

# **Public Comments**

## **Agenda Item # 11**



*February 8, 2021*  
*City Council Meeting*

**FW: Consideration #11 tonight**

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Mon 2/8/2021 5:39 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

-----Original Message-----

From: Chaya Gordon [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 5:38 PM

To: \_City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Subject: Consideration #11 tonight

[CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Council,

I'm so sorry to send this to you so late, I'm coping with a very serious medical issue right now. I'll make this very brief.

Times have changed and wildfires, whatever the cause, are a serious threat to all of California, including Pacifica. We cannot ignore this any longer.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Pacifica. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

## Re: Public Comment 2.8.21 Agenda Item #11 - Fireworks

Sue Caughey [REDACTED]

Mon 2/8/2021 4:50 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Dan Stegink [REDACTED]

[CAUTION: External Email]

I agree with everything Armetta Parker said and I also support the banning of all fireworks in Pacifica.

I believe the danger of using fireworks and the safety of our residents should be recognized and I am asking that you approve the banning of fireworks in Pacifica.

Thank you,  
Sue Caughey  
Resident of Pacifica.

> On 02/08/2021 3:17 PM Armetta L. Parker [REDACTED] wrote:

>

>

> Dear Pacifica City Council

>

> I am writing to state my support of banning all fireworks in Pacifica (including Safe and Sane) and my support for finding alternative forms of funding for the nonprofit organizations that benefit from the proceeds of fireworks sales.

>

> Make all fireworks illegal The ordinance allowing fireworks sales is 50 years old. Police shouldn't be burdened with having to ask you if you're calling about Safe and Sane or illegal fireworks (damage to the environment and people don't care). Further, the landscape for nonprofits is vastly changed, 21st Century organizations understand that funding sources are constantly changing and that they need to adapt.

>

> My reasons for wanting to ban fireworks are many, including:

>

> - Legal and illegal fireworks are set off year-round, not just July 4. It is a constant cause of PTSD for many humans and pets as well as a fire hazard.

>

> - Fireworks are explosives and should be handled by professionals.

>

> - It has been 25 years since this issue was put before Pacificans to vote on. Climate change is real and the threats to the environment (air, water, forests, etc.)

>

> - The public outreach noted in the recent Flash Vote (a mechanism not widely publicized) seems to represent an incredibly small sample of respondents (<400 locals in a town of ~40,000).

>

>

> Consider the phase out of safe and sane over a "short" period of time to allow the city/Pacificans/Chamber/Organizations to identify alternate forms of funding.

>

> - Ask the Economic Development Committee to lead the effort to find funding for the nonprofits in a manner that supports local business.

>

> - Reach out to the community on Nextdoor with a poll asking for suggestions of alternative funding. Many creative and cost-effective ideas have been proposed in recent days on multiple "fireworks" threads on the platform.

>

> - A possible alternative might be a "legal" fireworks display on July 4th at the pier produced by professionals that is viewable by Pacifica neighborhood. Allow food trucks and let folks come and participate. This could be a ticketed event like Fog Fest. Who knows, maybe folks will want to make a long weekend of it (if July 4th is Friday or Monday) stay at hotel and produce revenue for Pacifica.

>

> I love that you do this so I don't have to.

> Thank you for your Service to our city,

>

> Armetta Parker

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## Stop illegal fireworks in Pacifica!

Eric Ibsen

Mon 2/8/2021 5:23 PM

To: Beckmeyer, Sue <beckmeyers@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

### [CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Mayor Beckmeyer,

It is my understanding that this coming Monday, February 8, 2021, you will discuss and vote on the future of the sale and use of State Fire Marshal-Approved, Safe and Sane Fireworks in Pacifica.

**As a resident and voter in Pacifica, I am respectfully urging you to consider the following:**

- State-Approved Fireworks are not the problem in Pacifica...**Illegal fireworks are the problem!** The Pacifica Police and Fire Departments have all acknowledged this fact!
- Banning the sale and use of State-Approved Fireworks will not lead to less illegal fireworks, it will lead to significantly more illegal fireworks!
- According to NCFE Fire Chief Ron Meyers, his department “...studied the issue of Safe and Sane fireworks through a Pacifica Fireworks Task Force and determined that the primary causation and risk of fire and injury comes from illegal fireworks. There is no history of any devastating fires or injuries occurring in the City of Pacifica due to Safe and Sane Fireworks.”
- As the staff report for this agenda item states, “...even if the Safe and Sane program is prohibited, illegal fireworks will continue to be used and enforcement and fire-risk challenges will continue.” without the revenue from the Safe and Sane program to cover these expenses.
- In 2020, over \$250,000 was raised that is being reinvested in youth sports, social services, veterans, and community programs in our community as a result of the sale of State Approved Fireworks. Without the revenue these groups generate each 4th of July through the sale of State Approved Fireworks, these organizations would not be able to do what they do for our community.

