSUES OF LAW, KEY FACTS MISSTATED IN STAFF'S RESPONSES TO COUNSEL'S WRITTEN QUESTIONS, AND UNANSWERED COUNSEL QUESTIONS. THIS PELL-MELL PROCEDURE WOULD VIOLATE BOTH THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT OF COASTAL ACT SECTION 30006 (WHICH DECLARES THE PUBLIC'S "RIGHT TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS AFFECTING COASTAL PLANNING" AND THE NEED FOR "THE WIDEST OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION". AND MOREOVER WOULD CONTRADICT THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION'S OWN MISSION STATEMENT COMMITMENT TO "STRONG PUBLIC PARTICIPATION".

Dear Mayor Vaterlaus and Councilmembers,

We noticed for the first time this morning (Friday, May 31) that a Special meeting has been noticed on Council's Agenda internet website: <https://pacificacityca.igm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx>. The notice was not up on the Agenda website on May 29 or 30. This is apparently the follow-up meeting – discussed hypothetically with the City Manager and Planning Director near midnight at the close of Council's 6-plus hour May 23 meeting -- for Council to again consider adoption of a Resolution to approve Pacifica's April 2024 Draft Local Coastal Land Use Plan.¹ There was no explanation from Staff or discussion by Council as to an "emergency" justification for hyper-rushed process. At that time, the City Manager said that if a June 4 meeting were to go forward, the City would publicly notice it on May 24, and the Planning Director noted that the City would be unable to publish its Staff Report for the hypothetical June 4 meeting with its customary 1-week advance public notice.

Neither the City Manager, Planning Director, nor City Attorney mentioned, and there was no discussion at that time (at the May 23 Council meeting) by Council of the Coastal Act's mandates for the public's "right to fully participate" and for "the widest opportunity for public participation" in coastal planning matters. Nor was there discussion of the Coastal Commission's own Mission Statement's commitment to "strong public participation" in "careful planning" and other Commission affairs.

So we provide these mandates here now for Council's unhurried and serious consideration before a final decision is made whether or not to proceed on June 4 in such an irregular manner.

Coastal Act, California Public Resources Code Section 30006²

The Legislature further finds and declares that **the public has a right to fully participate in decisions affecting coastal planning**, conservation, and development; that **achievement of sound coastal conservation and development is dependent upon public understanding and support**; and that the continuing **planning and implementation** of programs for coastal conservation and **development should include the widest opportunity for public participation**. (emphasis added)

California Coastal Commission, Mission Statement³

The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, **strong public participation**, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination. (emphasis added)

At several points in Council's May 23 meeting, Councilmembers expressed that (1) the Pacifica public and/or (2) Councilmembers themselves did not understand the factual and legal

¹ The April 2024 Revised Certification Draft LCLUP is found at Attachment G of the Agenda of Council's May 23, 2024 Special Meeting, at p. 56ff; Subsection 6.6 is found at Page 6-17 (Packet pg. 244): <https://pacificacityca.igm2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=14&ID=1535&Inline=True>

² California Public Resources Code 30006
https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC§ionNum=30006

³ California Coastal Commission Website, Mission Statement: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/whoweare.html>

complexities and risks presented in the April 2024 Draft LCLUP, including uncertainties about the Special Resiliency Area policies, the extent of flood and Tsunami coastal hazard zones, the accuracy of maps, and the legal issues of property rights and “takings” under the U.S. and State of California Constitutions. These issues and more remained undecided and unvoted-upon by Council as of the close of Council’s May 23 meeting.

Should Council proceed with a short-noticed Special Meeting on June 4, we will have more to say in a follow-up letter or letters. But for now, we remind Council of the Legislature’s wisdom expressed in the Coastal Act Section 30006 (above), that the public has a right to “fully participate in decisions affecting coastal planning,” and that “sound coastal conservation and development is dependent upon public understanding and support.” A June 4 meeting would short-shrift the public’s right to know and participate.

We submit that the proposed June 4 Special Meeting, on extraordinarily shortened notice and without even a published agenda as of the time of this writing, does not meet the standard of the Coastal Act Section 30006. And we respectfully request that the Special Meeting calendared for June 4 be regularly scheduled, with Agenda posted simultaneously, for a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Harris

President, San Francisco Public Golf Alliance

cc: City Manager Kevin Woodhouse, Planning Director Christian Murdock, Deputy Planning Director Stefanie Cervantes, Planning Commission and Commissioners, City Clerk Sarah Coffey, Phil Ginsburg, Gen. Mgr., San Francisco Recreation and Parks Dept., Spencer Potter, Esq., San Francisco Recreation and Parks Dept.

From: Richard Harris Jr. <richard@sfpublicgolf.org>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 7:37 AM
To: Coffey, Sarah
Cc: Woodhouse, Kevin; [REDACTED]
Subject: Pacifica City Council Special Meeting June 4/Request Clerk's Office include SFPGA May 31 letter in the Correspondence File
Attachments: Ltr.SFPGA.to Pac.Ci.Cil.Object.Rushed.Process.5.31.24.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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[CAUTION: External Email]

Request City Clerk's Office include SFPGA May 31 letter in Correspondence File for City Council's June 4 Special Meeting (cancelled)

Office of Pacifica City Clerk Sarah Coffey

Dear Sarah –

- 1) This request is for the purpose of keeping the record straight for City Council's cancelled June 4 Special meeting, which meeting is on the City's online Calendar of 2004 Meetings (<https://pacificacityca.iqm2.com/Citizens/calendar.aspx>), with a notation that the meeting was cancelled. Here's a screenshot of how it appears on the online calendar:

 Jun 4, 2024 5:30 PM
City Council - Special Meeting

- 2) On City Council's online Council Agendas page (<https://www.cityofpacificca.org/government/city-council/city-council-agendas>),
June 3:
6-4-2024 City Council Special Meeting - NOTICE OF CANCELLATION
(i) there appears a formal Notice of Cancellation, dated
(ii) The Council Agendas page also has, at the bottom of the page, "See . . . a compiled list of written public comments received for the record for City Council Meetings." However, that "compiled list of public comments" does not include public comments for the cancelled June 4 meeting.
- 3) Since the public comment letter of San Francisco Public Golf Alliance was submitted by e-mail to your office on May 31 – three days before the date of the Notice of Cancellation of the June 4 meeting (see below) – we request that for accurate recordkeeping our May 31 letter should be filed as public comment to that June 4 meeting.
- 4) Because it appears that as of this writing (the morning of June 10), no public correspondence file for the June 4 cancelled meeting yet exists, we respectfully request that such a file be created and included with all the other Public Correspondence files for City Council meetings, and our May 31 letter be included in it.

Thanks to you and your office for your diligent public service. And Best Regards

- Richard Harris, San Francisco Public Golf Alliance, 415-290-5718

From: Richard Harris Jr.

Sent: Friday, May 31, 2024 11:19 AM

To: Coffey, Sarah <scoffey@pacifica.gov>; Vaterlaus, Sue <svaterlaus@pacifica.gov>; Beckmeyer, Sue
[REDACTED] Bigstych, Tygarjas <tbigstych@pacifica.gov>; Boles, Christine
<CBoles@pacifica.gov>; Bier, Mary <mbier@pacifica.gov>; citycouncil@pacifica.gov

Cc: Woodhouse, Kevin <kwoodhouse@pacifica.gov>; Murdock, Christian <cmurdock@pacifica.gov>; Cervantes, Stefanie
<scervantes@pacifica.gov>; Phil Ginsburg (phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org) <phil.ginsburg@sfgov.org>; Potter, Spencer (REC)
<spencer.potter@sfgov.org>

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