

# THE COAST NEWS

P.O. Box 232550  
Encinitas, CA 92023-2550  
315 S. Coast Hwy. 101  
Encinitas, Ste. W  
Fax: 760.274.2353  
**760.436.9737**

**PUBLISHER**  
Jim Kydd

**ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER**  
Chris Kydd ext. 110

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Jordan P. Ingram ext. 117

**ACCOUNTING**  
Becky Roland ext. 106

**COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR**  
Jean Gillette ext. 114

**GRAPHIC ARTIST**  
Phyllis Mitchell ext. 116

**ADVERTISING SALES**  
Sue Otto ext. 109  
Chris Kydd ext. 110

**LEGAL ADVERTISING**  
Becky Roland ext. 106

**CONTACT THE EDITOR**  
jordan@coastnewsgroup.com  
**CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS**  
calendar@coastnewsgroup.com

**COMMUNITY NEWS**  
community@coastnewsgroup.com

**CLASSIFIED ADS**  
classifieds@coastnewsgroup.com

**LEGALS**  
legals@coastnewsgroup.com

**DISTRIBUTION**  
distribution@coastnewsgroup.com

## WRITERS/COLUMNISTS

**Bill Slane (Encinitas/Del Mar/  
Solana Beach)**  
bill@coastnewsgroup.com

**Chris Ahrens (Waterspot)**  
waterspot@coastnewsgroup.com

**David Boylan (Lick the Plate)**  
david@artichoke-creative.com

**E'Louise Ondash (On the Road)**  
elouise@coastnewsgroup.com

**Jano Nightingale (Jano's Garden)**  
janosgarden@gmail.com

**Jay Paris (Sports Talk)**  
jayparis@aol.com

**Ryan Woldt (Cheers)**  
ryan@coastnewsgroup.com

**Samantha Taylor (Oceanside)**  
samantha@coastnewsgroup.com

**Scott Chambers - (Edit Cartoon)**  
scott@coastnewsgroup.com

**Steve Puterski (Carlsbad/Vista)**  
steve.p@coastnewsgroup.com

**Tigist Layne (Escondido/  
San Marcos)**  
tigist@coastnewsgroup.com

The Coast News is a legally adjudicated newspaper published weekly on Fridays by The Coast News Group. It is qualified to publish notices required by law to be published in a newspaper of general circulation (Case No. 677114).

**Op-Ed submissions:** To submit letters and commentaries, please send all materials to editor@coastnewsgroup.com. Letters should be 250 to 300 words and commentaries limited to no more than 550 words. Please use "Letters," or "Commentary" in the subject line. All submissions should be relevant and respectful.

To submit items for calendars, press releases and community news, please send all materials to community@coastnewsgroup.com or calendar@coastnewsgroup.com. Copy is needed at least 10 days prior to date of publication. Stories should be no more than 300 words.

To submit story ideas, please send request and information to stories@coastnewsgroup.com. Submit letters to letters@coastnewsgroup.com