I respectfully, but strongly, urge you to continue the Safe and Sane program in the City of Pacifica.

Sincerely,

Eric Ibsen

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## Stop illegal fireworks in Pacifica!

[REDACTED]  
Dolores Harrington [REDACTED]

Mon 2/8/2021 5:32 PM

To: Beckmeyer, Sue <beckmeyers@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

Dear Mayor Beckmeyer,

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I respectfully, but strongly, urge you to continue the Safe and Sane program in the City of Pacifica.

Sincerely,

Dolores Harrington

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## FW: Consideration #11 tonight

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Mon 2/8/2021 5:54 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

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**From:** Chaya Gordon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 5:48 PM  
**To:** \_City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>  
**Cc:** Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Consideration #11 tonight

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

Oops here's the rest of my message:

We need to amend the City code now and prohibit the Safe and Sane fireworks program without a ballot measure.

To help non-profit organizations that benefit financially from the sale of Safe and Sane fireworks, I support the city working with those organizations to come up with a plan now.

There was a wildfire on the hill behind my house approximately 7 years ago. Pacifica Fire Dept was fantastic and was able to put it out fairly fast, and no homes were lost. The fire came 7 houses away from my house. We were evacuated at 5 a.m. It was terrifying. This was before the wildfires of the last five years. Please act now.

Thank you very much.

Chaya Gordon

On Feb 8, 2021, at 5:38 PM, Chaya Gordon [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Council,

I'm so sorry to send this to you so late, I'm coping with a very serious medical issue right now. I'll make this very brief.

Times have changed and wildfires, whatever the cause, are a serious threat to all of California, including Pacifica. We cannot ignore this any longer.

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## Stop illegal fireworks in Pacifica!

Taylor C Esquivel

Mon 2/8/2021 7:18 PM

To: Beckmeyer, Sue <beckmeyers@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

### [CAUTION: External Email]

Dear Mayor Beckmeyer,

It is my understanding that this coming Monday, February 8, 2021, you will discuss and vote on the future of the sale and use of State Fire Marshal-Approved, Safe and Sane Fireworks in Pacifica.

### As a resident and voter in Pacifica, I am respectfully urging you to consider the following:

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- Banning the sale and use of State-Approved Fireworks will not lead to less illegal fireworks, it will lead to significantly more illegal fireworks!
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- As the staff report for this agenda item states, "...even if the Safe and Sane program is prohibited, illegal fireworks will continue to be used and enforcement and fire-risk challenges will continue." without the revenue from the Safe and Sane program to cover these expenses.
- In 2020, over \$250,000 was raised that is being reinvested in youth sports, social services, veterans, and community programs in our community as a result of the sale of State Approved Fireworks. Without the revenue these groups generate each 4th of July through the sale of State Approved Fireworks, these organizations would not be able to do what they do for our community.

I respectfully, but strongly, urge you to continue the Safe and Sane program in the City of Pacifica.

Sincerely,

Taylor C Esquivel

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 284: 2689-2694.

**To:** Beckmeyer, Sue <beckmeyers@ci.pacifica.ca.us>  
**Cc:** Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

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## FW: Fireworks

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Mon 2/8/2021 10:31 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

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**From:** chezd3 [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2021 10:31 PM

**To:** \_City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>; Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

**Subject:** RE: Fireworks

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

Dear City Council, I have also been threatened by firework people and had M80s tossed in my yard after speaking up.

For the record.

Thank You.

Cheryl

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

**From:** chezd3 [REDACTED]

**Date:** 2/8/21 1:58 PM (GMT-08:00)

**To:** [citycouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us), [coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us](mailto:coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us)

**Subject:** Fireworks

Dear City Council,

Thank you for putting fireworks on the agenda. I am opposed to Safe and Sane fireworks in our high fire danger climate. They are bad for the ocean, Air and trash environment. If you do not ban them, I request you discontinue having them allowed on the beaches.

