

From: Roger Benham, PCH Dinner Show, [roger@Pond20forUs.com](mailto:roger@Pond20forUs.com) Edited and resent 10-25-15

RE: Public Input- Oct 21, 2015 IB City Council Meeting Regarding Pond 20 giveaway to "Mitigation"

Thank you Mr. Mayor and Council for the opportunity to provide public input.

As you may be aware, I have been outspoken about the wrongness of giving the 84 acres of Pond 20 away to Mitigation. It has been documented that Pond 20 was promised to the IB Area for much needed economic development. As recently as Nov 20, 2014, testimony from our Port Commissioner Dan Malcolm stated regarding mitigation "Pond 20 was specifically excluded. I know that because I wrote the letter and got it signed 14 years ago", see [www.Pond20forUs.com](http://www.Pond20forUs.com) "audio" clip".

Please understand that my criticisms are not directed to this institution, the City Government. I understand and appreciate the work you do, that you are essentially volunteers that have stepped into this important role to guide our City and make important decisions. I have great respect for what you do. In fact, I could not do what you do. I do not have the required skill set.

On the other hand, the use of 84 acres of Pond 20 for "mitigation" is destroying my skill set, and that of what I believe are many people who live in the IB Area. Our skill set includes the ability to add value to our community by means of products and services. Our skill set is based on the motivation of producing a happy satisfied customer that spreads the word about the great experience that our product or service delivered. This, in a nut shell, is the "private enterprise" that produces the economic development for which Pond 20 was promised. And this appears to be what our local nonprofits want to destroy.

The private enterprises of Coronado, including the multitude of for-profit institutions, are the reason their High School looks like an Ivy League College (private enterprise donates about \$250,000 to the Coronado school foundations annually, not a one-time payout for favors). The lack of private enterprise is why Mar Vista is rated a 6, and barely has a functioning foundation. Also, the lack of local private enterprise is why we have a barely functioning Chamber of Commerce, can barely keep the Sports Park alive, and have a blighted Palm Corridor, just to name a few. If anything, the local nonprofits are promising us that they are going to secure taxes and fees, apparently with all the "funds" channeled through them. This is not the creation of wealth, this is robbing Peter to pay Paul, with the robber taking his cut.

Councilperson Bragg mentioned in the past that she wonders how her son will look at decisions made 20 years from now. My opinion as a person who grew up in IB, basically across the street from Pond 20, is that losing its vast economic potential to the mitigation needs of rich developments to the North will be seen historically as one of our greatest blunders. It will make the difference on whether our children are doing interns at Qualcomm and Wells Fargo, or volunteering as trash pickers for the local nonprofits.

From the nonprofit advocates of mitigation there is mention of "net funds" for the IB Area. What funds? How much? Do you know? Who is benefiting from this giveaway, specifically, what project is Pond 20 being used to "mitigate"? If you don't have the answers, how can you agree to the handing over of title to a mitigation company? It is like handing over title of an asset to someone, and saying "I don't know who you are, but pay me something". This of course would be irresponsible.

Or, if you do know the answers to the above questions, you should tell us immediately. The lack of transparency and public input on this "mitigation deal" makes it seem illegitimate.

Ecotourism is a garnish on the side of the plate of the true economic prosperity offered by Pond 20. We have designs for economic development of Pond 20 that easily accommodate foreseen sea level rise, and can bring rich experiences for people to coexist with the natural environment.

My initial inquiry regarding Commissioner Malcolm's signed document resulted in the response "no such document". My second inquiry produced a document that did not have his name nor seemed to correspond in date. I will try again. Please help delay the Nov 5, 2015 RFP and mitigation of Pond 20 until we have adequate public input.