www.  
coast  
news  
group  
.com

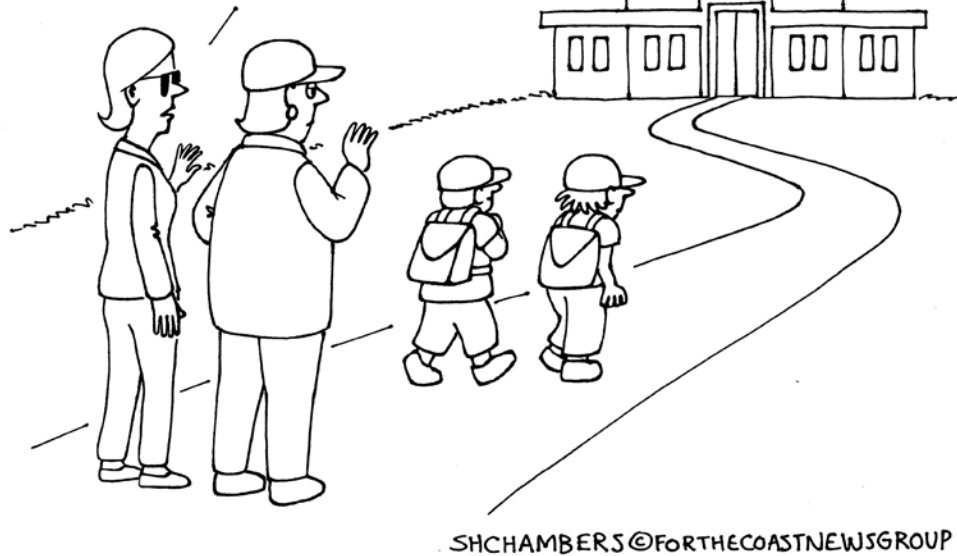


acp  
Association of  
Coastal Publishers

Subscriptions: 1 year/\$75;  
6 mos./\$50; 3 mos./\$30  
Send check or money order to:  
The Coast News, P.O. Box 232550,  
Encinitas, CA 92023-2550.

## OPINION & EDITORIAL

YEAH, WELL ... THEY CAN  
TEACH HIM WHATEVER  
THEY WANT AS LONG AS  
THEY DO IT IN SCHOOL.



SHCHAMBERS © FOR THE COAST NEWS GROUP

## SCAG, SANDAG & local control

By Julie Thunder

News broke last week of an important decision taken by the Southern California Association of Governments, or SCAG. SCAG is analogous to the San Diego Association of Governments, or SANDAG – both are planning and transportation authorities for their regions.

SANDAG is governed by a board composed of representatives from each of San Diego County's 19 cities, but SCAG is much bigger, encompassing 191 cities in six counties — Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, and Imperial. In the governance of SoCal, SCAG is the Big Kahuna.

SCAG's governing board voted by an overwhelming majority to support the "Community Planning Voter Initiative," otherwise known as "Our Neighborhood Voices." This initiative, currently underway as a statewide petition drive, is an attempt to restore local control to each city in California via a constitutional amendment.

Some background: New state laws recently took effect that brings huge changes to our neighborhoods by eliminating single-family zoning in every city.

Any home on any block can now be demolished and then replaced with a multi-unit multi-story structure and you can't do a thing about it.

You'll lose privacy, neighborhood trees, and curbside parking. Your elected leaders can't stop these densification projects. City planners have been muted. Your HOA is powerless. No development fees are to be collected for schools, roads, sewer, police and fire.

Adding insult to injury, there are no affordability requirements – the additional units won't even count toward the state's low-income housing mandates.

Make no mistake about



it. Encinitas faces a life-or-death struggle with Sacramento and they are standing up for local control.

If the pols have their way, our coastal town will be filled with expensive multi-family dwellings jammed into every possible available space, leading to even more congested roads and straining our infrastructure.

The Our Neighborhood Voices Initiative is a silver bullet in what is mortal combat.

It's a stake through the dark heart of Sacramento's overreach.

If the California Constitution is amended as proposed, we'll have the means to resist this push to convert Encinitas into a "mini-me" of Santa Monica.

Without this protection, it's only a matter of time before the Encinitas of today is buried under millions of tons of concrete.

This is a non-partisan initiative, led by elected officials across the spectrum – Democrat, Independent and Republican.

It relies on a fundamental pillar of the democratic process: the government closest to the people serves the people best. In Encinitas, that means the voters and our elected City Council. The proposed amendment will give us the power we need to defend our neighborhoods.

So kudos to the elected officials of SCAG. They

know what their cities are facing and they are standing up for local control.

If this reform becomes law, Encinitas will have the power to shape its own future.

Our Proposition A, which requires voter approval for zoning changes, has been subverted in the past by our own local leaders.

Unless Our Neighborhood Voices Initiative succeeds, that will happen again and again, reducing Prop A to a quaint artifact of local history.

I call upon our City Council and the SANDAG Board of Directors to stand with SCAG in support of Our Neighborhood Voices.