I want to ask you this question, if there was no need to raise funds for schools, other youth programs, collect enforcement fees and taxes to offset city expense, would they still make sense? Please ask the Cal fire how they would vote. If you are honest and remember the orange day, the answer is ban them.

I'm afraid for the schools that say they will die if they don't have fire work income, in the likely event the ban comes from the state level. Time to find new ways to raise funds.

I urge you to vote for safety over profits!

My fire insurance was cancelled and if I want a separate policy it's super expensive and I can't afford it.  
Please vote to protect our community.

I want to add, I would like to press on to have the city and police review and develop new ways to enforce year round illegal fire works.

Off subject, Thank you for the stepped up policing pulling over speeders on Linda Mar Blvd, I watched an officer pull over one car after another yesterday. I made a thank you sign and held it up to say thanks. We'd love more of that enforcement.

Thank you.

My Best,

Cheryl Dickinson  
Linda Mar

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

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## Stop illegal fireworks in Pacifica!

Nizharadze georgy [REDACTED]

Mon 2/8/2021 10:35 PM

To: Beckmeyer, Sue <beckmeyers@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

### [CAUTION: External Email]

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I respectfully, but strongly, urge you to continue the Safe and Sane program in the City of Pacifica.

Sincerely,

Nizharadze georgy

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## Fireworks -BAN THEM

Judy Reed [REDACTED]

Tue 2/9/2021 9:09 AM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

[CAUTION: External Email]

With climate change, severe drought, extended fire season, catastrophic fires, allowing any fireworks is extremely dangerous. We are surrounded by dense, dry brush, eucalyptus trees with a difficult escape from many areas in Pacifica and on the coast highway. These legal fireworks are a magnet for an outrageous amount of illegal stuff. The air is polluted, chemicals enter our storm drains, animals are traumatized, PTSD patients recoil in terror, our beaches are littered.

We are one of a very few cities that allow this. Other cities manage to raise money in a more productive way. Our community is lazy and stuck in the mentality of 40 years ago.

My homeowners insurance was canceled because I live in a highly dangerous fire Zone, BOV. I was forced to go through California Fair Plan which doubled my cost.

BANALL FIRE WORKS. This is 2021, not 1950. We DO NOT WANT ANOTHER PARADISE.

Thank you,  
Judy Reed  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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## FW: Feedback on Agenda Item #11 Fireworks in Pacifica

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Tue 2/9/2021 9:12 AM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

-----Original Message-----

From: The Mannerkins [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 9:07 AM

To: \_City Council Group <CityCouncil@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Subject: Feedback on Agenda Item #11 Fireworks in Pacifica

[CAUTION: External Email]

I acknowledge that fireworks have a long association with celebration, patriotism, etc. I also acknowledge the sales from the pop-up booths can have benefit for the economy and charities.

However, given the consistent abuse of fireworks outside of appropriate days and times that leaves Pacifica sounding like a war zone, and the harmful impact it presents for veterans and pets, I would be in favor of banning fireworks and the sale of until people show they can be responsible.

Like any misbehaving child, we should lose privileges that we cannot handle.

Thank you.

John Edwards

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## Fireworks

Mary Nappi [REDACTED]

Tue 2/9/2021 9:13 AM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

[CAUTION: External Email]

To the City Council:

I am opposed to the heavy-duty fireworks; ie: M-1000's, M-180s and the cannon our neighbor has in his yard that gets shot off here and there. All of these explosions are causing property damage...cracked windows, etc.

I am all for Safe and Sane fireworks.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Nappi

Sent from my iPad

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## FW: fireworks in Pacifica

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Tue 2/9/2021 9:26 AM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

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**From:** Dave and Arlene Ryan [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 9, 2021 9:24 AM

**To:** Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

**Subject:** fireworks in Pacifica

**[CAUTION: External Email]**

We are against fireworks in Pacifica. We have lived here since 1968.

