

As a matter in the public interest, the board of directors of the League of Women Voters North County San Diego has reviewed the Agua Hedionda South Shore Specific Plan, also referred to as the Agua Hedionda 85/15 Plan, being put forward by Caruso Affiliated for a proposed shopping mall adjacent to the 'strawberry fields' and the Agua Hedionda Lagoon.

The League's concern is not on the merits of the project. Rather, our concern is that the normal project approval process has not been followed. Based on our positions of accessibility in the initiative process, adherence to general plans in growth management at the local level, and use of democratic means in sustainable governance decisions, the League believes the proposed project requires the normal comprehensive staff review, independent third party review to evaluate compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and opportunities for public input.

The League of Women Voters supports informed decisions by the voters. The League urges the Carlsbad City Council to put the "Carlsbad Agua Hedionda Citizens Initiative" on the ballot and call for a special election, which will allow time for all citizens to review and fully consider this project.