They should clearly express their support by resolution and direct our SANDAG representative, Mayor Catherine Blakespear, to do the same in that body.

Perhaps Blakespear can take time out from her state senate campaign and focus for a moment instead on the interests of the residents of Encinitas.

It's time for her to choose: serve her constituents or continue to serve the interests of those who will profit by paving Encinitas into oblivion.

Learn more about the initiative at Our Neighborhood Voices.

Julie Thunder is a resident of Cardiff-by-the-Sea

Views expressed in Opinion & Editorial do not reflect the views of The Coast News

## Letter to the Editor

### Historic Encinitas site on verge of destruction

A valuable piece of Encinitas history is on the verge of being destroyed by the latest potential density bonus project on Melba Road in Encinitas.

This beautiful piece of open space ties old Encinitas with new Encinitas. The property sits on melba road and is home to a beautiful historical home built in 1938 or earlier.

Melba Road is lined with a grove of mature Torrey Pines. The property serves as a local walkway for our neighborhood and children.

The community has used Melba road for many years, always admiring the beautiful treeline which is the Encinitas Redwoods.

The historical property borders the last rural horse farm in Encinitas, Boys and Girls Garden & Club, Oak Crest Park, & Middle School, the Encinitas Community & Senior Center.

Due to the proximity of these places to the project, a development would negatively impact so many people's lives.

Along with the long-time tax-paying senior population. The property was home to the Greenhouses and is also home to rare species such as the Cooper's Hawk, and native plants also loaded with Monarch butterflies during summer and throughout the year.

This sacred land was once owned by the original property owner of the Botanical Garden Anton van Amersfoort in 1938. We uncovered a deed with his name on the property dated 1938. This gentleman was a key player in Encinitas history.

This is the information put forward on the San Diego Botanic Garden's website.

Prior to Ruth and Charles Larabee, approximately one-half the property that is now known as San Diego Botanic Garden was owned by Anton van Amersfoort, an avocado grower who immigrated to the United States from Holland.

Van Amersfoort had come into possession of the ranch and the house and he later sold it to Ruth Larabee in 1943.

During his years in Encinitas, van Amersfoort became a major landowner with a claim to at least 16 different properties in the general area, one of which was as large as 80 acres.

He became a well-recognized avocado rancher, listed in a 1928 Avocado Growers' report.

Mr. van Amersfoort could bring this orchard through four years of dry

farming and now having it in such excellent condition is a tribute to his understanding of tree growing.

He was a strong advocate of the excellence of the Fuerte variety."

In addition, van Amersfoort was a prime mover in the local water district when irrigation finally did come on the scene in 1923. He was a director of the Encinitas Water District, which later became the San Dieguito Irrigation District, and held this position for a number of years, even surviving a recall petition.

There is a good chance that Anton may have even lived and built the beautiful historical home that is on the Melba property. We also think that perhaps some of the trees on the border of the property were possibly planted by Anton.

This property would be ideal as an annex of the botanical gardens or outdoor stem lab for the local schools. It also has the potential for a similar setup to San Dieguito Park in Solana Beach.

Numerous studies have shown that the conversion of open space to residential use negatively affects local government budgets.

Residential land use requires municipalities to spend more money on services such as infrastructure, fire and police protection, and schools than the property taxes generated by such use.

If allowed to develop on this property the drainage and runoff would head right for Ocean Knoll Canyon, which would be counterintuitive because this location just received a large grant to restore the property and clean up the canyon.

Please call or write to your council member and encourage them to dedicate the property as open space for the Encinitas community.

We have had so many housing projects in the last few years with no consideration for open space for the community. This small plot of land that previously was a greenhouse still reaps the benefits of the well-maintained property.

The property should be made contiguous with Oak Crest Park which is home to California Gnatcatcher and Baccharis vanessae, Encinitas Baccharis, Del Mar manizita.

Soft infrastructure funding should be used for the acquisition of the land aligning with the Encinitas Climate Action Plan.

JerylAnne Kessler  
Encinitas