The Ryans

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Pacifica. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

# **Amended Public Comments Items Received after 2/8/2021 for 2/8/2021 Council Meeting**



*February 8, 2021  
City Council Meeting*

- Oral Comments*
- Agenda Item # 11*

## FW: Issue with Minutes from last city council meeting

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Thu 2/18/2021 1:36 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Brooks, Elizabeth <brookse@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

[To add to 2/8/2021 written public comments.](#)

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**From:** Christine Boles [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2021 9:53 AM

**To:** Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

**Subject:** Issue with Minutes from last city council meeting

### [CAUTION: External Email]

Hi Sarah,

I read over the minutes for the public comment I made and they unfortunately didn't capture my main point, which is that both the 1980 General Plan and the 2014 draft General Plan contain specific language about sea walls and armoring that are being ignored in the current Sharp Park sea wall/beach Boulevard Resiliency Project discussions. I had written out the full text of my public comments, which I've copied below. How do the minutes get updated at this point before they are approved?

Thank you,  
Christine

Good evening Madam Mayor and Councilmembers. I want to comment tonight on the city's General Plan and its' relationship to the sea wall discussions currently taking place for Sharp Park.

For the benefit of the public, I want to start by reading a section from the city website to explain what a general plan is and why it's important.

"The **General Plan**, last updated in 1980, is the "constitution" for the city and guiding document for development and policy making in a wide range of topics. It provides the City with a regulatory document that responds to our contemporary issues and legal context.

The current General Plan that the city is still using is over 40 years old. Threats from Climate Change were not even discussed in 1980, and yet now Pacifica faces threats across the entire city in heightened risks of fire, flooding, landslides and coastal erosion. Pacifica has changed immensely in the last 40 years too, so that the General Plan document describing neighborhoods is no longer accurate. For example, the sea wall in Sharp Park was not yet built. Sea walls were being built in the Manor District though, and I wanted to read some information from the 1980 about them General Plan.

*"In the future, property owners may want to construct protective structures which are more resistant to wave action. Should property owners desire a more substantive seawall, the cumulative effect on beach sand replenishment should be determined. Because beaches are extremely narrow and exist only during low tide, seawall structures should be designed to minimize beach scour in the area as much as possible. Preferred structures would be those which provide the maximum amount of effective protection with a minimum reduction in beach sand. The preferred structure to achieve this result will likely be rock rip-rap rather than a concrete wall. Seawalls shall not extend beyond the mean high tide line. "*



I've attended the last two sea wall meetings, including the one last week. The current sea wall proposals ignore the General Plan as they are only really looking at concrete walls, and as far as I know, there have not been any studies done to analyze the projected additional loss of beach sand either in Sharp Park or adjacent areas.

The 2014 Draft General Plan says, *"Wherever feasible, shoreline protection shall take the form of non-structural measures, such as setback, redesign, relocation or beach replenishment."*

Again, the ideas presented for far by the City's consultant have not shown any non-structural solutions, despite repeatedly being asked by residents at the meetings, and despite the General Plan saying clearly that these are preferred alternatives.

I have two questions for the council tonight,

- 1) Shouldn't the consultants be working in concert with the General Plan?
- 2) Does the city really want public input? As an engaged citizen if feels like you just need to check a box to say that you gave us the opportunity to comment before making your preferred decision.

We are lucky to live in such a beautiful city, and so many Pacificans like myself and my family are ready to work with you to improve the city to ensure a sustainable future for ourselves and the next generations. I encourage you to see us as your partners in this endeavor, thank you.

--

Christine

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## Stop illegal fireworks in Pacifica!

Taylor C Esquivel

Mon 2/8/2021 7:18 PM

To: Beckmeyer, Sue <beckmeyers@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Cc: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

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I respectfully, but strongly, urge you to continue the Safe and Sane program in the City of Pacifica.

Sincerely,

Taylor C Esquivel

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## FW: Opposed to FIREWORKS in PACIFICA

Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Tue 2/9/2021 4:20 PM

To: Public Comment <publiccomment@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

-----Original Message-----

From: Patricia Ramsey [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 4:16 PM

To: Coffey, Sarah <coffeys@ci.pacifica.ca.us>

Subject: Opposed to FIREWORKS in PACIFICA

[CAUTION: External Email]

Please consider eliminating the sale and the allowance of FIREWORKS in Pacifica. It causes environmental pollution, noise pollution, bad for the animals, potential for property damage, litter, neighbor disagreements

Thanks

Patricia Carazo Ramsey

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